

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Art 003, Medium and Message, Section 02, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Merav Tzur
Office Location:	Art Building 323
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Email:	merav.tzur@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 12:00–1:30 pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:30–11:45 AM
Classroom:	Art Building 108
Department Office:	Art Building 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates. All written work must be submitted via Canvas by the beginning of class (unless stated otherwise) in PDF format only and images must be jpegs less than 250KB. Canvas will also be used for announcements about gallery openings, studio visits, cultural events, deadlines and changes to the course schedule. Please make sure your Canvas contact works.

Course Description

This undergraduate seminar introduces intermediate-level artists to a research and project-based approach to art-making with a focus on contemporary, idea-appropriate media and methods.

Course Goals

This course will illuminate the communicative possibilities and poetics of form, concept, and context. In this course students will explore a range of approaches in contemporary thought within the visual arts, with emphasis on selected, current trends in artistic production. We will view how artists respond to materiality, advances in technology, and increasingly shifting societal and accelerated cultural changes. Some topics we will examine include Post Minimalism, Internet art and post-Internet art, political/social art, and Sound Art.

Students will create projects in response to readings, videos, and lectures, and develop analytical skills, both orally and in writing, of their work and their colleagues, examining the relationships between form, concept, and context.

This course is a seminar with readings and studio-practice homework to be done largely outside of class time. University policy requires that six hours of homework per week be assigned for any three-unit class. There will be at least one field trip TBA, and students will be expected to attend at least one lecture outside of class time.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: demonstrate knowledge about different media

CLO2: demonstrate and apply knowledge about the relationship of medium and content

CLO3: demonstrate fluency in the language of visual critique orally and in writing

CLO4: demonstrate sensitivity to a variety of media and cultural modes of representation

CLO5: track their own iterative working process

Reading material and videos

Students will respond to course readings and videos with five short entries uploaded to Canvas. Reading material and videos will also be posted on Canvas; I will inform everyone in advance if there are readings to prepare or videos to watch before class.

Videos and articles on the agenda:

Art 21 [Jenine Antony](#) and [Ann Hamilton](#)

[“Utopia Is No Place: The Art and Politics of Impossible Future”](#)

[“Can Art Affect Political Change?” The New School video](#)

“The Critique Handbook” by Kendal Buster and Paula Crawford

“What we Want is Free,” edited by Ted Purves

[“Janet Cardiff, George Bures Miller and the Power of Sound” by John Wray](#)

[“Beginnings+Ends” by Lauren Cornell](#)

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

You will need a sketchbook for brainstorming and collecting research images, text, and ephemera. This is an intermedia seminar, where students are encouraged to combine a variety of mediums into their projects. The material for your projects is going to support the concept of the project. No specific materials are required to complete an assignment, but it depends on the individual (or the group, in collaborative projects). Some materials might need to be purchased at hardware stores, art supply stores, etc., and using recycled and found materials is highly encouraged. Students choosing to use the Instructional Resource Center’s video cameras and sound recording equipment will need to purchase a data card, or bring one from home. (I will give a demonstration for simple sound and video editing in class). Total material cost is up to you, but expect to spend an average of \$50–\$80 on class projects.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) must be on file for all potentially hazardous materials before they can be used in any of the Art & Design facilities. Students must submit one copy of the material’s MSDS to the department in Room 104 and a second copy to the faculty

member responsible for the class in which the material will be used. Basic training PowerPoint: <http://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/docs/hazmatandlabsafetyguidance.pdf>

The Shop Safety Test

Students who use the shop facilities will be required to pay a \$20 fee to take the Shop Safety Test before they can use the facility, we will take the shop safety test in class. The fee must be paid prior to the student taking the Shop Safety Test. You can pay the fee at the Bursar's Office, located in the Student Services Center, directly into Fund 62089 with cash or check. The test and fee are required only once a calendar year, so if you took the test during the Spring 2017 semester, you will not be required to pay this fee again until Fall 2017. If you paid the fee in Fall 2016, you must pay the fee again for Fall 2017. The shop test is valid for one (1) calendar year.

In order to take the Shop Safety Test and use the School of Art & Design Shop Facilities, you must:

Bring a receipt for the fee paid at the Bursar's Office into Fund 62089. The Bursar's Office accepts cash or check only.

Be enrolled in at least one 3-unit Art or Design course during the Fall 2017 semester.

