



Harper College®

1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398

GRA Division

Building [Y], Room [203H]

847-718-4459

Joseph.Whalen@d214.org

***College Mission:** Harper College enriches its diverse communities by providing quality, affordable, and accessible education. Harper College, in collaboration with its partners, inspires the transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society.*

GRA112-001 Course Name Fall 2025 Course Syllabus

General Course Information

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Class Dates: Wednesday

Meeting Times: 6:20-9:50 PM

Meeting Location(s): Y203H

Modality: Face to face

Last Day to Drop for 100% Refund: Aug 25, 2025

Last Day to Withdraw: Nov 17, 2025

Instructor Information

Name: Joseph Whalen

Prefer to be Addressed As: Jay

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Email: joseph.whalen@d214.org

Course Description

Course Description: Introduces vector graphics software with a focus on Adobe Illustrator and its essential role in the graphic arts industry. Students will explore key tools and features of Illustrator to create professional-quality designs. The course emphasizes working with typography, color, and multi-layered compositions to produce artwork suitable for digital print production. Projects include designing print promotions, stickers, logos, and t-shirt graphics. Topics also cover file preparation, color separation, and best practices for various print workflows. Basic computer proficiency is required for success in this course.

Course Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Use current vector graphics software, including Adobe Illustrator.
2. Understand and apply key tools and functions in the program.
3. Create and edit shapes and apply color effectively.
4. Work with and design using type.
5. Create original vector artwork.
6. Prepare and export files for print and digital output.

Instructional and Technological Information

Required Materials

Technology:

- This course will use the [Blackboard](#) learning management system to facilitate coursework and virtual classroom interaction. For the best experience with Blackboard, you will need a device with access to the internet and a compatible internet browser. Please visit [Blackboard's Browser Support page](#) to see the current list of browsers and browser versions that are supported. Blackboard has limited functionality on mobile devices, but there is a student Blackboard App available for iOS and Android devices in the Apple App Store and Google Play. Visit the [Blackboard App website](#) for more information. You can contact the [Student Service Desk](#) at 847.925.6866 or studentsd@harpercollege.edu with any Blackboard technical questions.
- Adobe Creative Suite

Course Assessments

Assessment Overview

Grading Criteria:

Grading Categories	Points/Percentage
1. Five Projects	100 pts each
2. Final Exam	100 pts
3. Classwork (Roughly based on assignments)	100 pts
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
Total Points	700

Grading Scale [REQUIRED]:

Final Grade	Points	Percentage
A		90 – 100%
B		80 – 89%
C		70 – 79%
D		60 – 69%
F		0 – 59%

Assessment Policies

Grading and Feedback: Provided through blackboard on each project rubric.

Late Work Policy: Any **projects** being turned in late must be preapproved by the instructor or they will not be accepted. Weekly assignments may be turned in up to two weeks after the due date.

Missed Assessment/Make-Up Policy: Must be present in class to take any assessments or turn in any projects. If you can not make it to class, contact the instructor that day to set up a make up time. If there is no communication before the following class the assessment or project cannot be made up.

Attendance: Your success in this class is important to me. Student's attendance is essential to the development of this class. Students are responsible for all lecture material, classroom/lab/project assignments and announcements (all on the blackboard). If you are absent, more than 2 classes

assignments and projects will not be accepted for the additional days you miss.

Course Surveys: Near the end of this course, you will be invited to participate in a survey. The feedback you provide is valuable to me, as your instructor, as well as Harper College. The comments you share are completely anonymous and the compiled confidential results will not be released until after final grades have been posted for the entire semester. You may access the survey through a link you will receive in your Harper College Gmail account or directly via Blackboard. Surveys are *usually* available three weeks before the last day of class. *Note: Course surveys are administered in Fall and Spring semesters only.*

Course and College Policies

Academic Dishonesty: The College reserves the right to set and communicate reasonable standards of behavior. Students are expected to uphold college standards related to academic honesty. The following behaviors, as outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#), are considered academic dishonesty and are prohibited. Examples are provided to illustrate the specific prohibition and are not intended to be all-inclusive.

