COURSE INFORMATION

SPRING 2017
Monday & Wednesday 11-1:50
Hickory 173

Assistant Professor LaFleur
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DESCRIPTION

Students in this repeatable studio course execute an advanced media-based project or series for exhibition. Students conceive project concepts independently or collaboratively, working in a self-directed, autonomous manner. Topics may include performance, animation, sculpture, video, interactive art, conceptual art, art games, new media art and installation. Students have access to the full range of new media program facilities, software and equipment. Artistic voice is emphasized over technical skills. Exit review takes place during second enrollment of course.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

✴ Demonstrate knowledge of your work in reference to contemporary art contexts
✴ Assess and apply methods of new technologies within studio art
✴ Practice public and extemporaneous speaking skills
✴ Express an interplay of conceptual, formal and material development in your work
✴ Recognize your capacity to empathize with unfamiliar modes of creative production, and work independently to problem-solve
✴ Engage with visiting artists on campus and on field trips
✴ Critique your work as well as your colleagues work respectfully and critically
✴ Execute three independent projects, one research project, and an artist’s tool-kit
✴ Successfully participate in the New Media group exhibition

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

Texts
PDFs of homework texts will be distributed via class Blackboard or by UNT Email. Check weekly! The texts on this syllabus are subject to change.
An External Hard Drive! (or two!)
We will be editing and capturing a lot of video. Having an external hard drive will be essential to backing up your work and transporting it. If you are a mac user, LACIE and OWC make excellent hard drives for MACs. Whatever hard drive you end up buying, please make sure it meets these minimum specifications: Firewire 800, 7200rpm, 16mb cache.

Video Production Equipment
A list of available equipment for check out (DSLR cameras, HDV camcorders, microphones etc) can be viewed on the UNT New Media website.

EXPECTATIONS

Class Preparation. Bring your laptop, sketchbook, media, and the completed assignments and materials requested the week before to every class. Please also come fed, rested and ready to go! Your participation is important to the success of the overall class.

Class Assignments. You must complete all assignments. Preparation for in class discussions is considered an assignment.

Class Participation. Be an active part of the class, ready to participate and provide constructive and respectful feedback to your peers. Class participation in discussions, critiques and field trips is a large part of your grade. If you are challenged by speaking in class, meet with the Instructor to find an alternate way to participate and share your voice.

Class Communication. We will be communicating through our class Blackboard site, as well as your UNT.edu email address. You are expected to check both of these platforms on a regular basis for class communication.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.

1. Three unexcused absences will be tolerated.

2. More than three absences will require a note from a doctor, the Dean of Students or a note from the art office explaining a critical family/personal problem in order to be excused.

3. More than three unexcused absences will affect your final grade by one letter grade per absence.

4. 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.

5. Late work will be graded down one letter grade per class period. Work later than one week will not be accepted and will receive the grade of F. No exceptions.
7. Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

8. If you miss the final critique days of the semester you will automatically receive a failing grade for this course.

EVALUATION & GRADE BREAKDOWN

You will be evaluated on both technical and conceptual execution. What did you intend to achieve with the work? What steps did you take to produce it - did you do independent research? Did you read the texts and do the required technical demos? Did you look back at artists we looked at in class for inspiration and beyond? You don’t need to be expert big budget film makers or software engineers to produce interesting work of course, but we will work toward achieving the levels of production necessary for the projects you hope to make. Did you take risks? Take risks!

Late assignments are only accepted with the permission of the instructor and under special (*very rare*) circumstances. Critique is an essential part of the class and the feedback you will get from your classmates will be an invaluable part of understanding how your work is responded to in contexts other than your own head. TAKE NOTES! Learning how to give constructive feedback will also be an invaluable skill if you continue to work creatively. **NOTE: If you miss the final critique days of the semester you will automatically receive a failing grade for this course.**

20 points - Critique 1
20 points - Critique 2
20 points - Critique 3
15 points - Research Project
10 points - Artist Tool Kit
15 points - Exhibition

= 100 POINTS

A = 90 -100    B= 80 - 89    C = 70 - 79    D = 60 - 69    F = 0 - 59

A = Superior – The grade A indicates that work is superlative and surpasses expectations for the assignment, that critique participation is exceptional, often leading discussions with full interest in other students’ ideas and work.

B = Above Average – The grade B indicates that work is extraordinary and goes beyond the minimal requirements of an assignment, that critique participation is exemplary and fully respectful of other students’ ideas.

C = Average – The grade C indicates that work is completed as assigned, that participation in the critique is regular and fully respectful of other students’ ideas.

D = Below Average – The grade D indicates that work is completed, but is not completed as assigned, that participation in critique is sporadic or minimal.
F = Fail – The grade F indicates that work is not completed as assigned and that there is minimal or no participation in the assignment critique.

