



Santa Reparata International School of Art
Course Syllabus

Semester Course

Course Title: Interactive Media Design

SRISA Course Number: CDES 3103

Maryville Course Number: TBA

Credits: 3, Contact Hours: 90

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the design elements of motion and interaction as they relate to new media communication. Students will become adept at using elements such as storytelling, visual design, sound design, blogging and be able to use these tools as a means to have an online presence. This course will also introduce them to the principles of animation and film narratives by combining the disciplines of creative writing, graphic design, animation, and filmmaking. At the end of this course, students will be able to develop an idea and construct a visual narrative.

2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION

This course introduces students to digital interactive techniques for artistic practices. Florence is a city with a long history and many titles, chief amongst them is “the cradle of renaissance”. Free from the increasing specialization of jobs of the industrial era Renaissance artists were not bound by the walls we have now erected around each field of knowledge. In this class students are encouraged to actively play and experiment with technologically advanced tools in a rich cultural environment while developing a methodology centered in creative problem solving.

Intended for students with little to no prior experience with digital art, the course develops skills and understanding of new media techniques for creative cultural practices. The students are exposed to extracts of Italian or Italy-related literature to help them understand their immediate habitat as more than a collection of fascinating ruins. Students are welcome to incorporate any material they feel is meaningful to their practice as long as the methodology that led to the production of the art piece involves a digital step. Students will need to operate their individual Laptop and maintain a blog and sketchbook. This is not a drawing class, you will not be graded on the quality of your sketches but you will be expected to do some visual thinking and note taking.

3. PREREQUISITES

No prerequisite course is needed

4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The class lectures and readings entangle technical, historical and philosophical materials to provide a solid foundation for the students to build their work on.

The projects evolve to cover different grades of interaction with the audience elevating the viewer from spectator to participant and driving force of the piece.

5. REQUIRED MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Materials necessary for this course are:

A personal **Laptop computer** manufactured in the last 10 years with reasonable storage space available.

An external hard drive is suggested but not required.

A **digital camera** for journaling purposes (the one in your phone will do)

A simple pocket-sized **journal/sketchbook** and a **fine tip pen**.

Recommended stores where to get the above listed materials are:

for fine arts supplies:

Zecchi

Manzani

Rigacci

For electronics I suggest planning 2 days ahead and relying on Amazon.it

6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

15% Blog

20% Homework

20% Creative projects & critique

20% Classroom participation and attendance

25% Final project

The following grading system will be observed:

A Excellent 4.0 (grade points awarded) 95% percentage of 100%

A- 3.7 (90% to 94%)

B+ 3.3 (87% to 89%)

B Above Average 3.0 (83% to 86%)

B- 2.7 (80% to 82%)

C+ 2.3 (77% to 80%)

C Average 2.0 (73% to 76%)

C- 1.7 (70% to 72%)

D Below Average 1.0 (60% to 69%)

F Failure 0.0 (59% and below)

W Withdrawal 0.0

7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYING

SRISA severally condemns ignorant plagiarism and copying during examinations. Any student that makes use of words or ideas taken from another person's work without properly citing credit for the specific purpose of deceiving their professor will receive an automatic "F" on that assignment or exam. Should the offense be repeated, the student will receive an automatic "F" in the class. Students utilizing the strategy of appropriation in a work of visual art for political, religious or social reasons may do so. It is fundamental that students pursuing strategies of appropriation understand that in the United States *fair use* allows them to copy copyrighted material for a limited and "transformative" purpose. Given the complicated nature of how artists utilize appropriation in the 21st century, SRISA students are required to discuss ideas regarding fair use and copied imagery with their professors before turning in their assignment.

8. CRITIQUES

Critiques are friendly group discussion of each student's course work. They allow you to see your own work through the eyes of your peers and instructor, and also encourage you to develop critical insights about your work and the work of others.

Before sharing your qualitative statements, positive or negative they might be, please take the time to ask yourself why you feel that way about the work and then include that reflection in your intervention.

Students must prepare a brief written statement before each critique (an elevator pitch style presentation of your work: 1 minute or less)

Phones and computers must be closed/off during critique.

9. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY

Students are required to attend all classes. If you miss class without an excused absence your grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each unexcused absence. If you are ill you should obtain a doctor's note in order to receive an excused absence. Missing more than four classes will result in an "F" on your transcript.

- Excused absences require a doctor's note or a written note from the Director.
- Tardiness: After 20 minutes into class time, students are considered absent.
- Students who leave 20 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent.
- Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.
- The use of cell phones is prohibited at all times unless specifically instructed otherwise.
- Using your laptop or the computers in the lab for any purpose other than to work on class related material is going to affect the participation portion of your grade.
- Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises.
- Classrooms are to be left in order and clean.
- Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.
- While I encourage discussion and questions during the lecture and lab portion of the class as an important element of teaching, discussions amongst students that distract or disrupt the class will affect the participation portion of your grade.
- Distraction during critique will affect the participation portion of your grade.

Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.

Food, drinks, gelatos or any other edible organic substance is to be consumed outside of the computer lab, liquid containers with a lid are to be stored on the floor.

10. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1

Class 1:

Bring your Laptop!

Class Introduction: Syllabus overview, course requirements and expectations, software installation blog set-up.

