Interactive Digital Arts

Faculty Instructor: John Park
Digital Arts, University of Oregon
Office Hours: 2:15-4:15 pm Wed. by appt
Office Location: 121 Millrace II
Professor Park’s Email: park@uoregon.edu
GTFs: Josh Wardle (josh@uoregon.edu), Peter Pazderski (pazdersk@uoregon.edu)

Interactivity in the Digital Arts world can mean many things. From data-collecting interactive installations in art galleries to Web 2.0 Internet platforms, from video games to DIY hardware hacking projects, this course will delve into the rich field of Interactivity across various disciplines and media. The unifying thread of this exploration is to unveil how artists CAN and HAVE utilized Interaction and User Experiences in their work.

Method of Instruction: 10 Lectures | 20 Labs

In order to give a proper introduction to this topic, the lecture portion of the course needs to be multifaceted in its approach and content. We will cover the broad topic of Interactivity in terms of art and research projects, New Media artists, theory and contemporary issues, the history of computing and computer programming concepts.

The twice-weekly labs are a time for students to have a hands-on learning experience in smaller groups and within a computer lab environment. Primarily this is a time for technical (software) learning, applying knowledge and ideas into an electronic format, and to have more in-depth discussions of readings/lecture concepts.

Upon successful completion of the course, each student will have demonstrated:

- An understanding of the contemporary issues and concepts in Interactive art and related fields
- An awareness of the work and workings of the most notable artists in this field
- Critical thinking skills, and a sense of exploration of the ideas presented
- Software proficiency in Dreamweaver, Flash, basic programming and auxiliary graphic utilities
- The capability to discuss, work, and present material in a professional manner with peers

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory in both lecture and lab. You will miss important material if you are late or absent. Attendance will be taken intermittently throughout the lecture portion of the course and in every lab. Four total absences are grounds for lowering your overall grade by one letter, and six total absences constitute failure for the class. Please document medical or family emergencies.

Evaluation:

The grade will be based on class participation, readings and reading summaries, a mid-term quiz and three design projects. Attendance is mandatory. All take home written exercises must be typed. No late assignments accepted. Written assignments are due online by the beginning of class on the date they are due, no exceptions. No printouts accepted in lieu of online work. There are two graduate teaching fellows that will teach the labs for the course, Josh Wardle and Peter Pazderski. Grading will be shared between the professor and the lab instructors using a shared grading rubric. The grading and point breakdown is shown on page 3 of the syllabus.

BREAKDOWN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings + Responses (3 total)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (assorted)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Major Projects</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reading Summaries

This course is using the online blackboard system <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> (if you enrolled in the class, you are automatically registered; check your email or the help area of the blackboard.uoregon.edu website by clicking on the help icon. Blackboard uses your UO email to contact you. If you do use this email address, please set up auto-forwarding through the UO Email system online.).

Readings will be assigned during the lecture on Wednesdays. A one page (400-700 words, double spaced) response to the week’s reading is due online before lecture begins the week after the reading is assigned. The response should cover 2-3 key points of the article and should end with your personal assessment of those points.

If you know you will be busy in a particular week, do your readings ahead of time. All reading summaries should be typed on a local machine (in a word processor, not a remote online machine) and saved to disk, then copied and pasted into the blackboard system. Alternatively, you can can upload your whole document through the Blackboard “View/Complete Assignment” area.
Assignments 24%
There will be a series of small assignments that will be introduced in the labs. These will serve as stepping stones, ensuring you understand the technical and conceptual content discussed in the labs and lecture prior to endeavoring in the larger projects.

Three Design Projects 54%
There will be three projects that stem from the lab. The first will be a visual programming project using Processing and the second two will be using Flash. The second flash project will involve a non-standard form of interaction or navigation. Details for each project will be provided in the lab section. (Note, the final critique will take place during Finals Week. See below.)

Class/Lab/Critique Participation: 8%
Attend and participate fully in this course. Apathy and intellectual disconnect are the most disheartening things to see in academia. Offer your thoughts, insights and ideas to your peers and instructors. The class will be a better experience for all involved if you are willing to put your thoughts out there and dialog with each other. Critiques are a forum for criticism, insights and growing ideas for projects.

