

ART 456 Graphic Design Portfolio :: Faith & Vocation Assignments

Blog Posts (5% of final grade)

Throughout the semester, as you prepare your portfolio, you are required to write a series of **3 short blog posts** related to the discussion questions below. For each post you are also required to write **2 comments** in response to the blog posts of others. These posts are intended to provide a space to think critically about, and discuss, how faith issues intertwine with your chosen discipline.

3 Discussion Questions:

1. Do you anticipate conflicts between your moral values and the work you will be asked to produce as a practicing graphic designer? Are there specific kinds of work you would refuse to produce if asked? What is your criteria for making these kinds of judgments? **(Post Due Date: January 18th, Comment Due Date: January 20)**
2. You're in an interview with a potential employee. Knowing that you probably wouldn't get the job if you were completely honest, is it okay to accept a job when you do not meet the job requirements? Can you justify it by having the confidence in learning those requirements either before or during the job? Do you see this as being dishonest? Why or why not? **(Post Due Date: February 11th, Comment Due Date: February 13th)**
3. It's important that we practice honesty within our profession. These days it's difficult to design anything completely original. How would you respond in an event where you are accused of plagiarism? Does your faith play a role in the way you approach the problem? Would any "moral" person, that may not be religious, handle the situation in a similar manner? **(Post Due Date: March 18th, Comment Due Date: March 20th)**

Minimum Requirements For A Post:

1. **200 words** (word count appears right below post editor window after you save the draft)
2. Content of post must **directly relate to discussion question**.
3. Please **include a hyperlink** to some outside source related thoughts. This could be a news article, blog article, professional work or youtube video related to your thoughts on the assigned subject.
4. **(optional)** An **image** is often appropriate to exemplify thoughts but is not required.

Categories:

Be sure to put your posts in the category related to the appropriate discussion question.

Minimum Requirements for Comments:

- Elaboration and response, not just simple agreement. For example:
- Comment A: "I agree. This is a good idea." = ZERO CREDIT

- Comment B: “I agree. It makes me think of...” = POINT
- Charitable tone
- On Topic

Cover Letter Assignment (3% of final grade)

A **cover letter** is a short essay, which accompanies your resume and portfolio when submitted to a job opening. It usually works as an introduction, a brief description of your professional objectives, and used to demonstrate your interests and personal beliefs. It should summarize your strengths in one page and set you apart from other candidates. For this assignment, your writing task is to reflect briefly, but critically and genuinely, on your work, faith and character. In a maximum of one single-spaced page, consider where your growth as a designer, your engagement with the creative process, and your individual vision and faith are in the field. Remember, the cover letter is your opportunity to convey your interest in the job and to make a favorable impression on your reader.

As you think about these, some questions you might answer are:

- What design areas are you most comfortable with? Offer specific details, e.g. typography, packaging, trademarks, etc. What are your weaknesses as a designer, and how have you worked to overcome them? What does your portfolio illustrates about your development as a designer, student, researcher, or critical thinker?

Minimum Requirements

The cover letter should provide a succinct and accurate picture of your skills and beliefs, and must be clearly organized and written, and completely **error free**.

The following steps will help you complete this assignment.

1. Locate an appropriate job posting.
For this assignment, you will need to find an actual job posting that represents a position that you envision yourself obtaining. If you are currently applying for jobs, use the posting from one of the jobs you are applying to. If you have found a position through networking or other word-of-mouth methods, please write a one-paragraph job description and submit that in lieu of a job posting.
2. Analyze your experience and skills in light of the job posting.
3. Your letter should include a proper heading, date, salutation, introduction, body text and closing.
4. Your heading should include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail; the recipient's name, title, and street address; and, the date.
5. Your salutation should be simple and respectful. Whenever possible, try to address your letter to a specific person. If you cannot locate a specific person, address your letter to “Manager, Human Resources.” Avoid using, “To Whom It May Concern.”
6. Submit the resume and cover letter in final form to the course dropbox, along with a copy of the job posting (or description) to which you are responding. **Due April 2, 2013.**