PRAXIS: Telepresence

ASTU 5001. 504
Zoom/ Canvas (remote)
Tuesday & Thursday 8 - 10:50 AM
Spring 2021

Professor Liss LaFleur
Liss.lafleur@unt.edu (or via Canvas)
Physical office: ART 345P
Office hours via zoom: https://unt.zoom.us/j/4355820940
Office hours: Tuesday 12:00 - 2:00 (or via apt)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

UNT catalogue: Readings, discussion and/or studio exploration of various art issues. Praxis graduate seminars are intensive topical or single discipline-based courses which encourage innovation, the development of a new method, idea and results. Seminars vary in structure offering a blend of reading/writing/presentation/discussion and studio practice/group critique. Prerequisite(s): None.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Tel·e·pres·ence (noun)

1. the use of virtual reality technology, especially for remote control of machinery or for apparent participation in distant events.
2. a sensation of being elsewhere, created by the use of technology.

How do the technologies we use choreograph our actions, cause us to perform, and open spaces for poetic intervention? What are the ways we perform for each other, and how does the internet, mobile devices, and other networked technologies create new sites for creative possibilities? Focusing on sensory experiments through networked technology, students will integrate telepresence into their own studio practice.

This *remote* course is structured around a series of discussions and projects related to the topic of telepresence. New concepts and ideas will be introduced through critical texts, short technical demonstrations, and critique. Students will be required to perform with physical hardware, on the internet, via telepresence, and in collaboration with others.

No technical experience is required, though students may incorporate existing skills into their work. A desire to take risks and step outside of one’s comfort zone is necessary.
COURSE STRUCTURE

This is a graduate studio art class. You will get out of this class what you put into it. You are expected to plan ahead and work during class time. Often, class time will be split between lectures/discussions and open studio time. Since this is an online class, there will also be a number of small groups and one on one virtual meetings. We will meet on Zoom and all of your work will be submitted via Canvas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

★ Recognize how various artists explore concepts of, and make artwork related to, telepresence and the networked body
★ Demonstrate knowledge of aesthetic form, digital tools, and new media ideology
★ Create various artworks that engage in critical contemporary dialogue
★ Apply basic methods of art historical research
★ Establish an interdisciplinary approach to art making

COURSE SUPPLIES

This is a remote course, so you will need access to a reliable computer with a webcam and microphone. We will meet via Zoom and Canvas. You will also need access to any necessary hardware/software/supplies used to create your projects this semester.

I will try to provide most texts as PDF course reserves, but if you’d like to purchase the full text, this is the entire reading list:

$10.46 Glitch Feminism, Legacy Russell
$30 Technologies of Vision, Steve Anderson
$28 Nonhuman Photography, Zylinksa
$40 Contemporary Art and Digital Culture, Melissa Gronlund
$10 Here/There: Telepresence, Touch, and Art at the Interface, Kris Paulson
$40 Beyond the Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI, Claudia Schmuckli
$27 A Capsule Aesthetic: Feminist Materialisms in New Media Art, Kate Mondloch
$30 The Tactile Eye: Touch and the Cinematic Experience, Jennifer Barker
$22 We Are in Open Circuits, Nam June Paik

Possible additional texts from:
$26 The Skin of the Film: Intercultural Cinema, Embodiment, and the Senses, Laura Marks
$40 Of Remixology, David Gunkel
$130 Bioart Kitchen: Art, Feminism and Technoscience, Lindsay Kelley
$27 I Want, Paulien Boudry - Renate Lentz

COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE CHANGES

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is
considered tentative.

ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Worth / %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1 + Crit Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2 + Crit Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 3 + Crit Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 4 + Crit Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 5 + Crit Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitated Discussions x 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Event Review</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 points / 100%</td>
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GRADING

All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Grades will be provided regularly through the semester following critiques and due dates, and at mid-term.

A = Excellent (100-90%)
B = Above Average (89-80%)
C = Average (79-70%)
D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]
F = Failure (59% or below)