- Cheating (accessing or using unauthorized materials, information, or technology, including artificial intelligence/chatbots/etc.)
- Plagiarism (reproducing someone else's words or ideas without accurate acknowledgment)
- Falsifying information (providing untrue information)
- Unauthorized collaboration (getting assistance or sharing work without permission, including sharing of course materials through a 3rd party means without instructor approval)
- Facilitating academic dishonesty (participating in an act that creates an unearned advantage for someone)
- Artificial Intelligence may be used only at the teacher's discretion. Projects created using AI will not be accepted unless expressed use has been given.

Equal Educational Opportunity Statement [REQUIRED]: In providing educational programs and opportunities, the College will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity, disability, unfavorable discharge from military service, or any other legally protected category. It is the intent of the Board of Trustees to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes, regulations and ordinances prohibiting such discrimination.

If you believe you have experienced discrimination or harassment (whether on or off campus) that affects your ability to participate in class or any of Harper College's programs, please seek assistance from any of the following resources:

- For gender-based or sexual misconduct (including sexual assault and sexual harassment) by any person, visit the [Harper College Title IX resource page](#) to learn more about your support and reporting options.
- For any other harassment/discrimination by an employee, contact the College's Chief Human Resources Officer at 847-925-6216.

Please be advised that faculty members are required to report to the College if they learn that a crime, harassment, or discrimination may have occurred.

Student Conduct: All participants in this course are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and other applicable College policies. All are expected to contribute to an environment that maximizes students' ability to learn and the instructor's ability to teach. The Student Code of Conduct and related information at the [Harper Student Conduct resource page](#) outlines these expectations and provides resources and reporting options for students.

Open discussion and disagreement are encouraged when done respectfully and in the spirit of academic discourse. There are a variety of behaviors that, while not against a specific College rule, may create disruption in this course. Students whose behavior is disruptive or who fail to comply with the instructor may be dismissed from the class for the remainder of the class period and may be required to meet with the instructor or Dean prior to returning to the next class period. If necessary, referrals may also be made to the Student Conduct process for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Dispute Resolution: All Harper students have the right to express their concerns regarding their experience in the classroom, including the assessment of their performance or difficulties with other students. Students should first contact their instructors with any questions or concerns. If students and instructors cannot resolve concerns together, students should follow the [Student Academic Complaint Process outlined in the Student Handbook](#).

Student E-mail Notifications & Privacy: All notifications related to student registration or other business activities are sent to students via their Harper College email account (XXXX@mail.harpercollege.edu) that is assigned to students upon registration. Students access this account via an icon in the student portal (where you registered for classes). Please check this e-mail frequently. To forward e-mails from this account to a personal email account please [follow these instructions](#).

Please be advised that your education records are subject to a federal privacy law called the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a result, please be aware that you (not your parent(s), spouse, or other such person) will generally need to be the one to ask questions, file complaints, or otherwise interact with the College and faculty about your academic performance in this class.

Blackboard Privacy and Accessibility Statements: Blackboard is the learning management system used at Harper College. It provides a secure Web space for delivery of instructional course materials. Blackboard's [privacy statement](#) and [accessibility statement](#) are available for review.

Alternative Formats for Course Content in Blackboard: Harper College courses use the [Blackboard Ally](#) tool, which offers students [alternative format options](#) for course content. When available, indicated by an "A" icon to the right of an item in Blackboard, you can click on the icon to download

course content in formats that work best for you. Need help? Check out the [Ally Help for Students](#) or contact the [Service Desk](#) with questions about downloading alternative file formats.

Copyright Statement: The materials on this course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated. For more information, please visit the [Harper College Copyright/Fair Use resource page](#).

Student Support Resources

Student Success Resources at Harper College: There are several academic support areas and services to help ensure your success at Harper College, including Access and Disability Services, Academic Advising, Center for Student Veterans and Military Connected Students, One Stop, Library, Academic Support Center, Computer Labs, Job Placement Resource Center and more. Information about all student support resources can be found on the [Student Support Resources page](#).

