

project::calendar

12-Month Calendar Creation Project

Assignment ::

For this project, create a calendar for the year 2026. This project has many variables, so be sure to thoroughly explore what type of calendar you would like to create and the pros and cons of each style. If you have ideas that are outside the scope of what is discussed in this project sheet, please connect with me before beginning in earnest. Your final goal is the creation of a well-rendered final product that is professionally bound and printed as well as functional.

Objectives ::

As you work on your design, concentrate your efforts on the following areas:


- **Unity & Rhythm** — Create a layout that can work across all 12 months, demonstrating flexibility in accommodating changing content all while showing unity in design, creating the feeling of a single design piece.
- **Grids** — Establish a core, flexible design grid for all components of your project, and work to align design elements to this grid.
- **Form Exploration** — Don't just settle for standard methods of presentation and paper sizes. Thoroughly explore creative presentation options, pushing yourself to find new and inventive solutions to displaying common calendar information. Be open to different production methods, even if it takes more time and effort on your part.

Calendar Types ::

In this project our focus is the creation of a traditional twelve-month calendar. There are many different calendar styles and layouts—all of these are giving you essentially one piece of information: what numerical number corresponds with what day of the week.

Some types to consider include:

- **Functional** — A functional calendar is like a desk or wall calendar that is meant to record appointments or when things are happening. Although many people now use phones for this purpose, some people still like writing it down. If you are creating a functional calendar, your focus should be in creating a calendar that is easy to use and write on, and allows space for writing notes associated with particular times and days.
- **Artistic** — An artistic calendar is an art piece first, a calendar second. This type of calendar still needs to display the numerical days and how they correspond to the days of the week, but does not need to leave room for notes. Here, the artwork takes the focus.
- **Mixed** — A mixed artistic/functional calendar is the approach of many traditional calendars that have a piece of artwork on one page, followed by a calendar grid beneath it.

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

FUNCTIONAL

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

ARTISTIC

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MIXED

Day Presentation ::

Within the 12-month calendar realm, there are many ways to present the appropriate information.

- **Single Month Calendar** — Each set of pages presents a single month's worth of days. These may or may not be accompanied by an image. Days of the week are featured, and a grid presents the days that are in the month. Sometimes holidays are noted, and sometimes the days in the month before and the month after are present. This type of calendar may be coil bound or saddle stitched. Specialty binding is also an option.
- **Whole-Year Calendar** — All months and days are presented in one sheet of paper, which may or may not be accompanied by an image. These types of calendars are closer to poster in format, and usually require no special binding.
- **Tear Away Calendars** — These calendars have representations of the days or months that are meant to be torn away and discarded when the month/day is over. These types of calendars may have an image that is permanent, and just the months are torn away. In the interest of printing costs and presentation, the daily version is probably not the best choice for this project.

Hints ::

- Start designing the months of May and September, the months with the shortest and longest names respectively.
- You are not restricted in your use of typeface, but exercise restraint.
- You may use any imagery you have the legal right to use. Give credit if you use an image that is not of your own creation. Look to your own artwork library first. Don't create an artwork-focused calendar if you are not using your own artwork.
- Use InDesign to create the final form of this project. Elements can be created in Illustrator, Photoshop and Procreate, but the final digital assembly (imposition) of the project elements should be completed in InDesign.
- Consider exploring the use of **InDesign's Table** features to create the date grid (Table > Create Table). While it might not be the right fit for every project, it might save quite a bit of time for some use cases. You can also look at **Illustrator's Rectangular Grid Tool**, which will draw rectangular and square grids.

Dates & Deliverables ::

We will be doing one round of revisions for this project. Your initial design is due at the beginning of class for critique on **Wednesday, May 7th, 2025** (Week 06). You must be present at the critique to receive full credit. The 16 thumbnail sketches are also due on this date.

For this critique, bring a **full-color, trimmed print of two months** at full size. In addition to the printed version, place a High-Quality PDF of your design in the Drop Box and name it `lastname_firstname_calendar_creation_r1.pdf`.

After the in-class critique, revise your design based on feedback from the class critique and prepare the remaining months. The final, printed calendar is due on **Wednesday, May 14th, 2025** (Week 07). Turn in one copy, printed in full color, trim and bound in the manner of your choosing. No inkjet prints please—use the VC Color printer for all output. Additionally, turn in a packaged InDesign file named `lastname_firstname_calendar_creation_r2` and include a High Quality PDF of your final menu.

Participation in the critique is worth 20 points, and the completed project is worth 100 points and is graded using the rubric attached to the project assignment on Canvas (120 points total).