We will watch the Shop Safety Test online

at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/atn/webcasting/events/shopysafety/>

The test is an open-notes test. Write everything down while you watch the video. When you have finished, answer the questions in the Shop Test review handout you were given on the first day of class. Returning students who passed the safety test last semester need only show proof of their enrollment in a 3-unit Art or Design course in order to have their shop access reactivated. You will take the test as a group during class. Students will not be granted individual testing sessions. **If a student fails to take or pass the safety test (or the second-chance safety test), she or he can only use the facilities when I am present.**

Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS)

must be on file for all potentially hazardous materials before they can be used in any of the Art & Design facilities. Submit one copy of the material's MSDS to the department in Room 104 and a second copy to the faculty member or technician responsible for the facility where the material will be used. Please explain this to the students in your classes. This is a commonly missed question on the shop safety test and should be discussed with your class prior to the shop.

Library Liaison

Elisabeth Thomas: elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu

Here are research guides on art and research process:

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/Art>

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/calculator>

Classroom Protocol

Cell phones and laptops must be put away during all lectures and videos and can be used during class only for research related to class material.

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](#). In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#). Here is a link to the [Late Drop Policy](#). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.” o It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.

In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. This is the link to the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#).

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an

appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](#).

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](#). For additional resources and updated

information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) website.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

Projects will be graded in a timely manner and grades will be posted on Canvas. Each assignment is worth a specific % of your final grade (as outlined in the grade assignment descriptions). You are graded on a set number of points pertaining to the project. Your final grade will be accessed according to the University policy from A to F as outlined in the SJSU catalog. Grading Information.

Grades will be assigned according to University policy from A to F as outlined in the SJSU catalog. All work must be finished and turned in according to deadlines and instructions.

97-100 = A+
93-96 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-

59 and below = F

A range: Outstanding achievement. Significantly exceeds standards.

B range: Exceeds standards

C+ and C range: Meets standards

C- Marginal achievement.

D. Below standards

F. Failing

Each project will be evaluated by four primary criteria:

1. Creativity, originality, and complexity: Exploring solutions that are innovative, inventive, and creative; demonstrate problem-solving ability and understanding of concepts. **TAKING RISKS:** Students will receive a higher grade for pushing the envelope and failing rather than playing it safe.
2. Craftsmanship: Demonstrating competence with the media, safe and responsible use of equipment.
3. Execution and completeness: Completing project, including all aspects described in the assignment.
4. Artist statement: Uploading a thoughtful and clear statement, including high-quality visuals/image credits to Canvas.

A final grade in the course is comprised of your performance on each project as well as your contribution to the intellectual exchange shared by us all in studio. It is essential to participate in discussions and to share your insights.

Course Evaluation

1. Response to assignments
2. Participation
3. Commitment to and engagement with class work
4. Improvement
5. Attendance

I will meet with each student at midterm, during class time, to review course performance. We will review your participation, discuss completed projects, and how to move forward towards optimal success in this course.

Project Deadlines

Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar. Any work not turned in on the date it is due is considered late. Ten percent will be deducted from the grade for every class period it is not turned in. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration (e.g. Illness, court appearance, death of a relative.)

I reserve the right to alter assignments and change project due dates with sufficient notice to the students.

Late work Policy

While it is often difficult to quantify the time needed to successfully complete an artistic project, you are expected to work on studio assignments outside of class the same number of hours the class meets per week. If we meet six hours each week; you are expected to work an additional six or more hours outside of class. Late homework and/or assignments will receive lower grades. Without a sufficient reason for late submission a full grade is going to be deducted every two days (from A to B to C).

Topics covered in this course:

-Poetics of Materials – Medium as the Message: Exploring the characters of materials (Post-Minimalism, and more).

Related artists: Ann Hamilton, Janine Antoni, Magdalena Abakanowich, Richard Serra, Donald Judd, Eva Hesse, and Ei Aizawa

-Are You Human? Internet and Post-Internet Art: Working inside the Internet or using digital strategies to create projects that exist in the real world.

Related artists: Oliver Laric, Petra Cortright, Aram Bartholl, Jon Rafman, Hito Steyerl, and Constant Dullart

-Ascendancy of Sound: Exploring and manipulating relationships of sound to spaces, objects, and images.

Related artists: Janet Cardiff, John Cage, Samson Young, Cevdet Erek, Susan Philipsz, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, John Luther Adams, Jacqueline Gordon, Kate Short, and Dan Gotwald

-The Aesthetics of Ethics – Political/social art, and the audience as the medium: Examining and working with social engagement and public interventions. This is a collaboration project.

Related artists: Tania Bruguera, Pussy Riot, Stephanie Syjuco, Pi Lind, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Michael Rakowitz, Agnes Denes, Mel Chen, and Mierle Laderman Ukeles.

Assignments grades breakdown:

1. First project 5% of final grade.
2. Second project 15% of final grade.
3. Third project 20% of final grade.
4. Fourth project 20% of final grade.
5. Fifth project 20% of final grade.
6. Active participation in critique and class discussions is essential and counts for 5% of your grade.

7. Presentations 5% of final grade. We will draw names to divide the class into four groups. Each fourth of the class will research and prepare a 10-minute presentation on one of the four topics.

