

Lecture Notes for Adobe Illustrator Webinar

- Welcome to the Webinar
 - ◆ Webinar procedure
 - * There will be about 45 minutes of lecture, followed by some tasks I'd like you to do
 - * As with the InDesign webinar, you're probably best just watching and taking notes, since I'll be moving somewhat quickly
 - * I've enabled your microphones, but I encourage you to mute them unless you have a question; if you do have a question, you may ask it out loud or type it into the box
 - * After the lecture, I'm going to give you some tasks to complete instead of letting you work on the Illustrator assignment
 - * My lecture notes will be available to you after the webinar, as will a recording of the webinar
- Introduction to Adobe Illustrator
 - ◆ Vector illustration program used by artists and designers to produce fully scalable logos, drawings, and other complex graphics
 - ◆ Part of the Adobe Creative Suite
 - ◆ In this class, you'll be using Illustrator in conjunction with InDesign; InDesign is great for layout, but if you want to create complex graphics, you'll need Illustrator; for the first major production assignment (Identity Package), you'll use Illustrator for the logo and InDesign to layout the business card and letterhead
 - ◆ In general, if you can do it in InDesign, you can do it *and more* in Illustrator
 - ◆ Vector vs. raster: raster graphics encode individual pixels with certain color values (e.g., a photograph); vector graphics encode directionality, distance, color, stroke, fill, and other values; as a result, vector graphics are smaller (in terms of data) and are fully scalable without being pixelated
 - ◆ Illustrator also works well with transparency, so you move your Illustrator work onto any background or any document quickly and easily
- Open Illustrator
 - ◆ Unlike InDesign, you don't have a quick launch panel in Illustrator when you open it
 - ◆ Go to File > New to create a new Illustrator document
- New Document Setup Window
 - ◆ Profile: set the type of graphic you will be creating
 - ◆ Artboards: essentially your "pages" in Illustrator, artboards are where you create your graphics
 - ◆ Size: set your artboard size, units, orientation, and bleed
 - ◆ Advanced: reveals color mode, raster effects and preview mode
 - ◆ Always set your Raster Effects to High (300ppi)

- ◆ You can also save preset document setups for later access
 - ◆ Let's set up a new Web RGB document with an artboard of 1280 x 800 pixels (landscape)
 - ◆ If you want to change something later, you can do that under File > Document Setup
- Introduction to the Interface
 - ◆ The only real difference between the interfaces is that Illustrator contains more tools and so displays the Toolbox as two columns and displays the panels without titles
- Layer and Artboards
 - ◆ Just as with InDesign, layers are very important in Illustrator
 - ◆ Illustrator allows you to create sub-layers
 - ◆ Artboards panel allows you to create new artboards to work on
- Swatches
 - ◆ Work much the same as in InDesign
 - ◆ Create a color group to organize your colors for the document
 - ◆ RGB colors in Illustrator can be traditional decimal RGB values (0-255 for each color channel) or Web RGB hex values (00-FF for each color channel)
 - ◆ If you want a gradient as a swatch, you cannot create a new gradients swatch; instead, you have to use the Gradient panel and then click the down arrow next to the gradient preview in the top-left corner and select "Add to Swatches"
 - ◆ Stroke and fill work pretty much the same as in InDesign
- Basic Drawing Tools
 - ◆ Work similarly to InDesign
 - ◆ Arc tool creates arcs, including open and closed
 - ◆ Polygon tool is split into Polygon and Star tools
 - ◆ If you want a rounded rectangle, you'll have to create it with the Rounded Rectangle tool, rather than using Corner Options
 - ◆ Flare tool is an addition to Illustrator, but it's not one you'll use often
- Advanced Drawing Tools
 - ◆ Pencil tool is used for freehand drawing: click and draw to create a path
 - ◆ Pen tool is used for point-by-point precision drawing
 - * Every time you click, it creates an anchor point
 - * Whenever you add a new anchor point beyond the first, it creates a segment on the path
 - * If you click and drag, it will create handles which you can control to control the curve of the segment
 - * If you mouse over an existing anchor point, you can "convert" the anchor point from straight to curved or curved to straight (pen with v next to it)
 - * If you click somewhere on an existing segment, it will add an anchor point (pen with + next to it)

- * If you click an existing anchor point, it will delete that anchor point (pen with – next to it)
 - * If you make your way back to the original anchor point, it will close off the path (pen with o next to it)
- ◆ If you learn the Pen tool well, you can draw pretty much anything you want, combining all these tools together
- Manipulating Objects on the Page
 - ◆ Illustrator has many more options for manipulating existing objects than InDesign, including Transform, Rotate, Reflect, and Pathfinder
 - ◆ As with InDesign, you can mouse over an object bounding box with the Select tool to resize, rotate, and reflect
 - ◆ Transform panel can be used to resize items to exact size and position them exactly; use the Reference Point image in the top-left corner to change what the positioning values refer to
 - ◆ Rotate tool allows you to rotate around a fixed point, rather than within the same bounding box
 - ◆ Reflect tool allows you to reflect an object over an invisible axis; double-click tool icon to specify axis and copy-reflect
 - ◆ Pathfinder panel allows you to combine multiple paths into a single compound path
- Effects, Appearance, and Graphic Styles
 - ◆ Create effects such as drop shadows with the Effects menu
 - ◆ Appearance attributes, such as fill, stroke, transparency, and effects, can be added, deleted, and changed using the Appearance panel
 - ◆ If you want to create a style using Illustrator, separate the Appearance and Graphic Styles panels, then drag the icon in the top-left corner of the Appearance panel to the Graphic Styles panel to add the style laid out in the Appearance panel
- Creating and Manipulating Type
 - ◆ Illustrator is fantastic at manipulating typography
 - ◆ Create a textbox using the Type tool
 - ◆ Right-click and select “Create Outlines” to turn the type into an editable path
 - ◆ Ungroup to select and manipulate individual letterforms
 - ◆ Use the Scissors tool to cut off parts of a letter; click the anchor point you want to start the cut at, and then click the anchor point you want to end the cut at to create a cut
 - ◆ Use the Pen tool for any other things you want to do to the type
- Image Trace and Live Paint
 - ◆ Image Trace is used to turn hand drawings, photographs, and other raster graphics into vector graphics
 - * Place an image with File > Place
 - * Select the image and, in the Control Panel, click “Image Trace”
 - * Open the Image Trace panel from the Control Panel
 - * Adjust Image Trace options, include Threshold, Presets, and Mode

- * Click “Expand” in the Control Panel to create editable paths
- * On an image with a white background, you’ll need to ungroup, select the background, and delete it
- ◆ Live Paint allows you to fill individual parts of a compound path
 - * Select the object you want to use Live Paint on and go to Object > Live Paint > Make
 - * Select the Live Paint Bucket tool (underneath the Shape Builder tool)
 - * Select your color on the Live Paint Bucket tool
 - * Click the area you want to color
 - * If you have gaps in your path, you can adjust how Illustrator handles those under Object > Live Paint > Gap Options
- Saving and Exporting
 - ◆ To save an Illustrator file for your own later use, go to File > Save
 - ◆ To export to a finished file format, such as JPEG or PNG, go to File > Export