CS-639 — Interaction Design Studio

Welcome to Studio

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This isn't just a classroom. It's a **design studio** — where we learn by **doing, sharing, and critiquing**.

You'll sketch, explore, revise, and grow together.

Studio Pods

— You'll work in **pods of 4 students per table**

— **Stick with the same pod** for 2–3 weeks at a time

— Occasionally we'll **shuffle pods** to mix perspectives
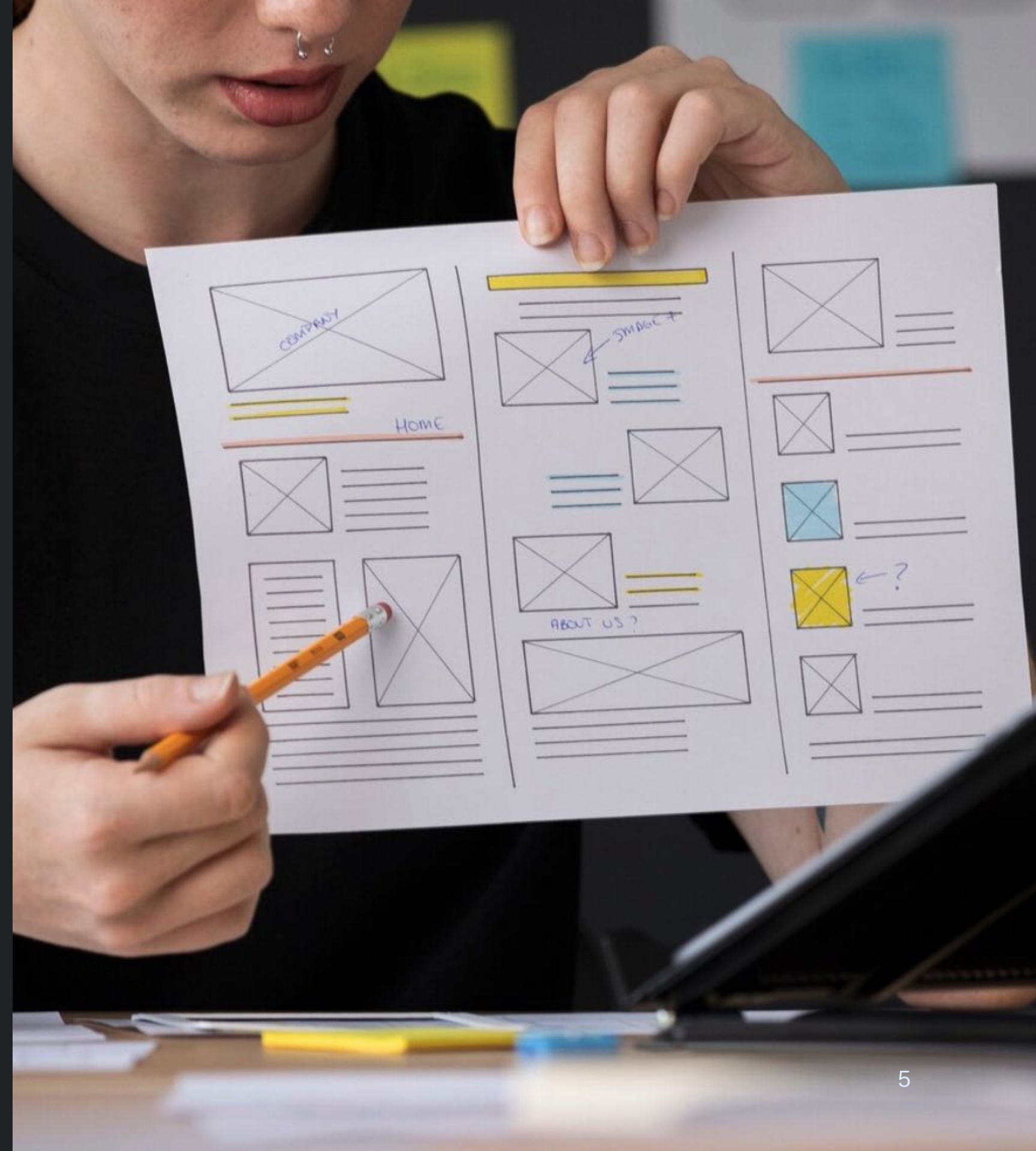
Interacting in Studio

— Bring your **sketchbook and materials** to every Wed/Fri class

— On Wednesdays, we'll be **circulating** — ask for feedback!

— You don't need to wait to be called on. Just **wave us down**.

Giving Feedback to Peers

Design feedback is a skill! Use these guidelines:

— Describe, don't judge: "This feels crowded because..."

— Ask questions: "What made you choose that flow?"

— Build on ideas: "What if you shifted this here..."

— Be generous but honest

Receiving Feedback

It's not always easy, but feedback is gold.

— Listen without defensiveness

— Ask follow-up questions

— Try suggestions even if you're unsure

— Don't take it personally — it's about the work

Friday Crit Sessions

We'll build crit culture and then use it:

1. We'll pick a few student designs **at random** for full-class feedback

2. Then, you'll do **peer critique within your pod**

Focus on:

— Clarity, structure, use of principles

— What's working? What could improve?

— Concrete suggestions, not just preferences

Studio Mindset

— Show up ready to **make and share**

— Bring your **best effort**, not perfection

— Be open to feedback and revision

— Support your podmates — they'll support you

IDEO's Brainstorming Rules

1. **Defer judgment** – No bad ideas during ideation
2. **Encourage wild ideas** – Let creativity flow
3. **Build on the ideas of others** – "Yes, and…" > "No, but…"
4. **Stay focused on the topic** – Grounded creativity
5. **One conversation at a time** – Everyone gets heard
6. **Be visual** – Sketch it, don't just describe it
7. **Go for quantity** – More ideas = more possibilities

Critique Guidelines

— **Start with observations**: "I notice that…"

— **Focus on goals**: "What is this trying to do?"

— **Describe impact**: "This feels confusing because…"

— **Offer suggestions**: "What if you moved this closer to…"

— **Be kind, specific, and honest**

— **Support your peers' growth**, not your own preferences

Media Sources

Freepik