

The University of Iowa - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
School of Art and Art History - Intermedia Program

Intermedia Workshop Syllabus

Instructors and Contact Information

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Course Information:

Course Number: 01J:110:001
Semester: Fall 2008
Meeting Time: Monday 3:30-6:45 PM
Classroom: Communication Center 308
Class weblog: intermedia-iowa.blogspot.com

Course Description

The goal of this workshop is to create conditions where students evolve conceptually and aesthetically. The workshop prepares students to interpret their culture in terms of new languages of representation. In particular, students gain critical skills in analyzing established visual languages and are encouraged to produce and perform such languages. Students learn to merge scholarly practices with workshop practices, thus challenging the barriers between so-called academic and creative areas. The work involves hands-on experience in production of video art, performance, and installation, as well as the creation of objects.

Objectives and Goals

1. Develop a self-directed studio practice
2. Place new artworks in critical, historical, and cultural context
3. Build formal, analytic, and critical vocabularies for understanding and discussing creative work
4. Produce a strong artwork or body of creative practice to share with the larger campus community in Intermedia Open House

Assignments and Expectations

The verbal critique of student work is the backbone of this course. Students are expected to show work to be critiqued at least three times during the semester and to participate freely and frequently in discussions of the work of fellow students. No later than one week prior to their scheduled critiques, students must distribute written articles, book chapters, etc. that will inform discussion by providing some critical, methodological, conceptual, or thematic context for their work. These readings may provide a basis for students' eventual thesis papers as well as orienting the class as to the area of creative practice being engaged by each student.

This class has an online presence in the form of a blog, which will only be as useful as the quality of the posts and comments. In addition to creative work and critique, all students should write at least one review of an art exhibition, screening, lecture, or book for the class weblog. From time to time, instructors will ask for volunteers to attend Iowa City events and blog them for the benefit of the class. Please check the blog regularly (about once every three days or so), leave comments on others' posts, and post more than you are required to do. We have also established a del.icio.us social bookmarkign page for the Intermedia Program. This is a space to share Web resources and research with one another. We will sign everyone up for the blog on the first day of class and demonstrate how to update the del.icio.us page.

Other course activities for the semester include a field trip and participation in Intermedia Graduate Open House. The first field trip will be during class on first day of the semester. The recommended course field trip to Chicago will near midterm. Programming will include attending the Jenny Holzer retrospective at the Museum of Contemporary Art and related programming. The field trip will cost approximately \$30/person for transportation expenses, and we must get a headcount early in the semester to determine if the trip will be feasible, as the per-person cost will go up if fewer students attend. Graduate Open House is a major public event and an opportunity to present your work to the broader community. All students are expected to participate, and the class will set the scheduling.

Experimentation, risk-taking, and participation are essential parts of this course; please come ready to work hard and share generously with your fellow students. Fostering a respectful and challenging creative environment is the responsibility of both students and instructor. Frequent tardiness, repeated absences, or rude, harassing, dismissive behavior adversely affect the class climate and will not be tolerated. This course is governed by the policies of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). The School of Art and Art History has prepared a syllabus addendum, attached, that outlines these policies.

Grading Policy

In keeping with the “oral tradition” of studio arts practice, verbal and written critique is emphasized in this course. Traditional letter grades, including plus/minus, will be assigned at the end of the semester based on a holistic evaluation of the quality of each student's work and degree of technical, formal, and conceptual growth demonstrated over the term. Based on feedback received during critique, students may continue revising all projects until finals week, when a portfolio of work for the semester will be submitted in an appropriate format. Students will be evaluated both on the conceptual development and formal resolution of their own creative work as well as their participation in critique. Portfolios will be archived by the Intermedia program and may be used for demonstration and promotional purposes.

The final grade will be based on the following rough weightings:

70% - Portfolio

20% - Participation in critique

10% - Written review and participation in blog

As this course meets only once per week, grades will be automatically lowered by one-third for every absence beyond the first (e.g. an A- becomes a B+ for a student with two absences), excepting extreme and documented circumstances.

Materials Policy

There is a \$30 course fee to cover the cost of equipment, software and maintenance. Students are expected to purchase any additional supplies their work requires.

Experimentation with different materials is encouraged but please exercise good judgement. Due to the communal space of the Communications Buildings, the use of solvents, spray paint or any fume producing chemical is prohibited. Guns, blood, bodily fluids, live animals, smoke, fire, alcohol, and broken television tubes (which contain lead) are absolutely prohibited. Be aware of the toxicity of your materials and consult with the instructor in advance if you are uncertain about the safety of a material.