(Brief Lecture: Renaissance Art and Technology),

Lab1:

Intro to p5.js

Homework:

Gather materials / sketch / explore, post short reflection and sketches uploaded on the blog

Class 2:

Bring your camera/phone and sketchbook! Come to class on time!

The class will meet in the san Gallo computer lab room, to briefly discuss the fieldtrip before leaving.

Fieldtrip: 15-minute walk to Galileo History of Science Museum in Piazza dei Giudici (we will walk at a leisurely pace and we will stop along the way to point out some of the major historical buildings)

depart from museum, return to class as a group at 3:30pm

Homework:

Write an 800 words response to the Museum visit on blog (min 750 max 850 words)

Reading from Italo Calvino's - Invisible Cities

Week 2

Class 3:

Reading Discussion

Project 1 assigned: stil/self-portrait

Lab2: Recreate a geometric pattern found in the city

Homework:

Project 1 sketches and brief written proposal as blogpost

Class 4:

Lab3: introduction to functions

Homework:

create a function that creates a complex custom shape each time it's called

Reading from Italo Calvino's – Nonexistent Knight - post 500 words reaction on blog

Week 3

Class 5:

Reading Discussion

Project 1 sketch and written proposal due

in class work on Project 1

Flex Time

Class 6:

Project 1 due!

15 minutes setup time

First critique!

10 minutes Coffee break

Project 2 assigned: interactive Soundscape

Homework:

Reading from Italo Calvino's – Marcovaldo - post 500 words reaction on blog

Collect city sounds with cellphone audio recorder – upload and post on blog

Project 2 proposal assigned

Week 4

Class 7:

Reading Discussion

Project 2 proposal due on blog

Lab4: basic audio editing and converting in audacity, p5js import audio and basic audio manipulation

Class 8:

Lab5: basic interaction using mouse, overview of other sensors available map(,,,))

Homework:

Watch 2016 Opening & Keynote - Allison Parrish <https://vimeo.com/187595174>
post 300 words reaction on blog

Week 5

Class 9:

15 minutes setup
Project 2 due
Second critique
10 minutes Coffee Break
Project 3 Assigned: Abstract Animation

Homework:

Project 3 Proposal and sketches assigned

Class 10:

Project 3 proposal and sketches due on blog
Guest speaker/ workshop TBA

Week 6

Class 11:

Lab6: Data Structures
Fieldtrip Biblioteca Delle Oblate 5 minute walk

Class 12:

Lab7: motion/animation, programmed vs generative

Lecture: Generative artists

Homework:

Response to lecture on blog 500 words

Week 7

Class 13:

Project 3 troubleshooting
Flex Time

Class 14: M

Project 3 Midterm Critique
Project 4 Assigned: Fail Forward Loudly (repeat project 3 with sound)

Homework:

Reading from First Word Art / Last Word Art Michael Naimark

<http://www.naimark.net/writing/firstword.html>

- post 200 words reaction on blog

Compile a shortlist of digital artist you like, we will choose one together to research and present to the class

Week 8

Break

Week 9

Class 15:

Lab8: text manipulation
Sourcing information from the internet

Go over list of artists, choose one discuss presentation outlines

Homework:

Read Florian Cramer Concepts, Notations, Software, Art
https://www.netzliteratur.net/cramer/concepts_notations_software_art.html
- post 300 words reaction on blog

Class 16:

Troubleshoot project 4
Flex Time

Week 10

Class 17:

15 minutes setup time
Project 4 Due
4th Critique
10 minutes coffee break
Project 5 assigned: interactive poet (create dada poems based on sound perceived)

Homework:

Project 5 conceptual proposal
Research artist Prepare a 5 minutes 10-15 slides presentation

Class 18:

Project 5 proposal due
Artist presentation

Homework:

Reading from Story of Time by Umberto Eco and Kristen Lippincott - post 500 words
reaction on blog

Week 11

Class 19:

Lab9: microphone and audio viz
Flex time

Class 20:

Project 5 due
15 minutes setup time
Critique
Final Project Assignment: *untitled*

Homework:

First Proposal on blog for final project,
Drawings and and 500 words statement

Week 12

Class 21:

Class discussion/critique of first round of proposals
Lab10: Classes and particle generation
Optional/advanced: Video capture

Homework:

Second Proposal on blog

Class 22:

Lab 11: Particle generation

Homework:

Third Proposal For Final Project assigned

Week 13

Class 23:

Work on Final Project / Flex time
Third Proposal For Final Project due in person to Jacopo and on blog
Individual meeting time with Jacopo

Homework:

Final Proposal For Final Project assigned

Class 24:

Work on Final Project / flex time
Final Proposal for Final Project due

Week 14

Class 25:

Work on Final Project / flex time

Class 26:

Work on Final Project / flex time

Week 15

Class 27:

Final Project due!
Final Critique

Class 28:

Student Show

11. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

SRISA strives to foster an all-inclusive learning environment that best caters to its students' needs. While faculty frequently work one-on-one with students, there are some situations in which special accommodations are required. Should a student have any academic accommodations regarding test taking or otherwise, they must present an official letter from their home University to the SRISA Director within the first week of class stating the accommodations.

12. DISCLAIMER

This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of any changes.