

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Art 104, Interdisciplinary Seminar Digital Media, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Yolande Harris
Office Location:	Online
Telephone:	Email preferred
Email:	yolande.harris@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm
Class Days/Time:	Wednesdays 3:00 – 5:50 pm
Classroom:	Online, see canvas course

Course Format

This course will take place online with regular class meetings held via Zoom. There will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities. Students will need a reliable internet connection. All course material such as syllabus, assignments, readings, etc. can be found on Canvas at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>

Course Description

Tracing the cultural and technological transformations emerging from digital technology and networked societies in the 21st century, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media (ISDM) addresses the history and theories of contemporary new media and digital art through reading, writing, seminar discussion and academic research. We will focus on themes at the intersection of art, technology and culture to address topics such as: environmental human and network flows, cybernetics/ cyberspace, hackers, computer vision, artificial intelligence, VR, social media and video games. Students will participate in seminars through weekly student-led presentations, written reading responses and a culminating research paper addressing the seminar themes and topics while exploring new critical territories.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- LO1 Analyze and discuss digital media art and culture through weekly readings
- LO2 Author weekly written responses to the assigned course readings and topics
- LO3 Prepare and present reading presentations and lead seminar discussion
- LO4 Undertake creative research and analysis of digital media art and culture
- LO5 Demonstrate a working vocabulary of digital media culture and technologies
- LO6 Expound upon cultural, historical, and newly emerging contexts for digital media art through academic research and creative collaboration
- LO7 Write an edited and proof-read research paper using standard citation methods (Chicago Manual of Style)

Required Texts/Readings

The course readings will be provided on the class Canvas site. It is the students responsibility to download the course readings in a timely manner. If for any reason students are unable to download and open the course readings, please contact the professor immediately.

Library Liaison

The Art and Art History library liaison is **Gareth Scott**, a resource for academic and creative research. You may contact Gareth via email at gareth.scott@sjsu.edu or via phone (408) 808-2094 at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library/ 4th Floor

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Student-led Research Projects and Presentations – 25%

There will be four collaborative research projects, each lasting 2 weeks. Students will work in small teams to identify a research question, based on the topic and required readings, carry out the research and present their findings to the class. It is required that you participate regularly in seminar discussion. The course includes engaged group dialogue and student-lead presentations on the assigned readings and visual materials. Students will be assessed based upon their individual level of engagement in seminar and the quality of student-lead presentations presented in class.

Written Responses – 25 %

Students will write individual responses to the four collaborative research projects. In addition there will be 2 short written assignments. Reading responses will describe the main arguments and critique of the corresponding research project. Writing must be in paragraph format and checked for spelling and grammar. Reading responses will be assessed based upon quality and specificity of your response,

Final Paper and Research Presentation – 50%

The class will conclude with an individual research paper and in-class presentation. Final papers and research projects must demonstrate comprehension of, and engagement with, at least two of the primary seminar themes and topics. Academic research leading to the final presentation will begin mid-semester although you are encouraged to begin thinking about your research interests early on in preparation for your research.

Grading Policy

A = 100 - 90% ~ Excellent = Student exhibits exemplary effort at comprehension and application of the course materials. Quality of writing and participation is exceptional.

B = 89 - 80% ~ Average = Student completes assignments, and demonstrates a grasp of key creative and technical concepts. Student participates actively in seminar discussion.

C = 79 - 70% ~ Below Average = Student completes the assignment but may lack enthusiasm or drive to push the work into a detailed creative or critical space. The work lacks creative and aesthetic effort. The work is underdeveloped and/or incomplete.

D = 69 - 60% ~ Unsatisfactory = Student does not complete the work as assigned. Substantial problems exist in student's work, including poor grammar and lack of editing.

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

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Late Work Policy

Work is considered late if posted after the due date/time. The default time for submission of work is the beginning of class, unless specified otherwise in the schedule. For each day the work is late (marked each 24 hours by the day and time of original deadline), the work decreases by half a grade (a B+ goes to B-, a B- to a C+, etc.)

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to complete assigned readings on time, in advance of the date they are discussed in seminar. The course schedule provides dates, topics, and assignments due on the day they are listed in the schedule, unless otherwise noted. As a seminar course, participation is required. You are expected to attend class and will be required to participate in in-class dialogue through group discussion, student-led reading presentations and ongoing dialogue related to the current topics of seminar discussion.

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. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. 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 serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 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>, 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 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 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 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 (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>.

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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

Art 104 / Interdisciplinary Seminar in Digital Media, Fall 2021

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/25	Introductions and Orientations Review readings 1) How to Read + 2) How to Talk
2	9/1	Research 1: Environment, networks & data flow Sy Taffel <i>Digital Media Ecologies</i> and <i>Hopeful Extinctions</i> Hito Steyerl: <i>A Sea of Data</i> , and <i>In Defense of the Poor Image</i> 2 videos on network infrastructure <i>Cablestreet</i>
3	9/8	Presentations
4	9/15	Research 2: Cybernetics, Cyborgs, Identities Terrell Ward Bynum, <i>Norbert Wiener's Vision: The Impact of "the Automatic Age" on Our Moral Lives</i> Introduction to the 1989 edition of Norbert Wiener's <i>The Human Use of Human Beings: Cybernetics and Society</i> Donna Haraway, <i>cyborg manifesto</i> , and <i>Staying with the Trouble</i> Legacy Russell <i>Glitch feminism</i> Soraya Murray <i>cyborgs?</i>
5	9/22	Presentations
6	9/29	Research 3: Sound, Listening, Attention and Resistance Pauline Oliveros 'Quantum Listening' Jenny Odell <i>How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Adrienne Maree Brown <i>Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds</i> Listening Biennial 2021 Soundwave Next Festival 2021, Gray Area
7	10/6	Presentations
8	10/13	Research 4: Bias in Ai, Facial Recognition, Recreating the Internet Sofiya Umoja Noble <i>Algorithms of Oppression</i> <i>Invisible Images (Your Pictures Are Looking at You)</i> by Trevor Paglen Jaron Lanier, <i>How the Internet Failed and How to Recreate It</i> Fred Turner, <i>From Counterculture to Cyberculture</i>
9	10/20	Presentations
10	10/27	Extra Topic: Bitcoin Art
11	11/3	Final Paper/Presentation workshop Chicago Manual of Style citation quick guide and presentation formats
12	11/10	Final research paper presentations
13	11/17	Final research paper presentations
14	11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
15	12/1	Work on final papers
16 Final Exam	12/13	Final Exam 12:15-2:30 pm The final exam is a written paper and research project due no later than Wednesday, Dec 13th

Note: This schedule is subject to change. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner. Any changes will not affect your ability to complete the assigned coursework.