ACCOMMODATIONS

16.001 Disability Accommodation for Students and Academic Units Policy Statement. 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 Accommodation (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 the first 12 days of this course. 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

18.1.16 Student Standards of Academic Integrity Policy Statement. Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. The Student Standards of Academic Integrity are based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of all allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence. Publication of academic standards is an essential feature of the University's efforts to advance academic ideals and to protect the rights of the University community.

The University of North Texas prohibits academic dishonesty, which includes both plagiarism and cheating, and may consist of: the submission of the work of another as one’s own; unauthorized assistance on a test or assignment; submission of the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all instructors; or the failure to properly cite texts or ideas from other sources. Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. One can plagiarize even if one does not intend to. The penalty for plagiarizing may range from failure on the specific plagiarized assignment to failure in the class.
RESOURCES

New Media Art Tutors & Equipment Check In/Out:

**Mondays:** (CAVE) Alexander 9-11:00 / (CURRY) Blake 5-8:00
**Tuesdays:** (CURRY) CJ 8-11
**Wednesday:** (CAVE) Alexander 9-11:00 / (CURRY) Blake 5-8:00
**Thursday:** (CURRY) CJ 8-11
**Friday:** (CURRY + CAVE) Blake 2-8:00 / CJ 2-6 / Alexander 2-8:00

Archives of Film / Video / Performance / Digital Art works:
Ubuweb: Film & Video
archive.org
Open Culture
Rhizome: Art Base

Equipment lending:
UNT New Media
UNT Factory (FREE Equipment for checkout + workshops!!!)
UNT FAB LAB (FREE after safety training!!!)

Resources on moving image history and contemporary discourse:
Rhizome at the New Museum
AAAAARG
Furtherfield
Neural
Creative Time Reports

*Video Editing Training Tutorials:*
lynda.com (log in available after 12th class day)

*Publishing Platforms Used In This Course:*
Vimeo and/or Youtube
NewHive

Storyboarding
Template for creating storyboards

**Note about UNT New Media equipment:**
When you check out equipment – you are solely responsible for every piece of equipment that you borrow from UNT New Media Art (this includes all cameras, memory cards and accessories). If you fail to return your checked out items in proper working condition and ON TIME – this will affect your grade, ability to graduate, and possibly additional disciplinary actions until items are returned, replaced and paid for in full. BE GOOD CITIZENS AND TAKE CARE OF OUR MATERIALS.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Wednesday January 18 -

**WELCOME! + Overview of Course + Research projects**

- Welcome and Organizational Meeting
- Set Crit groups (A B C)
- BFA Exhibition Dates
- Goal setting + Research Project
- Pecha Kuchas

**HW Due January 23**

1. Bring in pecha kucha of previous work outlining interests so that we can get to know each other a little.

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**WEEK 1: Monday January 23 & Wednesday January 25**

- Introduction Pecha Kucha Monday and Wednesday
- Review goal setting doc as group.
- Research methods / tools

**Reading Due for January 30**

1. Creative Capital handout (Tool Kit) PDF

**HW Assignment due January 30th:**

1. Purchase an external hard drive following the guidelines in the *Materials* section of the syllabus above. You must have this hard drive by next class, as we will begin working on your projects in class.

*** Required Attendance outside of class

Tuesday January 24: New CVAD Building Ground breaking in Lightwell from 1-2:00 PM ***

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**WEEK 2: Tool Kits + Exhibition Design**

Monday January 30 & Wednesday February 1

- Lecture: Artist tool kit: functions, resources, and strategies.
- Lecture: Contemporary Artists & Exhibition Design
- Review studio practices as needed
- Studio time and one on one meetings

**HW Due Feb. 1:**

Turn in typed and grammatically correct goal setting document to blackboard.
HW Due on February 6th:

1. Finish Project 1 for critique next week. Make sure to complete your accompanying 100-300 word text. Upload the text with a link to your work by the evening of February 5th.

WEEK 3: Critique 1
Monday February 6 & Wednesday February 8

We will have critiques on Project #1. Be prepared to present your work, talk about your intention and receive feedback from your peers. Make sure your project is turned into Blackboard by 11:59pm on Sunday February 5th with any attached links.

Reading for February 13th:
http://blog.creative-capital.org/2017/01/9167/
“Advice for a first time grant writer”

WEEK 4: Research Project / Independent Studio Workdays
Monday February 13 & Wednesday February 15

This is in class time designated toward for your research projects and independent projects for critique. Use your time wisely!

HW Due on February 15th:
Research outline including: description/ overview, timeline, research goals, and any other supporting information or images – submitted via blackboard.

