

Introduction to Digital Arts

ARST490 Winter 2017

Weekdays, 10am - 12pm and 1pm - 3pm

January 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, (weekend off), 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, (weekend off)

Christopher Chenier

cchenier@wesleyan.edu | Digital Design Studio, 301 High Street

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12PM-1PM

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. Students will receive training on and access to rapid prototyping and digital fabrication tools.

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:

Projects

Students will execute a series of projects. These include three short, skills-based projects and four major "Milestone Projects," including:

Project 1: *Speculate, Nudge, Persuade*

Illustrate a fictional promotional campaign for an idea or object of your choosing.

Project 2: *GIFest 2017*

Create a GIF or a series of GIFs.

Project 3: *Image/Objects*

Create an image, object, or installation blurring distinctions of materiality and visibility.

Project 4: *Self-directed and synthetic*

Create an original work of art synthesizing the skills, processes, and ideas engaged in this course.

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:

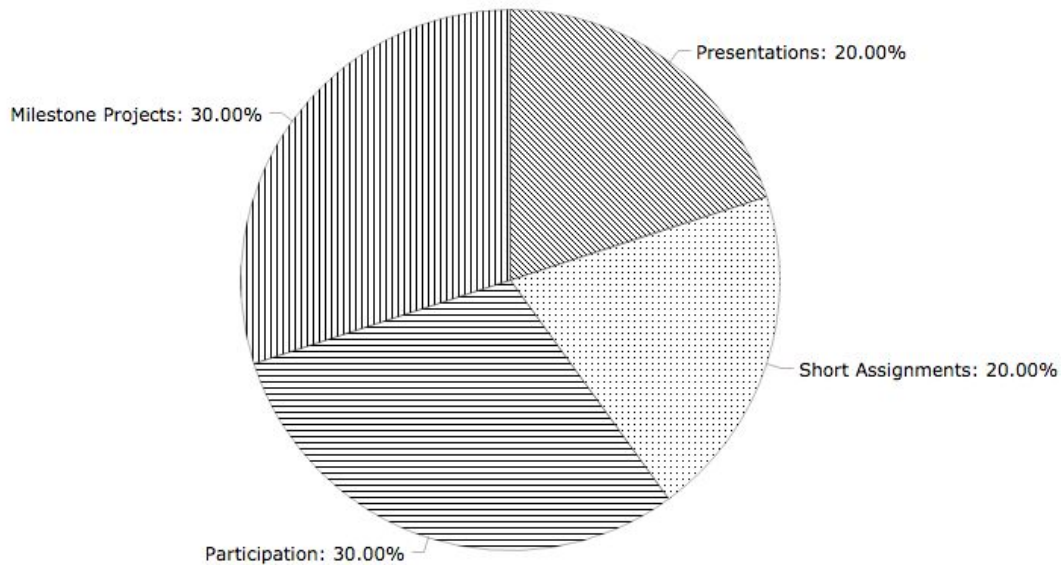
This course is aggressively structured. For every hour spent in class, expect at least two hours of out of class work. Because we move quickly, **late work will not be accepted.**

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 to 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/subjects and date proposals for approval by September 14th. Late submissions will not be considered.**

Grading:



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](http://www.international-society-for-the-arts-science-and-technology.org/)
- Moma | Architecture and Design: [here](#)
- The New Museum: <http://www.newmuseum.org/>
- Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum: <http://www.cooperhewitt.org/>
- Creators Project: http://thecreatorsproject.vice.com/en_us

Artsy: <https://www.artsy.net/>

People:

Cory Arcangel	Kate Cooper
Hito Steyerl	LaTurbo Avedon
Jennifer Steinkamp	Lizzie Fitch
Casey Reas	Constant Dullaart
Anthony Antonellis	Erica Scourti
Ignacio Uriarte	Sara Ludy
Molly Soda	Tyler Coburn
Angela Washco	Amalia Ulman
Jacolby Satterwhite	Heather Dewey Hagborg
Artie Vierkant	Trevor Paglen
Katja Novitskova	Katie Torn
Jonathan Monaghan	James Bridle
Stefanie Posavec	Alexei Shulgin
Ed Fornieles	Olia Lialina
Erica Scourti	Penelope Umbrico
Vuk Cosic	Heath Bunting
Eva and Franco Mattes	Rafael Rozendaal
Hasan Elahi	Petra Cortright
Dina Kelberman	Ryan Trecartin - Sisam
Zach Blas	The Yes Men
Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries	Rafael Lozano Hemmer
Ed Atkins	Jesse Darling
John Maeda	Golan Levin
Cecile B Evans	Jason Salavon

Winter Recess Assignments:

Read:

- [Malcolm McCullough: Abstracting Craft: Intro, 1, 7, 9](#)
- [Vilem Flusser *The Shape of Things: A Philosophy of Design*, Chapters: Non-Thing 1 and Non-Thing 2](#)
- [Marshall McLuhan: The medium is the message](#)
- Paddy Johnson, "A Brief History of Animated GIFs" parts [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#).
- Dunne and Raby, *Speculative Everything*, [Chapters 1, 5, 9](#)

Do:

- Lynda training: [Photoshop: Masking and Compositing](#)

- Lynda training: ["Motion Graphics Loops 01"](#).
- Lynda training: ["Designing and Animating a Mind-Bending Illusion"](#)
- Lynda training: ["Illustrator: Essential Training"](#)

Schedule:

1/9 Session 1:

Intro+Course Overview

Lecture: What are the digital arts?

Reading seminar and lecture: McCullough

1/9 Session 2:

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

Assignment: Short Project 1: *Collect+Isolate+Arrange+Combine*

1/10 Session 3:

Review: Short Project 1: *Collect+Isolate+Arrange+Combine*

Lecture: Photoshop adjustments, actions, and selection

1/10 Session 4:

Student Presentations

Reading Seminar and lecture: Dunne and Raby

Assignment: Milestone 1: *Speculate, Nudge, Persuade*

1/11 Session 5:

Work in studio

Assignment: Work on Milestone 1

1/11 Session 6:

Student Presentations

Work in studio

1/12 Session 7:

Critique 1: *Speculate, Nudge, Persuade*

1/12 Session 8:

Student Presentations

Assignment: Short Project 2: *Motion*

1/13 Session 9:

Review: Short project 2: *Motion*

Reading Seminar and lecture: Johnson

1/13 Session 10:

Student Presentations

Reading Seminar and lecture: McLuhan

Assignment: Milestone 2: *GIFs*

1/16 Session 11:

Critique 2: *Milestone 2: GIFs*

1/16 Session 12:

Student Presentations

Assignment: Short Project 3: *Vectors*

1/17 Session 13:

Review: Short Project 3: *Vectors*

1/17 Session 14:

Student Presentations

Reading Seminar and lecture: Flusser

Assignment: *Milestone 3: Image/Objects*

1/18 Session 15:

Work in studio

Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

1/18 Session 16:

Student Presentations

Assignment: Work on Milestone 3

1/19 Session 17:

Critique 3: Milestone 3: *Image/Objects*

1/19 Session 18:

Student Presentations

Assignment: Milestone 4 : *Self Directed and Synthetic*

1/20 Session 19:

Work in studio

1/20 Session 20:

Critique 4: Milestone 4: *Self Directed and Synthetic*

Final session shindig!