

# Syllabus: Visual Sample & Remix

Instructor: **Dr. Maximilian Schich, Associate Professor**  
ATEC4370.001.14S - Topics in Art and Technology



## General information

The course meets in the *Spring 2014*, *Wednesdays 4:00-6:45pm* in room *ATC 2.811*.

Coursebook: <http://go.utdallas.edu/atec4370.001.14s>

Course website: <http://elearning.utdallas.edu>

## Instructor contact

Address: 800 West Campbell Rd., AT10 - 75080 Richardson/TX - USA - Office: **ATC3.301**

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Email note: **Please prefix ATEC4370.S14 to your email subject for prompt attention!**

Office hours: Please meet me right after the course or make an appointment via email.

## Mission

The *Visual Sample and Remix* course aims to answer two questions:

***What can we see?*** and ***Where does it come from?***

In ATEC, we need to answer these questions to understand and do visual innovation.

The course will *look* into questions such as:

- Does Anakin's mother replace Michelangelo's Christ?
- Are Sean Connery and Obi-Wan Kenobi usurping Saint Christopher?
- Does Southpark steal from gross Renaissance typesetters?
- Are ancient superheroes marveled by Marvel?
- Is Grandmaster Flash the new Andrea Palladio?
- Do TV tropes, movie quotes, and classic iconography differ?
- Can gossip, sampling in music, and visual memes spread like the flu?
- Is everything an assemblage and can animals be plants?
- What is horizontal gene transfer, and does it apply to comics?
- Are religious painting and the Cambrian explosion related?
- Is Art History superseded by Facebook engineers?
- Are billions of images different?
- Amen Brother?

*The key learning objective of this course is learning how to see.*

## Requirements

Typical assignments in this course include finding a number of images that are related to a sample image in terms of significant similarity, reuse, or remix. Students will ***learn to document*** their search strategy, find and reference the original, describe relations, and visualize citation patterns and mechanisms. There will be ***short readings*** regarding the ***continuity and variation in the meaning of images***, and ***extensive discussion of visual material*** in class. We will also ***create visualizations of our insights***.

The ***academic calendar, project assignments, readings, and presentation requirements are discussed and defined together and will feed into the final course summary. Preliminary summaries as necessary for the completion of assignments are provided to students via email.***

## Textbooks

Google Image Search + selected readings, provided by the instructor.

## Grading policy

Percentages: Assignments 45% + Attendance & Participation 45% + Presentation 10%

## Course & instructor policies (aka the fine print)

### *Class policies*

- All announcements will be sent via email. Students are responsible for reading each announcement in detail.
- All students will participate in the discussion. Observers are expected to participate in the discussion equally.
- Students need to read all the assigned readings or complete homework prior to the class discussion. Homework assignments need to be handed in before the respective class. The nature of an assignment including deliverables will be defined together and announced in class or sent out as an announcement.
- Students have the responsibility of backing up all their data, code, and preliminary work. When writing code, it is highly encouraged to use a version control system, such as github, bitbucket, etc.
- Please contact the instructor if you have a disability that requires some arrangements so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

### *UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures*

- The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.
- The principles of academic honesty and ethics will be enforced. You should credit all your sources. Plagiarism (see UTD syllabus policies for definition) in final presentations, papers, or posters results will not be tolerated.
- Excessive unexcused non-attendance (see UTD syllabus policies for definition) will lower your grade.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are *subject to change* at the discretion of the instructor.

## Instructor Bio

Dr. Maximilian Schich joined UT Dallas ATEC as Associate Professor in January 2013. He studied Art History, Classical Archaeology, and Psychology at LMU-Munich (M.A. 2001), HU-Berlin (PhD 2007), and Max-Planck in Rome (PhD-fellow 2002-2004). Since 1996, Maximilian also was a project consultant for large-scale cultural graph data. From 2008 to 2012 he explored the Ecology of Complex Networks in Art Research with Albert-László Barabási at Northeastern University and Dirk Helbing at ETH Zurich. He received generous funding from the Special Innovation Fund of the President of Max-Planck-Society (2008) and a Research Grant from German Research Foundation (2009-2012). Maximilian has collaborated, presented, and published in prestigious venues in Archeology, Art History, Computer Science, Complexity, Sociology, Physics, and Visualization. He is an Editorial Advisor at Leonardo Journal (MIT-Press) and chairs a popular symposium series on Arts, Humanities, and Complex Networks (14.5% acceptance). Maximilian was invited to SciFoo twice (2009/2013).