***Required attendance outside of class:
FEB. 15-18: NEW MEDIA EXHIBITION IN LIGHTWELL GALLERY***

WEEK 5: Workshop Tool Kit Materials + Independent Studio Time
Monday February 20 & Wednesday February 22

- Bring in 5 copies of your artist statement and bio (small group workshop)

Reading for February 22:
“When Art Conservations Means Repairing TVs, Not Canvases” - NYTIMES
WEEK 6: Critique 2  
Monday February 27 & Wednesday March 1  

We will have critiques on Project #2. Be prepared to present your work, talk about your intention and receive feedback from your peers. Make sure your project is turned into Blackboard by 11:59pm on Sunday February 26th with any attached links.

**Reading for March 20th:**  
http://republicart.net/disc/mundial/steyerl02_en.htm  
The Articulation of Protest - Hito Steyerl

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WEEK 7: Independent Work Days  
Monday March 6 & Wednesday March 8  

Professor LaFleur will be absent this week – you will each meet one on one for 15 minutes with a guest Professor. You will present your work to them and get feedback. TAKE NOTES.

**Readings Due for March 22:**  
   “Black Video Game Characters Finally Get Their Due”  

*(Saturday March 11: Professor LaFleur Opening @ Women and their Work in Austin, TX)*

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**Monday March 13 & Wednesday March 15 - SPRING BREAK!**

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WEEK 8: Workshop Tool Kit Materials +Exhibition Fine Tuning  
Monday March 20 & Wednesday March 22  

- Share website link and website layout / info with course for feedback  
- Find an open call, exhibition or internship to apply for and produce requested materials for it (Ex: images and image list, cover letter, etc)  
- Exhibition planning: order all vinyl, tags, make complete inventory list, etc.

**HW Due for March 22:**  
1. Updated research outline including: “action” photos of you testing your technology, a 300 word reflection based on your progress, and a check-in on your goals (completed, in progress, or not completed)
WEEK 9: INDEPENDENT WORKDAYS
Monday March 27 & Wednesday March 29

We will not meet this week as a class. Use this time very wisely! Help each other! Record, edit watch Lynda tutorials – LOOK AHEAD.

HW Due for April 3:
1. Finish Project #3 for critique next week. Make sure to complete your accompanying 100-300 word text and upload both your description and work to Blackboard. Upload the text with a link to your work by the evening of April 2nd.

Week 10: Critique 3
Monday April 3 & Wednesday Aril 5

This week we will have our third critique. We will look at your finished pieces and discuss them. Be prepared to talk about concept and formal execution.

Read for April 10th:
http://blog.creative-capital.org/2017/01/dread-scott-marketing-strategy/
“RULE YOUR UNIVERSE”

WEEK 11: New Media Exhibition in Cora Stafford Gallery
Monday April 10 & Wednesday April 12

- INSTALL: Begin after 7PM Monday April 10th thru Tuesday April 11th
- SHOW OPENS: Wednesday April 12th
- UN-INSTALL: Begin Saturday after 5PM April 15th/ everything must be removed by Monday April 17 at 8AM

HW Assignment Due April 12 (for Friday April 14):
1. Bring in 2 questions (written or typed) for visiting artist LAURA SPLAN. This will be collected for HW credit.

**MANDATORY ATTENDANCE**
FRIDAY APRIL 14 - North Texas Digital Fabrication Symposium with Guest Artist LAURA SPLAN

WEEK 12: One on one Meetings + Independent Work Days
Monday April 17 & Wednesday April 19
WEEK 13: Finish Tool Kit + Studio Days
Monday April 24 & Wednesday April 26

- Finish all tool kit materials and email link to public website to Professor LaFleur
- Complete and prepare research project and presentations

WEEK 14: Research Presentations
Monday May 1 & Wednesday May 3

- Facilitate a workshop and present your research based on newly learned technologies

HW Assignment Due for May 8:
Finish and practice research presentation and workshop – test all technology before your presentation date. Submit a completed, grammatically correct, and thorough presentation to Blackboard before May 8th.

Week 15: Research Presentations
Monday May 8th

- Facilitate a workshop and present your research based on newly learned technologies
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Critique Requirements

You will have 3 critiques in this course.

Deliverables for each critique will vary but should demonstrate planning, editing, and advancement for the beginning or continuation of an independent project. For example: 8-15 digital prints, 5-10 minutes of edited digital content, a VR experience, etc. In addition to these deliverables you must provide a 100-300 word statement.

Your work should be well thought out, researched and produced. The project statement should concisely describe the subject matter and working methods (how and why did you start the project, why are you using the tools and medium selected for the project). This is not an artist statement. It will be used to help me understand what you are thinking and doing for each critique.

Critiques will be graded on:

- Visual content and conceptual framework

- Craft (excellence in technique is expected. I have built a considerable amount of one on one meeting time and studio time into this class. If you need technical help - ask.)

- The demonstration of self-criticism and reaction to the process of that criticism. This means making images, looking at the images, thinking about the images and then making better images based on that process. You can use working images, project journals, sketchbooks and discussions during critiques to demonstrate the process of self-criticism.