Late assignments:
Late assignments are not accepted without doctor’s note or evidence of an emergency, or without prior arrangement with the GTF or professor on emergency grounds (if you are having a personal emergency, email me ASAP). Incompletes for the course will not be given except in cases of evidence of personal hardship/illness discussed in advance.

Final Exam: For this course we will be utilizing our final exam time block, during finals week, for our final critique. This will be a mandatory and graded critique (as well as a really fun time to see each others’ work). The scheduled time for this course will be: Thursday March 18th at 10:15 a.m. Please plan on attending this critique and planning any travel or spring break vacation arrangement to happen after this date.

Grading/ Evaluation:
Below is a sketch of how I utilize letter grades. Please read!
A+ Exceeds Expectations in ALL areas.
A Range
Conceptual: Concepts engaging, thorough and coherent, original thinking, moves beyond assignment bounds, thinks creatively and documents this in the summaries, Writing: Excellent writing and grammar skills. Expresses ideas clearly and effectively; spends time on the work; attention to detail. Engagement and Participation: Thoughtful comments on other’s work. Participates fully, taking a leadership role in discussion in class and online community outside of class. Brings new ideas to class consistently. Listens to other’s views with respect. Attends class on time and turns in work on time.

B Range.
Conceptual: Complete assignments with some originality; Satisfies aims of the assignment well. Writing: Good writing and grammar skills. Writing is clear and ideas are organized. Engagement and Participation: Participates fully in discussion. Attends class on time and turns in work on time. Participates in online comments and engages with others’ ideas.

C Range
Conceptual: Unoriginal or common sense thinking; doing only what is required; Writing: Unclear writing, grammatical errors, lack of thoroughness, does not meet goals of exercise, structural and technical problems. Engagement and Participation: Inconsistencies in presentation of work and participation, or does not frequently participate. Attends class but minimally engages with others’ work.

D Range
Fails below expectations in most areas. Inconsistencies, sloppiness, inaccuracies, errors, lack of effort.

F Fails to meet requirements of Assignment/Not turned in on time

*All work turned in for this class must be created for this class alone. No previous assignments accepted, and “double-dipping” assignments completed for two classes are not acceptable. Failure to comply with this expectation will result in a failing grade.

If you have a disability that will affect your coursework, please notify the instructor within the first two weeks of class to ensure suitable arrangements and a comfortable working environment. Students are responsible for meeting all the standards set by the UO Policy on Academic Dishonesty. See the UO Policy on Academic Dishonesty.

The University of Oregon Crisis Center, a student funded organization, provides students with confidential telephone crisis intervention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline number is 346-4488. Often students believe that their issues are not "severe" enough for them to call a crisis intervention hotline. Here at the Crisis Center we truly believe that there is no problem too small for us. At one time or another everyone needs a little help through a difficult situation. <From George Hanawahine, UO Crisis Center Asst. Director.>
EXPLANATION:
The below chart shows the point/grade breakdown of this class. There are a total of 1,000 possible points in the class. This makes it easy to remember that every 10 points (gained or lost) is worth 1% of your total grade.

CHART:
The chart to the right may help you visualize the weight of each assignment and project.

GRADE SUMMARY:
Projects: 54% of grade
Assignments: 24%
Reading + Responses: 9%
Participation: 8%
Assorted: 5%

SOFTWARE DETAILS:
During this ten-week course we will explore three main software tools: *Dreamweaver* for HTML and webpage layout
*Processing* for programming in a visual and simple environment
*Flash* for dynamic, animated, audio, video, sensors and algorithmic work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>POINT VALUE</th>
<th>% OF GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READINGS + RESPONSES</td>
<td>Assorted (3 total), W2L, W4L, W8L</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DW UPLOAD CHECK</td>
<td>Week 3 prior to lecture</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONLINE DIALOG</td>
<td>Lecture W2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEBSITE TEMPLATE</td>
<td>Before Lab1, W3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROCESSING ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>Before Lab1, W4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 1 - PROCESSING</td>
<td>Before Lab1, W5</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKSHOP CREDIT</td>
<td>Any time in term</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIY ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>Lecture W6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>All term, lecture and labs</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotoscopying</td>
<td>Before Lab1, W7</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 2 - FLASH</td>
<td>Before Lab2, W8</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 9 - ART WRITE UP</td>
<td>Lecture W9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT 3 FLASH</td>
<td>Thursday Finals Wk</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points in Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
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