PHOTOGRAPHY, SOUND, & THE MOVING IMAGE

Intermediate Photography: Photography Sound and the Moving Image
Spring Semester 2024
Meeting Time: Tue/Thu 2:00-4:50 pm
Meeting Dates: Jan 16 - Apr 2
Course Number: ASTU 3504
Room: CVAD 313
Professor: Christopher Meerdo
Contact: christopher.meerdo@unt.edu
Office Hours: Tue/Th 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course offers an examination and practice with the intersection between still and moving images and explores the possibilities beyond conventional modes of photographic practice. Through assignments, lectures, demonstrations and critiques students gain competencies in video capture using a DSLR camera, audio capture, and video and audio editing software. Assignments and instruction will cover a wide range of approaches to video including narrative, non-narrative and installation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:
● Identify contemporary photographic, sound, and moving image styles, techniques, and histories as they relate directly to contemporary art.
● Identify key artists within your field.
● Analyze critical essays that relate to contemporary photography, sound and moving image.
● Operate photographic, sound, and moving image technology, hardware, and software.
● Create original works of art to demonstrate knowledge of technology, contemporary art and theory.

PREREQUISITES:
The following course pathway is required prior to being enrolled in this class:
ART 1440 - Design I, ART 1450 - Design II, ASTU 2501 - Beginning Photography: Photo I, and ASTU 2502 - Beginning Photography: Photo II,
it is expected that, in order to be successful in this course, you will need to:
● Have a working knowledge of contemporary artists who use photographic practices
Bring a technological mindset to the course materials based on your knowledge of photographic practices.

- Cite sources, giving credit to where you obtain information.
- Make the commitment to spend at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, working on developing tech skills, and creating original artwork for this semester alone.

**GRADING/REVIEWS**

Being enrolled in this course is not a guarantee of a passing grade. You must participate in projects in entirety and complete all required work for the course.

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

I will be calculating your projects and assignments based on a percentage system. The following lists the weighted values of each portion of the class content you are responsible for.

**Activities**

- Weekly Creative Projects & Discussion Posts (10 total - 80% of Grade)
- Midterm Artist Presentation (10% of Grade)
- Final Project Proposal, Presentation, and Critique (10% of Grade)

Projects are assessed based on their technical, formal, and conceptual merit. All work in this class must demonstrate a high level of engagement in the medium. The works you produce over the course of the semester must exhibit a clear trajectory and show an evolution of technical application and concept. Additionally, all work must be made for this class only and cannot be taken from another class without my permission. Using projects made in previous classes will result in failure. All papers, presentations, and artistic projects must be completed within the context of this course only.

**COMMUNICATION POLICY**

I am always available to be reached by email or office hours but I ask that you are respectful and professional in your communication and don’t use it as your first go-to for getting an answer to your question. Please refer to this helpful resource that outlines professional communication with your professor. Before you contact your professor ask yourself:

- Have I looked on canvas, in the syllabus, or assignment prompt for the answer?
- Have I reached out to a fellow student for the answer?
- Would this be a helpful question for the entire class to receive clarification on?

If you have a private question, please contact me via email and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. Please do not expect a response over the weekend. Normally, I will return feedback on major assignments within 1 week of the due date. However, if I see that I will be unable to return your feedback that quickly I will post an Announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected. You can expect to see me participate in the discussion board after all student original posts have been posted.

**TIME MANAGEMENT**

This class will require a full intellectual and time commitment from you in order to pass with full marks. There are 6 hours per week that you should schedule for yourself that will be held in class. You should expect to have a comparable amount of time outside this window to complete homework assignments (an additional 6 hours). Realistically, you should budget between 10-20 hours per week on this class. Make sure you are mindful of this as you begin the semester so that you stay on track throughout and are successful in the end.

