

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 104, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media SP 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Joel Slayton
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Office Hours:	TH 4-6 pm or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	MW 1030-1145
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Course Description

This semesters Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media will explore the role of the artist as creator and innovator through a combination of individual sequentially related projects. The seminar will include lectures/presentations, in class student led discussion, and writing/media exercises.

The seminar explores the role the artist as an innovator, entrepreneur, and creative researcher including the navigation of contemporary cultural production systems that help foster artistic excellence. We will be seeking to critically understand how to disrupt normative assumptions relative to new media art practice.

Learning Outcomes

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

CLO1 Advance individual creativity and research leading toward successfully graduate thesis project.

CLO3 Identify, compare and articulate contemporary art strategies from examples, readings and their own work in discussion and writing.

CLO4 Articulate what it means to create works of art in contemporary culture, speak and write clearly about their own work in relation to art and culture.

CLO5 Develop professional strategies and objectives for success inclusive of exhibition, publishing, funding, marketing and personal.

Readings

Frankenstein, Mary Shelly, ISBN 978-1503262423

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

All studio classes that use any “hazardous materials” should include one graded assignment that helps students understand HAZMAT regulations and develop consistently safe practices—this might be as simple as a labeling assignment. Note that food containers cannot be used for chemical storage and that common household items (bleach, vinegar, etc.) are deemed hazardous materials and must be stored appropriately. The campus EHS (Environmental Health & Safety) office and the County will schedule inspections with increasing frequency; fines assessed by the County are now high enough to put us out of business, so this is a serious matter. The techs are NOT responsible for cleaning up facilities and classrooms and offices—this is your responsibility. If you need information or help, please let us know. Additional note: clutter is deemed a hazard, and we can be fined for clutter.

Basic training powerpoint: <http://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/docs/hazmatandlabsafetyguidance.pdf>

Library Liaison

Rebecca Kohn (rebecca.kohn@sjsu.edu)

Website: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/collectiondevelopment/CDhumanities>

Shop Safety

Shop safety test—please provide shop info to your students if they will use the shop for ANY assignments. Safety tests for Fall 2016 will ONLY be given between xx/xx – xx/xx.

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 in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Projects

Frankenstein, a classic of Gothic literature by Mary Shelly, is a tragic story about Victor Frankenstein’s failure

to accept responsibility for the consequences of bringing new life into the world.

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils...the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open—Victor Frankenstein.

Over the course of the semester the challenge is to create an artwork that explores the relationship between creators and the ‘monsters’ they create. Almost anything that we create can become monstrous. Intent, context, application and cultural/political framing sometimes converge in both mysterious and unpredictable ways, a kind of corruption of our machines, architecture, designs, songs, ideas or creatures: And, of course, the relationship creator to creation is at the core of art.

Project 1: Prepare a ppt presentation on a specific technology (contemporary or ancient) that had 2 sides of potentiality (good vs evil) Create a narrative that describes trajectory taken, outcomes, and implication.

Project 2: Technology Dissection: elect a technological device, instrument, tool, or system. Perform a systematic dissection that serves to catalog, map and document all components and systems that constitute the technology including their histories and production scenarios

Project 3: Using the components of the dissection and based on what was learned from the mapping process, design and build a new ‘creature’ by combining the dissection components with those of your choosing. The creation must evidence the potentiality for good or evil.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Students are responsible for attending and participating in ALL seminar discussions and reviews.

Grading Information

Evaluation is based on demonstrated and active participation in ALL seminar proceedings. Student presentations are to be well prepared, delivered on time, and completed to specifications.

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

Classroom Protocol

You must be present and fully participate. This translates into attending the seminar (on-time), and engaging in dialog, and conducting appropriate activities for each project during seminar.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Art 291/ SP17, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1.30	Introduction
1	2.1	The Frame of Digital Media Art
2	2.6	The 200 th Anniversary of Frankenstein
2	2.8	The 200 th Anniversary of Frankenstein
3	2.13	Student Presentations: Project 1
3	2.15	Student Presentations: Project 1
4	2.20	Student Presentations: Project 1
4	2.22	Technology Dissection Introduction
5	2.27	Technology Dissection
5	3.1	Technology Dissection
6	3.6	Technology Dissection
6	3.8	Technology Dissection
7	3.12	Student Presentations: Project 2
7	3.15	Student Presentations: Project 2
8	3.20	Student Presentations: Project 2
8	3.22	Student Presentations: Project 2
9	3.27	Spring Break
9	3.29	Spring Break
10	4.3	Envisioning Good and Evil
10	4.5	Art and Technology Trajectories
11	4.10	Mid-Term
11	4.12	Student Proposals for Project 3
12	4.17	Creative Research/Work Session

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	4.19	Creative Research/Work Session
13	4.24	Creative Research/Work Session
13	4.26	Creative Research/Work Session
14	5.1	Creative Research/Work Session
14	5.3	Student Presentations: Project 3
15	5.8	Student Presentations: Project 3
15	5.10	Student Presentations: Project 3
16	5.15	Student Presentations: Project 3
Final Exam*		Venue and Time TBA