8. Written responses to course readings and videos 10%

9. Extra credit 2% (written critique on a gallery/museum visit or a lecture)

Since we will cover each topic in about 3.5 weeks, there is not much time to develop large, in-depth projects. An emphasis will be placed on ideas and experimentation, possibly laying the foundation for a larger project for the future.

Although projects must be done and ready for presentation on the due date, after each critique students are welcome to tweak their projects to improve their grades. You have until the last day of class to do so.

All projects should be photographed and uploaded to Canvas within a week after the due date. An artist statement (100 words), including the title and dimensions (if applicable) of the project, must also be uploaded to Canvas. See instructions on Canvas.

Attention!!!

Using projects already turned in in another class counts as cheating. All work made in this class must be new work developed for this class in response to specific assignments. It is essential that I see your work in progress in the weeks prior to each critique, for your piece to receive credit. Work that appears completely out of the blue will be considered highly suspect.

Art 003, Medium and Message, Section 02, Fall 2017, Course Schedule
(subject to change with fair notice)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Thursday Aug. 24	Course review and introductions. Shop Safety Test video. <i>Deconstruct/Reconstruct</i> assignment (due next Thursday)
2	Tuesday Aug. 29	Shop safety test and orientation Please pay \$20 and bring a receipt for the fee paid at the Bursar's Office. Assignment: Watch Art 21 Ann Hamilton and Jeanine Anthony posted on Canvas. <i>Reconstruct/Deconstruct</i> due on Thursday; please bring projects to class (upload before and after images on Canvas by Thursday, August 31).
2	Thursday Aug. 31	Presentation schedule Discussion of Art 21 videos Intro to first topic: <i>The Poetics of Materials</i> Distributions of words. Review of <i>Rec/Dec</i> in class Homework: Collect material for <i>2 Words Sculpture</i>
3	Tuesday Sep. 5	Work day on <i>2 Words Sculpture</i> Shop demos

3	Thursday Sep. 7	Library visit Status update about <i>Two Words Sculpture</i> progress Homework: Read excerpts from the <i>Critique Handbook</i> posted on Canvas
4	Tuesday Sep. 12	First students' presentation Discussion about readings Work day on <i>2 Words Sculpture</i> .
4	Thursday Sep. 14	2 Words Sculpture due Critique of <i>2 Words Project</i>
5	Tuesday Sep. 19	Critique continues
5	Thursday Sep. 21	Intro to second topic: <i>Are You Human? Internet and Post Internet Art</i> Homework: Read "Beginnings + Ends", and post a 100 words response to reading on Canvas. Rough draft proposal for <i>Are You Human?</i> Upload to Canvas
6	Tuesday Sep. 26	Second students' presentation Demos as needed Discussion of readings Checking in on proposals
6	Thursday Sep. 28	Work day on <i>Are You Human?</i>
7	Tuesday October 3	Work in progress review
7	Thursday October 5	Work day on <i>Are You Human?</i>
8	Tuesday October 10	<i>Are You Human? Is due</i> Critique day
8	Thursday October 12	Critique continues
9	Tuesday October 17	Critique continues
9	Thursday October 19	Intro to third topic: <i>The Ascendancy of Sound</i> Homework: Read "Janet Cardiff, George Bures Miller and the Power of Sound" and write a 100 words response to reading.
10	Tuesday October 24	Students' presentation on third topic Discussion of readings Sound editing demo Homework: Rough draft uploaded to Canvas
10	Thursday October 26	Work day on <i>Ascendancy of Sound</i>
11	Tuesday October 31	Work day on <i>Ascendancy of Sound</i>
11	Thursday Nov. 2	<i>The Ascendancy of Sound project due</i> Critique day
12	Tuesday Nov. 7	Critique continues

12	Thursday Nov. 9	Critique continues Homework: Read excerpts from “What we want is Free” and post a 100 words response to reading on Canvas.
13	Tuesday Nov. 14	Intro to fourth topic and project: <i>The Aesthetics of Ethics</i> . Homework: Watch “Utopia Is No Place: The Art and Politics of Impossible Future” and post a 100 words response to reading on Canvas.
13	Thursday Nov.16	Students’ presentation on 4 th topic. Discussion of video and reading. Homework: Rough draft proposal for final project uploaded to Canvas.
14	Tuesday Nov. 21	Review of ideas, brainstorming in class
14	Thursday Nov 23	THANKSGIVING! NO CLASS
15	Tuesday Nov. 28	Workday on final project
15	Thursday Nov. 30	Workday on final project
16	Tuesday Dec. 5	<i>The Aesthetics of Ethics</i> due Critique day
16	Thursday Dec. 7	Critique continues
Final Exam	Tuesday Dec. 12	Finish critique, cleanup, and goodbyes

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!