

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026
DD1203 (A3): Colour Theory – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: David McGregor
OFFICE: C202
OFFICE HOURS:

PHONE:
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in-depth engagement with colour theory through studio-based practices as it relates to graphic design. Students engage in projects that broaden their understanding of the cultural and aesthetic implications of colour.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Digital Design I

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and lab

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand the colour wheel, different colour models (RGB, CMYK) as well as colour relationships.
- Create designs that take into consideration the emotional and cultural implications and effects of colour.
- Consider the implications of how colour theory affects accessibility as well as readability in design.

- Demonstrate a knowledge of how to prepare documents for printing using both CMYK and RGB.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS: Detailed guidelines for each project with mark breakdowns and evaluation criteria will be reviewed during class.

Project	Value
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	15%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
In-Class Exercises and Assignments	20%
Attendance/Participation	15%
Final Exam	15%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Students are expected to invest a minimum of 3 hours outside of class time on assignments and preparing for exams.
- Students are required to attend all classes. This course includes ongoing in-class activities,
- lectures, and tutorials. Information covered in class will not be reviewed except for in special circumstances.
- Absences of up to 2 classes may be excused in circumstances such as illness or emergencies—please speak with the instructor as soon as possible in these instances. Please note that for each day of absence beyond the permissible limit, a deduction of 2% from the total grade may be applied. It is essential to prioritize consistent attendance to maximize your learning and achieve the best possible results in your academic endeavors.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available

at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.