CS130(0) - Portfolio (v1.1)

Release Date: December 5, 2019
Due Date: ALL final hand-ins are due by December 19, 2019 at 6:00p.m.
Late passes CANNOT be used.
This project must be done individually.

NOTE: If you choose to make your portfolio a website, it is your responsibility to ensure that your website is publicly accessible on December 21st. This means that if you are using a free trial on Squarespace, for instance, you need to ensure that your trial does not expire until after the 21st. If TAs cannot access your website, then your assignment will be considered late. For information and tips on how to make sure your site is accessible, see the Appendix section of this document.

Overview

Now that you’ve learned so much about design and UX research, you will prepare a portfolio based on your work from this class to be presented!

For your final project, you will create a portfolio. There will also be an option to connect with an industry reviewer who will look over your portfolio with you and give you feedback. If you are interested in being reviewed by an industry professional, sign-ups for a portfolio review time slot will open on Thursday, December 12th at 8p.m. and can be found here.

If you already have a portfolio, make sure to read this section for additional information.

Having a portfolio review by someone in industry will be a valuable opportunity for those who are not experienced with making their own portfolio and even for those who do have experience with making their own portfolio, as it gives you a chance to iterate and improve on your portfolio more. Ideally, we want this portfolio to be useful to you after this course is over!

Note that part of the grade for the project comes from peer review practice! Students will practice presenting their portfolios as well as reviewing the portfolios of other students.

Please refer to the Grading and Requirements and Appendix sections towards the bottom of this handout for supplementary help.

Key Dates

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<th>Task</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Optional) Thurs. December 12th, 2019 at 8pm</td>
<td>Sign up for a portfolio review time slot here</td>
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Task

Part 1: Creating a Portfolio

A design portfolio is valued not only for the quality of designs, but also for a designer's ability to clearly communicate the decisions that they made. The two key components of a portfolio are content and presentation. Cofolios and UW have examples of university students' portfolios.

For this project, you are to create a portfolio (which can be a PDF or a website) with at least 4 items in it. At least 2 of these items must be based on assignments from this course. You may also use items outside of class (even programming work, though make sure that you don’t violate the collaboration policy of other courses by posting solutions) in your portfolio. Think about the theme or character of your portfolio — what makes you unique? Are you a mobile interaction designer making playful experiences? Or are you a UX researcher enabling social good? Or a visual web designer focusing on mixed reality?

Content - Your Work

Portfolio pieces are meant to showcase your design work and design thinking skills. You do so by 1) walking the viewer/reader through your thought process with text and 2) augmenting your text with images, videos, prototypes, etc. of your designs.

Pay attention to the style of your write-up and have a reasonable narrative. For example, a common one keeps the following in mind:

- **Context/Problem** - What problem does this solve? Why should we care?
- **Research/Feedback** - What are users currently doing? What do they want/think?
- **Design Iterations (with justification)** - What are the tradeoffs? Explain your design decisions.
- **Conclusion** - What are your lessons learned, insights, takeaways, etc.?
Presentation

Think about how you want to present your items on your portfolio. Do you want to present it as a PDF? Do you want to have a site with a single page (similar to CS130(0)'s course site) or one with multiple pages? Tips and ideas can be found in the Appendix at the end of this handout.

Part 2: Review

Peer Review Practice

Peer review practice should help you gain confidence in talking about your design decisions and your process to someone who is unfamiliar with your work. You may also want to implement changes to your portfolio based on the feedback you receive.

This will take place during class on Thursday, December 12, 2019. Note that this is immediately before our optional industry reviews officially begin, so start early! You will practice presenting in two pairs of two students. Each student should present for about 5-10 minutes to mimic what an actual portfolio review would look like. From there, the student should engage in a conversation with their partner, where the partner should give feedback on the presenting student's portfolio and presentation.

When presenting, be sure to keep your narrative in mind as you explain your portfolio, including describing your speciality (theme). Additionally, be sure to lay the context for each piece — the purpose, the challenges you dealt with, and the reasons why you made the design choices you did. Keep in mind that you are explaining each project in your portfolio to someone who is not familiar with the project at all.

Peer review practice can happen remotely for this assignment, but ONLY in-class peer review practice (December 12th, 6:40pm - 8:00pm) will count towards a participation point. This will be the last opportunity for you to get a participation point. Regardless or whether or not you attend class on December 12, you are expected to schedule at least two peer review practices, each with a different student in the class.

As part of your hand-in, you will need to submit a summary of your peer review practice and the names of the peers involved.

(Optional) 1:1 Industry Portfolio Review

You have the option to get your portfolio be reviewed by a UI/UX-related industry professional. Each portfolio review will be 20-minute 1:1 sessions between you and an industry professional. You should strive to finish your presentation within 8 minutes, and leave some time for setting up the call and answering extra questions.
Sign up for a portfolio review time slot [here]. The TAs will email students with more information on how to contact their reviewers with tips on how to present their portfolio as review dates approach. If you do not hear from the TAs within a couple days of your time slot, please email the TA list!

