

GRAPHIC LOCOMOTIVE

PROJECT

I

Spring 2020

**DESCRIPTION**

Using Illustrator’s geometric shapes and related tools and functions, to design and create a complex shape-based graphic illustration.

**ASSIGNMENT**

Using the rectangle and oval tools, polygon functions of the pen, and pathfinders as your primary tools, create a grey-scale or color graphic interpretation of the **side view** of an OLD FASHION TRAIN LOCOMOTIVE.

Construct your image out of **closed** and **filled** layered/overlapping geometric shapes. Line can be used as accent. Apply the concepts and techniques covered in creating the graphics in the previous lessons to create your train.

For your illustration, work from directly from a **photo** of your choice - make sure the photo is a **side view** with detail. Don't use clip art, graphic, or a sketch of a train.

You can search for an image of an old fashion train locomotive using Google Images (images.google.com) Make sure it is a side view with enough definition to see the details of the train. You can use advanced search to narrow your choices.

Once you have located an image, click on the thumbnail to see a larger view then save the image to your desktop or thumbdrive by "control (ctrl)/press" the mouse button to bring up a context sensitive menu that should allow you to "Save Image As".

Place the photo into an Illustrator file **as a template** and use it as a guide to construct your image.

ASSIGNMENT  
SCHEDULE

Project Intro M 2/3  
Illustrator Demo

Image choice **DUE** W 2/5  
at start of class

Illustrator Demo M 2/10  
work

work W 2/12

NO CLASS M 2/17  
Presidents Day

work W 2/19

PROJECT 2 M 2/24  
**DUE** start of class

## SPECIFICATIONS

### DOCUMENT FORMAT

- **10"x 8"** horizontal artboard - though your design can be a little smaller or different proportions within this size artboard. **Don't use letter size.**

### DESIGN & TECH:

- The color scheme is **Grey Scale or RGB color.**
- Document color mode is RGB.
- Create your image using the appropriate combination of GEOMETRIC shapes, in conjunction with PathFinders and other demonstrated tools and techniques.
- Black, white and/or solid colors and values (percentage) only, no transparency or other effects — though gradients are OK.
- Use layers to help manage the elements in your design.
  - 3-4+ artwork layers (but don't use too many)
  - properly defined template layer with your photo placed as a template
  - name your layers
- Use Groups (in combination with layers) to help manage complex elements.
- Template is **embedded** — not linked.
- As you create your image make sure to use your line drawing template as a guide, but also — draw what you "know", i.e. wheels are round, etc.

## PRESENTATION

### Paper

100% scale on letter size printer from the color letter printer **and** print of your train reference image/template — stapled.

### Digital

Single Adobe Illustrator document file of the final version of your design.

- Title the ILLUSTRATOR file: PRJ1-your initials.ai

Place your Illustrator file in the **PROJECT1** folder, in the **KLEMA-IntroCG** class folder on the **GraphicsServer**.

## EVALUATION — *project letter grade*

- 10 **Process** - ongoing progress (milestones), quantity/quality of comprehensives, revisions and refinement to finished design.
- 50 **Concept/design/composition** - visual impact and interest (creative visual solution); effectiveness of composition and information hierarchy; follows visual guidelines and contains correct information.
- 20 **Technical** - document construction and quality of execution using tools, procedures, and techniques (Adobe Illustrator); follows specifications.
- 20 **Presentation** - paper and electronic.
- 10 **Deadline** - (deduction for not meeting deadline).

## TOPICS

- Use of graphic interpretation in graphic design
  - illustration
  - logo and symbol design
- Creating graphic interpretations — conceptual and pragmatic considerations
  - exploring the amount of information necessary to communicate your subject
  - graphic interpretations as a technique or “style”
- Acquiring images from the web for use as template images
- Basic copyright considerations
- Adobe Illustrator functions — previously covered
  - geometric drawing tools
    - rectangle
    - oval
    - polygons with pen
  - applying fills, strokes, and percentages of a color
  - pathfinders
  - duplicating, moving and scaling objects
  - grouping and selecting objects within groups
  - working with layers
  - placing and using images as templates
- Adobe Illustrator functions — new
  - creating, apply, and editing gradients
  - choosing a color palette

NOTES

## PROCEDURES

### SETUP AND PREP

- Acquire images to use as reference - see instructions on page 1. Reference images are side view **photos** — **not** drawings or graphics.
- Create a new Illustrator file and set the Artwork Board to **10"x 8"**, page orientation to **horizontal**.
- Place your photo into Adobe Illustrator, **embedded** as a **template**. Make sure the **link box is unchecked** so that you are **embedding** the actual template file in your Illustrator document. This places image as a template on layer 1.
- Access your template. Scale it as needed, lock and dim it again.

### CREATE YOUR ARTWORK

- Start by studying your image and deciding how best to construct it using closed & filled geometric shapes.
- Experiment on some areas before committing to final creation.
- Setup layers using the Layers Palette. When possible, work back to front. A suggestion would be to put "background" on one layer and additional elements on others. Don't use too many layers or you minimize any productivity gains.
  - 3-4+ artwork layers
  - properly defined template layer with photo
  - name your layers
- Create your image using overlapping and combined shapes, much like the coffee cup, no smoking and light bulb exercises. We'll cover another technique called Live Paint later.
- Use groups in conjunction with layers to help organize and manage your graphic. For example - a wheel perimeter and the spokes would be a group, several wheels would be on a layer.
- Alternate between Artwork and Preview modes to help isolate specific shapes as your image becomes more complex. Turn off/on layers may also help.
- Print 100% scale on letter size paper to the color letter printer. Proof carefully. Make changes and refinements. Print and check again.

### SAVE

**Save.** Save your artwork as a .ai file in the Illustrator CC version.

**Backup.** Make appropriate backup copies of your file on servers, Flash drive  
NO EXCUSES for lost files.

### FINAL OUTPUT & PRESENTATION

**Print.** Print letter size to the color letter printer — DO NOT SCALE.

**Assemble process as required.**

**Assemble files as required.**

NOTES