- Projects turned in without a project statement will receive the grade of 0 (F).

- If you have questions about these requirements please ask before the day of your critique.

*Note:

Students are expected to have the technical skills necessary to produce work in the new media forms that they choose for their project, or at least be fluent enough to solve problems independently. Additional technical training will not be included in the content of the course nor will we work as a group to develop such skills during class time. Students are responsible for developing necessary remedial technical skills independently, although one-on-one help will be provided as time allows. Lynda tutorials are also a great resource for catching up on practice as needed.

Research Project

Students must select a new technology that they have not yet used in any past projects, or that is new to them. This could be an analogue way of making work (like a film projector), a new digital tool (like a 3D scanner to VR headset), or a new software/ programming language (Unity, Processing, etc). Ideally your chosen topic will be based on a feeling of natural curiosity, and will take on a hybrid mix of learning software and hardware. You must independently discover, research, and propose a creative project utilizing
your new technology. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE A PROJECT USING YOUR TECHNOLOGY, just master it and craft a creative proposal. To prove your knowledge of your chosen tool, you will facilitate a 30 minute hands-on demonstration of your technology to the class, presenting your research and creative project idea as a slide show.

Examples of Research Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vive VR</td>
<td>(The Factory owns a VIVE headset and NM will have two soon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Reality</td>
<td>Augmented Reality (Geo locations, iPad based 2D and 3D objects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photogrammetry</td>
<td>(NM has Kinects and DSLR cameras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panoramic Video</td>
<td>(NM owns a number of 360 cameras)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>(could be Processing, Isadora, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Printing</td>
<td>(You can use the fab lab for FREE as a student)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iOS Development</td>
<td>(Apple dev profiles, Unity, and Xcode)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leap Motion Controller</td>
<td>(NM has purchased a number of controllers, and the developer software is free for you to download)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEG Brainwave Sensing</td>
<td>(The factory has some of these headsets and NM will be purchasing Emotive headsets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Computing</td>
<td>(Arduino or Raspberry Pi)</td>
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<td>Robotic Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinect for Interactive Projections</td>
<td>(NM owns a number of kinects)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your demonstration and presentation should include:

- an overview of your technology and how it’s used (what other types of your technology exist? for ex: VR= oculus, google cardboard, vive, etc – how can you translate your knowledge to similar tools? When was it developed and what is it used for?)

- readings, books, articles, or texts that inform your technology? (ex: additivist manifesto for 3D printing)

- how can your classmates “plug and play” and understand how to use your technology during your demonstration/ workshop?

- examples of projects and artists who are using your tools

- a clear explanation of how you could use your technology in the studio – what does it inspire for you and what project could you develop using it? Your proposal could include mock-ups, sketches, etc

- Your presentations are formal and should be prepared and rehearsed ahead of time. Save the presentation in a folder titled lastname_firstname and place it in the Assignments folder on blackboard.
**Artist Tool-kit**

As a professional artist you will need relevant tools to promote and share your work. Each student will create a tool kit including the following:

1. Resume/CV
2. Biography
3. Website with images and contextual information (titles, project statements, prints sizes, etc. This can very from artist to artist so please ask if you have questions).
4. Artist statement

We will look at examples, review each other’s documents, and talk about where and when to use the tool kit. It is recommended that you send at least one ‘application’ for a show/job/internship this semester.

**Exhibition**

You must successfully exhibit a minimum of two works in the New Media group exhibition. These works should demonstrate your growth in the New Media program, and one of your works should have been produced during your time in the Advanced course(s). You must also work democratically as a cohort to produce and organize the exhibition. Your grade will depend on designating individual tasks and contributing equally to the show's success. You are solely responsible for installation and uninstallation of your work in the New Media exhibition. New Media Art MAY have some items available for you to use, but these will need to be reserved in advance and returned in the same working order after the exhibition.

Your installation dates are: _________________________________________________

Your exhibition opens: ___________________________________________________

Your reception is: __________________________________________________________

Your un-install dates are: __________________________________________________
I ____________________________ (print your name) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

I ____________________________ (print your name) understand that I am only allowed 3 unexcused absences in this class, and if I fail to attend our final critique I will receive a failing grade for this course.

I understand that I will receive a __________ percent reduction on a project if I and/or my work are not present for a project critique.

I ____________________________ (print your name) understand that my likeness and projects may be photographed for UNT New Media.

I ____________________________ (print your name) understand that there will be consequences if New Media equipment is not returned in the same working condition as it is when I check it out, or if it is returned late or not at all. These consequences can include: fines up to replacement value, a hold on my ability to graduate, and possibly disciplinary action depending on the situation.

___________________________________________  ___________________________________________

Course Number and Section Risk Rating

___________________________________________  ______________

Student Signature Date