

Advanced Emerging Media Production | Spring 2013 | EMAC 4326

Professor: Morehshin Allahyari

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Class Times: Wednesdays, 10 AM-12:45PM

Class Location: ATEC, 1.104

Class Website: <http://www.morehshin.com/spring13emac4326>

Course Overview

This studio course explores advanced production, post-production, and theories in the development of emerging forms of digital media and communications. Students will work collaboratively (in teams) and if needed individually to produce new media projects using a variety of different methods and technologies. Areas of investigation includes internet culture, new media, video, telematic, and telepresence art. Prerequisite: ATEC 3326.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course students will:

- Think critically about new media and digital communication.
- Understand history and theories of new media art and some of the contemporary components of internet culture.
- Have a knowledge of the works of some of the most important contemporary and founding new media projects.
- Complete 4 original creative works exploring the visual and conceptual language of New Media and communication.
- Acquire basic technical skills in a variety of New Media related software.

Required Materials

Books + Articles: All the reading material will be available on the class website in pdf format. Students will not need to purchase any books for this class.

External Hard-Drive: Students will need to purchase a hard-drive for this class. The hard drive recommendation is a Firewire 800 (IEEE 1394/b) with a spindle speed of 7200 RPM or faster, 200 GB or bigger. Recommended brands are Lacie, Seagate, and G-Tech.

***Make sure you save and make a copy of your projects on your hard-drive. Do Not leave your projects on the lab computers without having a copy with you, as the files might get erased on the lab computers.

Other Materials: I suggest purchasing headphones, DVD-R, and a flash/thumb drive if you don't already have them. You will need a camcorder and sound recording equipment for this course. If you already don't own these tools, it will be your responsibility to check them out from the equipment center.

Policies

Projects:

- There are four main projects for this course.
- On studio work days (see the course outline chart for the dates), students **MUST** come to class with their in progress projects and hard-drives ready to work. If you come to class without the necessary tools to work, you will be considered **absent** for that session. If you have your own laptop and prefer to use that for your projects, bring it to class with you for the work days. You can not work from home on the studio work days and must be available in class during the whole 3 hours of our work days. Students must **meet the deadlines** for their projects. No late projects will be accepted.
- On Idea + concept days (see the course outline chart for the dates) students should bring notes, sketches, charts, and material that they have used to do research on the specific topic and concept that they are interested in for their project.

Participation:

- Participation in class discussions for readings, material that we watch in class, giving feedback to your peers on their work is **mandatory**. Remember that 30% of your grade is based on your participation in class and you are expected to actively participate in such discourses as they are some of the most important sections of our class.
- Sleeping in class, texting, and looking at your Facebook or any other activity unrelated to class will also have impact on your participation grade. You are responsible for the missing material if you fall asleep in class.
- On critique/presentation days you must be able to explain and give a clear presentation of your work, research, and concepts. If you have a hard time talking in front of a crowd or remembering your points, use a notebook, powerpoint, sketches or bullet points for your presentations.

For ALL the readings that I will be assigning in this course you are required to post one paragraph response or a video with 4-5 sentences to our class blog. Those who simply summarize what they have read will not receive any points for their responses. You are asked to think critically and post something that questions, criticizes, endorses, and/or adds to the reading. I consider these small assignments as part of your class participation. The deadline for these responses is **Tuesdays 11:55 PM.**

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all class meetings on time. Lateness by more than **15 minutes** constitutes an absence. No more than three (3) absences are allowed to receive credit for the course. More than three absences will result in a grade of F. Any absence will result in the loss of 2 points from student's grade -1 for Attendance and -1 for Participation. **It is your responsibility to make up missed class material (don't ask me to repeat classes via email).**

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Grading

Students will be evaluated on the basis of completed projects (70%), attendance and participation (30%). Projects will be graded on their timely completion (33%), originality in visual and conceptual approach (33%) and evidence of skill development, attention to detail and research (33%).

Point totals are as follows:

Animated GIF Project: 15

Second Project: 15

Third Project: 15

Fourth Project: 15

Presentation: 10

Attendance + Participation: 30

Total= 100 points possible. Scale: A=90, B=80, C=70, D=60, F=59.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below.

Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. (http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm)

*****These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**