An "A" in this class represents outstanding work, where the work and the process exceed the expectation and requirements of the course. A "B" is earned through meeting these expectations in a strong and sustained way. A "C" is given to those who meet these expectations with no particular flare or attention to detail. A "D" is the result of a missed assignment or attendance problems. A "F" is the result of two missed assignments or a critique session. Please note that the amount of effort does not equal the quality of effort.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - T</td>
<td>1.12.21</td>
<td>Intro to class/ Syllabus and Project overview Reading: Telepresence Art &amp; Rethinking Space in Telepresence Art (Register for CAA/ NMC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - TH</td>
<td>1.14.21</td>
<td>Project 1 screenings + Brainstorm / Open studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - T</td>
<td>1.19.21</td>
<td>Screen Cap Demos + open studio time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - TH</td>
<td>1.21.21</td>
<td>Discussion #1: Telepresence Art &amp; Rethinking Space in Telepresence Art Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - T</td>
<td>1.26.21</td>
<td>CRIT PROJECT 1 + Submit Analysis to Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - T</td>
<td>1.28.21</td>
<td>Introduce Project 2 + screenings + Brainstorm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - TH</td>
<td>2.2.21</td>
<td>Project 2 demos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9- T</td>
<td>2.4.21</td>
<td>Discussion #2: Here/ There: Telepresence, touch, and art interface - Intro &amp; Ch. 1 Discussion #3: Glitch Feminism Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10- TH</td>
<td>2.9.21</td>
<td>Open studio/ attend two CAA NMC events</td>
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<tr>
<td>11- T</td>
<td>2.11.21</td>
<td>CRIT PROJECT 2 + Submit Analysis to Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12- TH</td>
<td>2.16.21</td>
<td>CRIT PROJECT 2 + Submit Analysis to Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13- T</td>
<td>2.18.21</td>
<td>Introduce Project 3 + Screenings + Brainstorm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14- TH</td>
<td>2.23.21</td>
<td>Discussion #4: The Tactile Eye - Intro &amp; Ch. 1 Discussion #5: The Tactile Eye - Ch 2 Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15- T</td>
<td>2.25.21</td>
<td>~~ MID-TERM GRADES PROVIDED ~~ Project 3 demos</td>
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<tr>
<td>16- TH</td>
<td>3.2.21</td>
<td>Discussion #6: The Tactile Eye - Ch 3 Discussion #7: Nonhuman photography Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3)</td>
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# CLASS PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17- T</td>
<td>3.5.21</td>
<td>Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18- TH</td>
<td>3.9.21</td>
<td><strong>CRIT PROJECT 3 + Submit Analysis to Canvas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>18- T</td>
<td>3.11.21</td>
<td>Introduce Project 4 + screenings + Brainstorm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 20- TH | 3.18.21 | Discussion #8: Here/ There: Telepresence, touch, and art interface - Ch. 2  
Discussion #9: Here/ There: Telepresence, touch, and art interface - Ch. 3  
Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 21- T | 3.23.21 | Project 4 demos |
| 22- TH | 3.25.21 | Discussion #10: [Hito Steryl](#) - Chapter 1 & 2  
Discussion #11: Open Circuits (Paik)  
Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 23- T | 3.30.21 | Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 24- TH | 4.1.21 | **CRIT PROJECT 4 + Submit Analysis to Canvas** |
| 25- T | 4.6.21 | Introduce Project 5 + Screenings + Brainstorm |
| 26- TH | 4.8.21 | Discussion #12: Capsule aesthetic - Ch. 1 & Ch. 4  
Discussion #13: [Technologies of Vision](#)  
Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 27- T | 4.13.21 | Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 28- TH | 4.15.21 | Discussion #14: Beyond the Uncanny Valley: Being Human in the Age of AI - Zach Blas  
Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 29- T | 4.20.21 | Open studio/ one on one meetings (2-3) |
| 30- TH | 4.22.21 | **CRIT PROJECT 5 + Submit Analysis to Canvas** |
You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

COURSE CONTENT STATEMENT

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since this is a remote class, it is important that you show up on time, with your camera and audio on. Attendance will be taken when class begins, and I will follow these guidelines:

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Three absences will be tolerated.
- More than three absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.
- More than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence (4 or more)
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an absence.
- A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class.
- Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
- Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor’s excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences).
- Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

COVID-19 impact on attendance:
While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**LATE WORK / MAKE-UP POLICY**

Late work will not be accepted, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor. If work is submitted late, the student will receive a zero for the assignment.

**REMOTE LEARNING + PHYSICAL SPACES**

This is a remote synchronous course that will meet over zoom during our designated class time. However, you still have access to the full range of New Media spaces and equipment for check out. Both the New Media classroom (ART 356) and the CAVE (ART 354) must be reserved in advance before arrival. The reservation link will be shared the first week of class.

- **ART 356 (classroom)** has 10 socially distanced computer workstations that can be individually reserved for up to three hours, and 10 remote access Mac computers that are first come first served.
- **ART 355 (Alcove)** has two VR/ rendering PC computers. These can be individually reserved up to 3 hours in person or 10 hours for remote rendering.
- **ART 354 (CAVE)** can only be reserved by one person at a time, but may be used by groups up to 4 (with social distancing). This space can be reserved for a maximum of three hours.

Students are responsible for their own health and safety, are required to wear a mask while on campus, and follow all safety and cleaning protocols. All equipment, chairs, and desks should be wiped down at the beginning and again at the end of your reservation. There is no eating allowed in any New Media spaces.

**RESERVATIONS**

CVAD has switched to a new reservation system, Booked Scheduler. It is being used to reserve all physically accessible spaces and equipment within CVAD. The reservation system will go live on the first day of classes. For reference, the URL to Booked Scheduler is https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/reservation.
The CVAD Student Computer Lab and CVAD Fabrication Labs, as well as many other spaces in CVAD, will require reservations this semester. This is being done for health and safety reasons to protect our students.

Reservations allow us to ensure a student does not remain on campus unnecessarily in order to wait for a piece of equipment to become available. Reservations in these spaces, like others, will all be done through Booked Scheduler.

Adobe Creative Cloud
Adobe Creative Cloud is available to all students in the onsite CVAD Student Computer Lab, the New Media classroom, and the remote access MAC computers. However, the Adobe campus license does not cover off-campus use for students. In order to use the Adobe apps (except Adobe Acrobat Reader DC) while off-campus (even on a university-owned laptop or while using a lab or classroom computer remotely – students will need to purchase a personal license directly from Adobe).

STUDIO HOURS
CAVE + Classroom Monday - Friday 8 - 5 pm By appointment only
Lighting Studio Monday - Friday 8 - 5 pm By appointment only
Fab Lab Check: https://cvadit.unt.edu/fablab
Photo Documentation Check: https://art.unt.edu/about-cvad/photo-documentation-room

NOTE: The use of New Media equipment and spaces is a privilege. If you are disrespectful, harmful, or selfish, if you damage any equipment, or do not follow safety protocols your privilege may be revoked.

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.

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 deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

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: http://deanofstudents.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.