**IMPORTANT:** If you complete a portfolio review with an industry professional, you have an opportunity to earn 1 additional point on this assignment, but your maximum points on the assignment may not exceed 16. In other words, if you earn full points on this assignment (16/16) and complete an industry portfolio review, you can NOT get 17/16, and will instead receive 16/16. Also, if you sign up for an industry review slot and then cancel within 24 hours of your scheduled time, you will lose 4 points on this assignment. So if you sign up for a slot, be sure to be on time and prepared for your scheduled slot!

For more information on either the peer or industry portfolio review and how to practice for them, please refer to this [guide].

**If You Already Have a Portfolio**

If you already have a portfolio, for the final project you will need to incorporate at least 2 items (assignments from this course) to your existing portfolio. If you are not comfortable with putting course material on your existing portfolio, you will need to make a new portfolio for the final project.

Keep in mind that you will still need to go through the presentation and reviews. Make sure to read Parts 1 and 2 of the “Task” section if you haven't yet.

**Suggested Timeline**

December 5 - 7: Start thinking about and structuring portfolio  
December 8 - 11: Work on portfolio; prepare for peer review presentation  
December 12 - 19: Prepare for industry review if needed; keep working on portfolio (taking into consideration the feedback you received from reviewers)

**Handing In**

Submit a PDF of your portfolio or a PDF of a link to your portfolio in addition to a summary of your peer review practice to Gradescope by Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 6pm. Again, you are responsible for having your website be publicly accessible on December 21, 2019. That is, if TAs cannot access your website, then your assignment will be considered late.
Summary

- Create a portfolio (PDF or website) containing at least 4 items (at least 2 of these items must be assignments from this course)
- Peer review practice presentation
- Summarize your peer review practice and include the names of your two partners involved in your handin
- **(Optional)** 1:1 industry portfolio review (20 minutes) (sign up for review time slot [here](#))

Grading and Requirements (16 points)

Please remember that late passes cannot be used on the final project.

Portfolio Content (10 points)

- **4 Pts** — Contains at least 4 portfolio pieces, at least 2 of which are class assignments
- **4 Pts** — Each portfolio piece stands alone with its own appropriate narrative
- **2 Pts** — Each portfolio piece shows the **process** of the project (e.g. design decisions, methodologies, edits made along the way)
- **2 Pts** — Portfolio presents character, theme, or speciality (The portfolio feels coherent; after looking at the portfolio, someone would know what the person does)

Peer Portfolio Review (2 points)

- **2 Pt** — Summarizes feedback from the peer review practice with peers’ names

Presentation and Style (2 points)

- **2 Pt** — Portfolio reflects design principles from class
Appendix: Online Portfolio Building Tips and Ideas

For online portfolios, you can use website-makers like Wix, Squarespace, or Adobe Portfolio, or you can code your own website using languages such as HTML/CSS/JavaScript.

If you are unfamiliar with coding, we recommend that you use a website maker to begin with! Over a longer period of time (i.e. outside of this class), you can begin building your own website. However, if you are using website-makers that involve a free trial, you must make sure that the trial does not expire until after December 21st. We recommend Wix, which is free and does not expire!

In this appendix, we will go over some of the following approaches for portfolio building:

- Website Makers
- Building Your Own Portfolio Website - Logistical
- Building Your Own Portfolio Website - Design

Website Makers

Wix, for example, has website templates specifically for designers.

Wix also has an option that lets you access its developer tools while building your website so you can use a hybrid of code and template.

After selecting the Designer category, you also have the option to quickly create a website template:
Selecting the Portfolio & CV option will give you the option to either let the Wix ADI create a website for you or use the Wix Editor. If you use the Wix Editor, you will be asked to choose a website template.

If you want to incorporate your own code or want more flexibility with the theme, you can also use Wix’s text-editor. Once you choose a theme, look towards the toolbar at the top, and click the Dev Mode option to enable Corvid. Click on the Page Code on the bottom bar to see the code. You can also hover over or click on any elements to see its ID.
Building Your Own Portfolio Website - Logistics

If you would like to code your own website, the following is one way that TAs have done so in the past!

1. Obtain a domain name (i.e. www.myportfolio.com). Domain names can be purchased through domain companies like Namecheap, GoDaddy, etc.
2. You will need a place to host your website's HTML, CSS, image files, etc. GitHub will allow you to create a personal repository which you can connect to your domain name.
3. Once you connect your GitHub repository (with website files) to your domain name, your website should be up and running.

If you would like to avoid purchasing a domain name, you may also host your portfolio website through GitHub Pages such that your site would be linked in the following format: https://<your-github-account>.github.io

Building Your Own Portfolio Website - Design

Traditionally, the first page of an online portfolio will feature 1) four to five of your portfolio pieces, and 2) a brief intro/description of yourself.

Each portfolio piece is featured with an image, a title, and keywords describing the nature of the project. Portfolio pieces tend to be showcased in a grid pattern. See here and here for examples. To make a grid, you can use the handy CSS Grid and Flexbox skills that you've learned from this class!
Case study/portfolio piece pages are simply divided into different sections (previously specified in the Portfolio brief) which discuss the thinking and outcomes of the designs. Text is supplemented with multimedia like images, videos, and GIFs.

For more specific questions, or if you are having trouble coding your portfolio, please come to TA hours, use Piazza, or contact the TA email list!

Good luck! 🍱✨