**COURSE MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS**

- DSLR with video capabilities or Professional Digital Video Camera (must be beyond smartphone)
- Professional Portable Microphone/Recording Device/Zoom Recorder (must be beyond smartphone)
- Camera Tripod
- Adobe Photoshop/Lightroom/Bridge
- Adobe Premier Pro (NOT Elements or Rush)
- Audacity (Freeware) or Adobe Audition

Equipment checkout is available through CVAD IT. IT's reservation system is found on their website: [https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/equipment-checkout/](https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/equipment-checkout/)

However, students will 1st need to complete this form to use IT’s equipment: [https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/equipment-toa/](https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/equipment-toa/)

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Tentative and subject to revision.

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 1 - Jan 16/18</td>
<td>Introductions Syllabus Lecture: Proto Cinematic: Photography, Time, and Interval</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Long Exposure</td>
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<td>WEEK 2 - Jan 23/25</td>
<td>Creative Project 1: Long Exposure DUE In-class Reading: Eadweard Muybridge</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Sequencing (Digital)</td>
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<td>WEEK 3 - Jan 30/Feb 01</td>
<td>Creative Project 2: Sequencing (Digital) DUE In-class Reading: Étienne-Jules Marey &amp; Fiona Tan</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Sequencing (Print)</td>
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<td>WEEK 4 - Feb 06/08</td>
<td>Creative Project 3: Sequencing (Print) DUE In-class Reading: La Jetée</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Field Recording Part 1</td>
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<td>WEEK 5 - Feb 13/15</td>
<td>Creative Project 4: Field Recording Part 1 DUE In-class Reading: Sound Recording Systems &amp; Techniques Lecture: Sound Art - Part 1</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Field Recording Part 2</td>
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<td>WEEK 6 - Feb 20/22</td>
<td>Creative Project 5: Field Recording Part 2 DUE In-class Reading: Prehistories of Sound Lecture: Sound Art - Part 2</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Sonic Landscape</td>
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<td>WEEK 7 - Feb 27/Mar 01</td>
<td>Creative Project 6: Sonic Landscape DUE In-class Reading: Audiovisual Scene, Alvin Lucier &amp; Ryoji Ikeda</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Mid Term Research Project</td>
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<td>WEEK 8 - Mar 05/07</td>
<td>Mid Term Research Project DUE</td>
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<td>Spring Break - Mar 11/17</td>
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<td>WEEK 9 - Mar 19/21</td>
<td>Creative Project 7: Time Lapse DUE In-class Reading: Introduction to Video Lecture: Video Art - Part 1</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Durational Photograph</td>
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<td>WEEK 10 - Mar 26/28</td>
<td>Creative Project 8: Durational Photograph DUE In-class Reading: Morgan Fisher, Vilém Flusser, and Video Art Lecture: Video Art - Part 2</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Soundscape as Video Soundtrack</td>
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<td>WEEK 11 - Apr 02/04</td>
<td>Creative Project 9: Soundscape as Video Soundtrack DUE In-class Reading: Video Installation</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Experimental Film</td>
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<td>WEEK 12 - Apr 09/11</td>
<td>Creative Project 10: Experimental Film DUE</td>
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<td>WEEK 13 - Apr 16/18</td>
<td>Final Project Proposal DUE In-class Reading: Facing the Future</td>
<td>Technical Demo: Expanded Cinema</td>
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<td>WEEK 15 - Apr 30/May 02</td>
<td>Final Project: Expanded Cinema DUE - GROUP C</td>
<td>Final Project: Expanded Cinema DUE - GROUP D</td>
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CONTINUOUS INTEGRITY
Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM
Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas’ Office of Risk Management. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY / STUDIO RULES
Please include a statement of expectation for studio safety including classroom rules best-practices for health and safety specific to your area. These can be found on the attached email and in the appendices of the H&S manual at https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety. For ASTU 3000/5000 courses, please create best practices & rules based on the room you are teaching in and the materials used.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES
UNT Emergency Guide: https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deansofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 (insert administration dates) of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

INCOMPLETE GRADES
An Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.
In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT & ASSAULT
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.
UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: https://deansofstudents.unt.edu/resources. UNT’s Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.