August 25 – Course Introduction/SynchroniCITIES Project

Meeting with Rachel Williams, Interim Co-Chair of Intermedia

Demo Blog, del.icio.us
SynchroniCities mapping project

August 27 - Intermedia Potluck/Grill-luck; Upper City Park, 4 PM (recommended)

September 1 – Introductory Presentations

Review SynchroniCities uploads/debrief
10 minute introductory presentations, each student

September 8 – Critique

September 15 – Critique

September 22 – Critique

September 29 – Critique

October 6 – Critique

October 13 – Critique

October 20 – Discussion on Jacques Ranciere, “Politics of Aesthetics”

Jacques Ranciere, “Politics of Aesthetics”

<http://www.16beavergroup.org/mtarchive/archives/001877.php>

Ranciere special section, *Artforum*, March 2007

October 24-25 – Workshop field trip to Chicago (recommended)

October 27 – Critique

November 3 – Critique

November 10 – Critique

November 17 – Critique

November 24 – Thanksgiving Recess

December 1 – Critique

December 8 – Critique

December 18, 7:30 AM – Official Final Exam Period

Portfolio Due; no class meeting

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Syllabus Addendum

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall or see the Academic Handbook. www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml

Homework Expectation

For each semester hour of credit that an Art and Art History course carries, students should expect to spend approximately two hours per week outside of class preparing for class sessions. That is, in a three-credit-hour course, instructors design course assignments on the assumption that students will spend six hours per week in out-of-class preparation.

Your Responsibilities

Your responsibilities to this class -- and to your education as a whole -- include attendance and participation. This syllabus details specific expectations the instructor may have about attendance and participation. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may learn. At the most basic level, this means you will respect the other members of the class and the instructor and treat them with the courtesy you hope to receive in return.

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is not his or her own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is reported to the departmental DEO and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services. See Academic Fraud at www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml for the complete policy.

Making a Suggestion or Complaint

Students have the right to make suggestions or complaints and should visit with the instructor, the course supervisor if necessary, and finally with the departmental DEO. For more information visit, Student Complaints at www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml#5

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations registers with Student Disability Services and meets with a SDS counselor who determines eligibility for services. A student approved for accommodations should meet privately with the course instructor to arrange particular accommodations. Visit Student Disability Services at www.uiowa.edu/~sds/

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit this site www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/ for definitions, assistance, and the full University policy

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

The University of Iowa Operations Manual section 16.14 outlines appropriate responses to a tornado (i) or to a similar crisis. If a tornado or other severe weather is indicated by the UI outdoor warning system, members of the class should seek shelter in rooms and corridors in the innermost part of a building at the lowest level, staying clear of windows, corridors with windows, or large free-standing expanses such as auditoriums and cafeterias. The class will resume, if possible, after the UI outdoor warning system announces that the severe weather threat has ended.

Resources for Students

- Writing Center 110 English-Philosophy Building, 335-0188, www.uiowa.edu/~writingc
- Speaking Center 12 English-Philosophy Building, 335-0205
www.uiowa.edu/~rhetoric/centers/speaking
- Mathematics Tutorial Laboratory 314 MacLean Hall, 335-0810, www.uiowa.edu/mathlabTutor
- Referral Service Campus Information Center, Iowa Memorial Union, 335-3055,
www.imu.uiowa.edu/cic/tutor_referral_service

Student Classroom Behavior

The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior, distracting others; such behaviors are a violation of the Code of Student Life. When disruptive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority to determine classroom seating patterns and to request that a student exit the classroom, laboratory, or other area used for instruction immediately for the remainder of the period. One-day suspensions are reported to appropriate departmental, collegiate, and Student Services personnel (Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students).

Missed Exam policy

University policy requires that students be permitted to make up examinations missed because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, certain University activities, or unavoidable circumstances. Excused absence forms are required and are available at the Registrar web site:
www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/absence.pdf

University Examination Policy Final Examinations

An undergraduate student who has two final examinations scheduled for the same period or more than three examinations scheduled for the same day may file a request for a change of schedule before the published deadline at the Registrar's Service Center, 17 Calvin Hall, 8-4:30 M-F, (384- 4300).

Plus-Minus Grading

All the department's instructors can append plus or minus grades to the letter grades they assign for the course. If the instructor does not specifically indicate in the syllabus that he or she will not assign plusses or minuses, students should assume that this form of grading will be used.