Introduction to Digital Arts
ARST490 Fall 2016

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12PM-2PM
Credits: 1. Prerequisites: None.
Course Description:

This course introduces students to the digital arts: a loose collection of practices and approaches to art drawn together by a shared interest in digital culture, computational media and computer-based art production. While developing the critical and formal skills to thoughtfully engage problems in contemporary art, students will learn to create and communicate ideas *visually* and *digitally*. We will use a range of creative software platforms to achieve this. Sessions will emphasize the uses of software (Adobe Creative Suite and others) for project development, prototyping, and experimentation.

Goals:

1. Students will conceive, plan, execute, and present original digital artworks.
2. Students will become independent agents in learning new creative skills and processes.
3. Students will think creatively and critically about the role of digital culture and technology in contemporary art and design.
4. Students will become *critical makers* through an iterative, hands-on learning process that validates *making* and *doing* as key forms of intelligence and meditation today.

Requirements:

Participation:

Active participation throughout this course is necessary for the successful completion of assigned work. Students are expected to maintain sustained and rigorous studio practices throughout the term. In addition to art production, students will encounter reading and research assignments, discussions, and critiques.

Students are expected to be present for all class meetings. **Please email me with at least 24 hours notice if you must miss a class.** Chronic lateness and/or absences will jeopardize your grade. Following 1 late attendance, grades fall 1/4 grade. After 1 absence, each missed session is calculated against your final grade in 1/2-letter increments (I.E. if you miss 2 classes, an “A” grade becomes an “A-“). Students with 3 absences cannot successfully complete this class.
Students will be evaluated based on the following: Participation/attitude, creative/conceptual work, technical dexterity and progress over the term. Participation and attitude grades are calculated for the class in-aggregate. Should the a majority of the class fail to make significant progress between sessions, the entire group will be penalized.

**Statement of Commitment:**

This course is aggressively structured. For every hour spent in class, expect at least two hours of out of class work. Because we move quickly, **late work will not be accepted.**

Please commit to the following this term: Put in the time. Be respectful of both your peers’ time and mine. Work your hardest, be self-motivated, learn through trial and failure. Share what you learn and know freely with all. Push yourself beyond your comfort zone. Be brave, adventurous and surprising.

**Presentations:**

Students will select two artists around whom they will craft two 15 minute presentations. Presentation materials - texts, images, links, etc. - will be circulated amongst the class prior to each presentation. These materials will be of high quality and generous in their number. Presentations will be coherently organized and thoughtfully articulated. This is a service both to yourself and to the group. Students may share no more than 2 minutes of a video during presentations. **Students must submit presentation topics/subject and dates for approval by September 14th. Late submissions will not be considered.**

**Grading:**
Milestone Projects:

Project 1: Speculate, Nudge, Persuade
Create a series of 3 images illustrating a promotional campaign for a micro-utopia of your own design. Images will be printed 24” x 36” on inkjet media.

Project 2: GIFest 2016
Working in pairs, create a GIF or a series of GIFs. These looping image sequences will be crafted using heavily manipulated appropriated source content. GIFs will be displayed in a short-term public exhibition on campus and on the web.

Project 3: Counterfactual Image Spaces
Design and execute a visual program for a public space conforming to a historically counterfactual reality.

Project 4: Para-Functional Objects
Design an ensemble of objects that encourages reflection on the ways products condition behavior.

Resources:
Web:

Rhizome: http://rhizome.org/
DIS Magazine: http://dismagazine.com/
BitForms Gallery: http://www.bitforms.com/
Ars Electronica: http://www.aec.at/news/
Mute: http://www.metamute.org/
VWork: http://www.vwork.com/
Vdrome: http://www.vdrome.org/
Net Art: http://www.net-art.org/
Elephant Magazine: https://elephantmag.com/
Eyebeam: http://eyebeam.org/
eyeo Festival: http://eyeofestival.com/
FAT (Free Art Technology Lab): http://fffff.at/about/
Art F City: http://artfcity.com/
FORM+CODE: http://formandcode.com/
We Make Money, Not Art: http://we-make-money-not-art.com/
Leonardo: International Society for the Arts, Science, and Technology
Moma | Architecture and Design: here
The New Museum: http://www.newmuseum.org/
Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum: http://www.cooperhewitt.org/
Artsy: https://www.artsy.net/

People:

Cory Arcangel
Hito Steyerl
Jennifer Steinkamp - Sherry
Casey Reas
Anthony Antonellis
Xaviera Simmons Jonah 10/5
Ignacio Uriarte
Jacolby Satterwhite
Artie Vierkant - Christianne 11/9
Katja Novitskova Connor 9/19
Jonathan Monaghan
Stefanie Posavec - Ocean 10/24
Ed Fornieles - Emma 10/17
Erica Scourti
Vuk Cosic
Eva and Franco Mattes - Ocean 10/3
Hasan Elahi
Zach Blas - Sisam
Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries
Ed Atkins - Sherry
John Maeda - Brian
Cecile B Evans

Kate Cooper
LaTurbo Avedon - Christianne 10/31
Lizzie Fitch
Constant Dullaart
Erica Scourti
Tyler Coburn
Heather Dewey Hagborg
Trevor Paglen
James Bridle
Alexei Shulgin
Olia Lialina - Emma 9/26
Penelope Umbrico
Heath Bunting Connor 11/7
Rafael Rozendaal
Petra Cortright
Ryan Trecartin - Sisam
The Yes Men
Rafael Lozano Hemmer - Gabe
Jesse Darling
Golan Levin
Jason Salavon
Schedule:

9.5 Session 1:

**Intro+Course Overview**

**Assignment:**
Read: Malcolm McCullough: *Abstracting Craft*: Intro, 1, 9
Do: Lynda Training *Photoshop: Masking and Compositing* Deke McClelland

9.7 Session 2:

**Review:** Photoshop Lecture 1: Pixels, layers, masks, channels

**Assignment:**
Read: Malcolm McCullough: *Abstracting Craft*: Chapter 7
Make: Short Project 1: *Collect+Isolate+Arrange+Combine*

9.12 Session 3:

**Review:** Short Project 1: *Collect+Isolate+Arrange+Combine*
Photoshop Lecture 2: Adjustments, actions, selection

**Work in studio**

**Assignment:**
Make: Milestone 1: *Speculate, Nudge, Persuade* (Due 9.28)

9.14 Session 4:

**Work in studio**

**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 1

9.19 Session 5:

**Presentation:** Connor - Katja Novitskova

**Work in studio**

**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 1

9.21 Session 6:

**Presentation:** Gabe - RLH

**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 1
9.26 Session 7:

**Presentation:** Olia Lialina - Emma
**Work in studio**

9.28 Session 8:

**Critique 1:** *Speculate, Nudge, Persuade*
**Assignment:**
- Do: Lynda Training: [GIF Animations](#) and [Phonotropes](#)
- Make: Short Project 2: *Motion*

10.3 Session 9:

**Presentation:** Ocean - Eva and Franco Mattes
**Review:** Short Project 2: *Phonotropes*
**Work in studio**
**Assignment:** Milestone 2: GIFest 2016 (Due 10.19)

10.5 Session 10:

**Presentation:** Xaviera Simmons - Jonah
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 2

10.10 Session 11:

**Presentation:** Sisam - Ryan Trecartin
**Work in studio**
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 2

10.12 Session 12:

**Work in studio**
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 2

10.17 Session 13:

**Presentation:** Emma - Ed Fornieles
**Work in studio**
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 2, install night before

10.19 Session 14:

**Critique 2:** GIFest 2016
Assignment: Short Assignment 3: Cut
Milestone 3: Counterfactual Image Spaces (Due 11.14)

10.26 Session 15:
Presentation: Brian - John Maeda
Review: Short Assignment 3: TBA
Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

10.31 (Happy Hallows!) Session 15:
Presentation: Christianne - LaTurbo Avedon
Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

11.2 Session 16:
Presentation: Sherry - Ed Atkins
Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

11.7 Session 17:
Presentations: Connor - Heath Bunting
Christianne - Artie Vierkant
Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

11.9 Session 18:
Critique 3: Counterfactual Image Spaces
Assignment: Short Assignment 4: TBA

11.14 Session 19:
Review: Short Assignment 4
Assignment: Milestone 4: Para-Functional Objects (Due 12.7)

11.16 Session 20:
Presentation: Sherry - Jennifer Steinkamp
Assignment: Work on Milestone 4

11.21 Session 21:
**Presentation:** Sisam - Zac Blas  
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 4

**11.23 Session 22:**

**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 4

**12.5 Session 23:**

**Presentation:** Gabe - Constant Dullaart  
**Assignment:** Work on Milestone 4

**12.7 Session 24:**

**Critique 4:** *Para-Functional Objects*