

San José State University

Department of Art & Art History

Art 210 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media

Spring 2021, Online

Instructor: Andrew Blanton
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Office Hours: T 3-5 or by appointment
Class Day/Time: TR 3-5:45

Course Description

This semester's Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar in Digital Media is a special opportunity to work with artist Wafaa Bilal in looking at contemporary topics in digital media art while engaging professionally with the field. The core premise of the class will focus on art in extreme environments addressing individual and collaborative writing exercises, seeking to critically understand cultural normative assumptions about modernity and the use of technology while considering multiple alternatives to the current technological status quo. The assignments for the class will include a series of readings, small technical challenges, and a workshop series led by artist Wafaa Bilal.

Learning Outcomes

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

LO1: understand the context of digital media art within contemporary art and society

LO2: develop advanced skills in creative research and problem-solving, brainstorming, and visual communication

LO3: deploy their skills for professional artistic achievement

LO4: demonstrate exceptional command of the language of visual critique

LO5: expand their skills in writing to include analysis, and critical review

Required Texts/Readings

Readings will be assigned throughout the class. No textbook is required for the class and all readings will be presented through the class blog.

Suggested texts include:

SWITCH internet archive

Expanded Cinema - Gene Youngblood

Sensorium, Embodied Experience, Technology, and Contemporary Art

A History of the Senses - Robert Jutte

Darwin's Pharmacy - Richard M. Doyle

Classroom Protocol

Participation:

- Participation in class discussions for readings, material that we watch in class, giving feedback to your peers on their work is **mandatory**. 20% of your grade is based on your participation in class + topic presentation and you are expected to actively participate in such discourses as they are some of the most important sections of our class.
- On Presentation days you must be able to explain and give a clear presentation of the topic, 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 readings that I will be assigning in this course you are required to post your reading response (500 word two pages double spaced) response to our class canvas. You are asked to think critically and post something that questions, criticizes, endorses, and/or adds to the reading. See the course outline chart for deadlines for these responses.

Grading Policy:

Seminar Participation and Discussion = 10% + 10%

It is required that you attend and participate regularly in seminar discussion, this will account for 10% of your grade. The course includes engaged **group dialogue** and student-lead presentations of the assigned readings along with visual material. The student-lead presentations will be assigned throughout the semester and your presentation and preparedness will account for an additional 10% of your grade. Students will be assessed based upon their individual level of engagement in seminar and the quality of student-lead presentations as defined in the grading policy/ rubric below.

Technical challenges and satellite mock = 20%

Throughout the course of the semester students will be asked to work toward our final goal of building a satellite for launch. Each student will take on various roles throughout the semester and present their progress to the team. Students are responsible for presenting their work in a professional manner.

Professional Practice = 20%

Throughout the semester students will need to engage with the professional art community. This can take the form of clear communication with others involved in the project at SJSU, UNT, NYU, AUE.

Final Deliverable = 40%

For the final in this class we will be producing a 3D model of a 2U cubesat. This will be very important as a prototype for the final. This model will be included in the Thompson Gallery in New Art City. We will also need to build the software for image interpretation of X Band satellite communication. Details on this will be forthcoming.

Grading Scale

Your coursework will be assessed according to the following rubric,

A = 100 - 90% ~ Exceptional. Student exhibits exemplary effort at comprehension and analysis of the required materials. All written and creative work is lucid and engaging.

B = 89 - 80% ~ Strong. Student completes assignment, and demonstrates a grasp of the key themes of each topic, but not all. Detail, creativity and critical analysis are present.

C = 79 - 70% ~ Average. Student completes the assignment but may lack enthusiasm or drive to push the work into a detailed creative or critical space. Student performs little or no creativity or analysis. Problems exist: the work is underdeveloped or incomplete.

D = 69 - 60% ~ Poor. Student does not complete the work as assigned. Substantial problems exist in student's work.

F = < 60% ~ Fail. Student does not submit work, or work is below unsatisfactory level.

Rubric:

Overall artwork Quality	exceptional	strong	average	poor
Comprehension of medium, history and cultural context	Challenges Medium technically and conceptually	Strong Technical and conceptual work	Technically working with a concept	Project working with no concept or Full concept with a model that does not work
Engagement with work	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the creation of a unique work	Multiple ideas and approaches considered in the creation of an aesthetically strong work	An idea executed with expected outcome in a medium	Insufficient engagement to produce proposed work
Deliverable	Turned in on time with outstanding documentation on process and concept, portfolio ready	Turned in on time with full documentation of process and concept with superior reference and image, text video etc	Turned in on time with full documentation on process and concept	Turned in late with strong documentation of process and concept

Art 210, Section 1 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media, Spring 2021

Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Thurs 01/28	Course Introduction /Overview of Syllabus Discord/team intro/organization Reading 1: Assigned in Class
2	Thurs 02/04	Reading 1 Presentation + Discussion Reading 2: Assigned in Class
3	Thurs 02/11	Reading 2 Presentation + Discussion Reading 3: Assigned in Class Technical Challenge 1
4	Thurs 02/18	Reading 3 Presentation + Discussion Reading 4: Assigned in Class
5	Thurs 02/25	Reading 4 Presentation + Discussion Reading 5: Assigned in Class
6	Thurs 03/04	Reading 5 Presentation + Discussion Reading 6: Assigned in Class
7	Thurs 03/11	Workshop 1 2:30-3:45 Meeting and discussion to follow
8	Thurs 03/18	Workshop 2 2:30-3:45 Meeting and discussion to follow

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	Thurs 03/25	Workshop 3 2:30-3:45 Meeting and discussion to follow
10	Thurs 04/01	Workshop 4 2:30-3:45 Spring Break
11	Tue 04/06	Tuesday Night Lecture with Wafaa Bilal and Dr. Nada Shabout
11	Thurs 04/08	Reading 6 Presentation + Discussion Reading 7: Assigned in Class
12	Tue 04/13	ATC 9-1:30
12	Thurs 04/15	Reading 8 Presentation + Discussion Reading 9: Assigned in Class Technical Challenge 3
13	Thurs 04/22	Reading 9 Presentation + Discussion Reading 10: Assigned in Class
14	Thurs 04/29	Reading 10 Presentation + Discussion
15	Thurs 05/13	Discussion: Art in Extreme Environments + Critique of Final Model
16	Thurs 5/9	Final presentations TBA
17	Final 05/24	Final meeting and project Critique 14:45-17:00

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for change of major/minor forms and a list of Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media, ART 210, Spring, 2021

advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

- “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.”
- “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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.