Safety and Well-Being Resources at Harper College: Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. Please reach out for support. Safety and wellness resources at Harper College include Hawks Care, Counseling Services, Harper Wellness, Community Resources, Harper Early Alert Team, and Harper College Police. Information about all student safety and wellness resources can be found on the [Student Support Resources page](#).

Access and Disability Services [REQUIRED]: Harper College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible and inclusive as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let Access and Disability Services (ADS) know immediately at 847.925.6266. ADS will privately discuss the options you have, including possible accommodations. You are encouraged to register with ADS by filling out the online application that can be found on the ADS website. Once approved by ADS, please make arrangements with your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. In-person and virtual appointments are available.

- Phone: 847.925.6266
- Email: ads@harpercollege.edu
- To learn more visit: [Access and Disability Services](#)

GRA112-001

Fall 2025 Digital Illustration

WEEK 1	<p>Lecture: Line, Shape & Arrangement:</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Cartoon</p> <p>Lab: Project 1: (Landscape): Due beginning of class week 3</p>
WEEK 2	<p>Lecture: Gradient & Layers:</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Rainbow Layers & Gradient practice</p> <p>Lab: Project 1: (Landscape): Due beginning of class week 3</p>
WEEK 3	<p>Lecture: Pen Tool:</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Pen Projects</p> <p>Lab: Project 1: (Landscape) Due beginning of week 3</p>
WEEK 4	<p>Lecture: Putting it all together</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Logo Recreations</p> <p>Lab: Project 1: (Landscape) Due</p> <p>Lab: Project 2: (Clock) Due beginning of class week 7</p>
WEEK 5	<p>Lecture: Gradients & Blends</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Gradient Drive</p> <p>Lab: Project 2: (Clock) Due beginning of class week 7</p>
WEEK 6	<p>Lecture: Critique</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Catch up on assignments & questions</p> <p>Lab: Project 2: (Clock) Due beginning of class week 7</p>
WEEK 7	<p>Lecture: What makes a good logo</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Research</p> <p>Lab: Project 2: (Clock) Due</p> <p>Lab: Project 3: (Logo Redesign) Due beginning of class week 10</p>
WEEK 8	<p>Lecture: Type Tools:</p> <p><i>Exercises:</i> Type</p> <p>Lab: Project 3: (Logo Redesign) Due beginning of class week 10</p> <p>Midterm test</p>
WEEK 9	<p>Lecture: Live Tools & Critique & Review</p> <p><i>Exercises:</i> Live objects practice</p> <p>Lab: Project 3: (Logo Redesign) Due beginning of class week 10</p>

Week 10	<p><i>Lecture:</i> Perspective Grid Midterm</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Perspective grid practice & Midterm</p> <p><i>Lab:</i> Project 3: (Logo Redesign) Due</p>
WEEK 11	<p>Lab: Project 4 (Building) Due beginning of class week 13</p> <p><i>Lecture:</i> Symbols & Brushes</p> <p><i>Exercises:</i> Perspective practice</p> <p>Lab: Project 4 (Building) Due beginning of class week 13</p>
WEEK 12	<p>Lecture: Brushes & Effects</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i></p> <p><i>Lab:</i> Project 5 (Gradient Mesh) Due end of class week 18</p>
WEEK 13	<p><i>Lecture:</i> Gradient Mesh</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i> Light Bulb</p> <p>Lab: Project 4 (Building) Due beginning of class week 13</p> <p><i>Lab:</i> Project 5 (Gradient Mesh) Due end of class week 18</p>
WEEK 14	<p><i>Lecture:</i> Gradient Mesh, Clipping Masks</p> <p><i>Exercises:</i> Puzzle Pieces</p> <p>Lab: Project 5 (Gradient Mesh) Due end of class week 18</p>
WEEK 15	<p>Lecture: Questions</p> <p><i>Exercise:</i></p> <p>Lab: Project 5: (Gradient Mesh) Due end of class week 18</p>
WEEK 16	<p>Lecture: AI in Illustrator</p> <p>Exercise: How to write a prompt</p> <p>Lab: Simple logo creation</p>
Week 17	<p>Final Project due / Final Exam</p>