



design studies | te toki a rata

SCOM 407 Digital Design for Factual Communication **DESI 436 Design Collaboration** 2010 Full Year 24 points

Course description

These two courses will be taught together in a weekly series of seminars and tutorials. We will explore the use of digital communication networks and effective design strategies in the process and publishing of research. Although we will use variety of digital media, the focus will be on blogs, podcasts, and digital presentations. Students will work individually to create a WordPress.com blog and a series of audio podcasts (which will also be streamed from the blog) on a research topic of their choice. We will also explore the use of online services and shared electronic spaces for making connections with others and for engaging in cooperative and collaborative projects.

Schedule

Monday 10:00–11:50 (1 hr. workshop followed by 1 hr. seminar) 26 weeks

Venue

The attic computer lab, Consumer and Applied Sciences (CApSc) building (old stone building next to Archway Lecture Theatres)

Coordinator: Dr. Mark McGuire, Senior Lecturer, Design Studies

Office: North-East corner, CApSc building attic (adjacent to the computer lab)

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Computer support: Kylie Paterson 479-3067 kylie.paterson@design.otago.ac.nz

Teaching and learning objectives

- to encourage the practice of Open Research.
- to develop skills in making and utilizing research connections online.
- to learn effective strategies for finding and assessing online resources.
- to encourage cooperative and collaborative research practices.
- to investigate strategies for researching, synthesising, and sharing information.
- to gain an understanding of the changing nature of the media that are used for the production and distribution of factual information.
- to effectively apply sound design principles to the creation of digital media.

Assessment

This paper is 100% internally assessed. Although students will work independently, peer review will be used extensively, and online collaborations will be encouraged. The production and review of work will be ongoing, and students will be expected to follow and provide feedback on other blogs, podcasts, and presentations during the course of the year. Assessment will be based on four submission and presentation stages.

Tuesday 27 April: Presentation (face-to-face and online) (25%)

Prepare and deliver a short face-to-face presentation that covers some aspect of your research topic. Create and upload a digital version of your presentation. Consider appropriate design strategies for both versions.

Tuesday 27 July: Interim blog (25%)

Create a WordPress.com blog on an approved research topic consisting of regular posts, additional text, photos, audio, video (if appropriate), widgets, and external links. Consider the graphic theme, site structure, navigation, audience, focus, and a plan for the creation and integration of audio podcasts. Discuss your plans for further work.

Tuesday 7 September: Audio podcasts (25%)

Complete at least three short (5-15 min) audio podcasts relating to your blog topic. Consider the role of the interviewer or narrator, structure, introduction and ending, ambient sound, sound effects or music, recording quality, and editing. Submit finished recordings in MP3 format ready for podcasting, and stream them from your blog. Discuss your plans for other podcasts.

Tuesday 21 September: Final blog, podcasts, and presentation (25%)

Present your completed blog and related audio podcasts and discuss how they work together. Consider the quality and usefulness of the content, the integration of images and other media, links to hosting sites (e.g. Flickr, YouTube) and relevant websites, the integration of media, and the overall design.

Mark McGuire's Blog

<http://markmcguire.net/>

This blog, maintained by the course coordinator, will contain posts, links, readings, and other resources relevant to the course.

Shared online spaces

We will investigate the use of shared online environments (e.g. Wikis, Moodles, Nings) for group discussions and for sharing resources.
