Proposal: Digital Art Intensive, Winter 2018

**ARST 190** | Christopher Chenier  
* [cchenier@wesleyan.edu](mailto:cchenier@wesleyan.edu) | Digital Design Studio, 301 High Street  
Credites: 1. Prerequisites: None.

**Course Description:**

This intensive introduction to the digital studio will focus on the methods and critique of digital and electronic art today. Digital project development, creative problem solving, and visual experimentation will be taught through a series of short exercises and intensive projects. In the studio, students will learn to use creative software and hardware, combining the tools of Adobe Creative Cloud with cameras, scanners, a laser cutter, and inkjet printers. While developing skills across multiple digital platforms, we will create and consider artwork that asks: What is the digital studio? Where does it begin or end? How do art and technology come together in creative practice today? Assignments and lectures will emphasize the history and techniques employed by artists in the 21st century with thematic focus on net art, digital feminism, surveillance, futurism, social media, and queer technologies.
**Goals:**

1. Students will conceive, plan, execute, and present original digital artworks.
2. Students will become independent agents in learning new creative skills and processes in digital and electronic media.
3. Students will think creatively and critically about the role of digital processes and technology in contemporary art and design.
4. Students will become *critical makers* through an iterative, hands-on learning process that validates *making* and *doing* as vital forms of intelligence and study today.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:**

Active participation throughout this course is necessary for the successful completion of assigned work. Students are expected to maintain sustained and rigorous studio practices throughout the term. In addition to art production, students will encounter reading and research assignments, discussions, and critiques.

Students are expected to be present for all class meetings. **Please email me with at least 24 hours notice if you must miss a class.** Chronic lateness and/or absences will jeopardize your grade. Following 1 late attendance, grades fall 1/3 grade. After 1 absence, each missed session is calculated against your final grade in full letter increments (I.E. if you miss 2 classes, an “A” grade becomes an “B”). Students with 3 absences cannot successfully complete this class.

Students will be evaluated based on the following: Participation/attitude, creative/conceptual work, technical dexterity and progress over the term. Participation and attitude grades are calculated for the class **in-aggregate.** Should the a majority of the class fail to make significant progress between sessions, the entire group will be penalized.

**Statement of Commitment:**

This course is aggressively structured. For every hour spent in class, expect at least two hours of out of class work. Because we move quickly, **late work will not be accepted.**

Please commit to the following this term: Put in the time. Be respectful of both your peers’ time and mine. Work your hardest, be self-motivated, learn through trial and failure. Share what you learn and know freely with all. Push yourself beyond your comfort zone. Be brave, adventurous and surprising.
Presentations:

Students will select an artist about whom they will craft a 20 minute presentation. Presentation materials - texts, images, links, etc. - must be circulated to the class the night prior to presentations. These materials must be of high quality and generous in their number. Presentations must be coherently organized and thoughtfully articulated. This is a service both to yourself and to the group. Students may share no more than 4 minutes of a video during their presentations. Students must submit presentation subjects and date proposals for approval by January 1st. Late submissions will not be considered.

Grading:

- 4 Exercises: 30%
- 4 Major Projects: 50%
- 1 Presentation: 20%

Pre-Winter Session Assignment

Students must arrive to the intensive having completed a number of important tasks. The following assignments will familiarize you with the software used in this course, contextualize the current state of art and digital production, and give you with a head-start on your research into contemporary digital art.

Training:

Download all tutorial files and follow along in the training step by step. Don't just gloss over this! There will be a test.

Photoshop:

- Digital Foundations Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11
- Motion Graphics Loops
- BONUS: Photoshop: Masking and Compositing

Illustrator:

- Digital Foundations Chapters 3, 5, 6
- BONUS: Illustrator Fundamentals

Reading: Malcolm McCullough: Abstracting Craft: Chapters 1, 7, 9.

Research & Prepare Artist Presentation:

Select an artist from the list provided in the syllabus. Craft a 20 minute oral presentation on this person or entity. Presentation materials such as slideshows, texts, images, links, etc., must be uploaded to the class Drive the evening prior to your presentation. All materials must be of high quality and generous in number. Presentations must be coherently organized and thoughtfully articulated. This is a service both to yourself and to the group. You may screen no more than 4 minutes of video during your presentation. Full citations for all images, video, and text are expected and count towards your final grade.
Submit presentation subjects and date proposals for approval by January 7. Late submissions will not be considered.

- Wesleyan’s guide to academic citation: here
- Wellesley’s helpful guide for oral presentations: here

Acquire: If possible, please find an external hard drive and a Wacom tablet. These will profoundly streamline your work in the computer and give you more control and security as an artist!

Do: Make a folder with your name on it in the Student Work folder of the class Google Drive. Store your work and other important things here.

Calendar:

Day 1:
Morning: Welcome, Syllabus Review, Pre-Session Assignments Review
Afternoon: Photoshop Compositing: resolution, layers, masks, selections, etc.
Assignment: Exercise 1

Day 2:
Morning: Student Presentations, Exercise 1 review
Afternoon: Photoshop GIFs
Assignment: Exercise 2

Day 3:
Morning: Student Presentations, Exercise 2 review
Afternoon: McCullough reading discussion, Illustrator and laser cutting
Assignment: Exercise 3

Day 4:
Morning: Student Presentations, Exercise 3 review
Afternoon: Laser cutting, engraving, and materials
Assignment: Exercise 4

Day 5:
Morning: Student Presentations, Exercise 4 review
Afternoon: Reading discussion, Project 1 Lecture
Assignment: Project 1

Day 6:
Morning: Critique Project 1
Afternoon: Student Presentations, Project 2 Lecture
Assignment: Project 2

Day 7:
Morning: Student Presentations, reading discussion
Afternoon: Work in studio
Assignment: Work on Project 2

Day 8:
Morning: Critique Project 2
Afternoon: Student Presentations, reading discussion, Project 3 Lecture
Assignment: Project 3

Day 9:
Morning: Student Presentations
Afternoon: Work in studio
Assignment: Work on Project 3

Day 10:
Morning: Critique Project 3
Afternoon: Goodbye!
Resources:

Web:
* Rhizome: http://rhizome.org/
* Art F City: http://artfcity.com/
DIS Magazine: http://dismagazine.com/
BitForms Gallery: http://www.bitforms.com/
Electroboutique: http://www.electroboutique.com/cont/
* Ars Electronica: http://www.aec.at/news/
Mute: http://www.metamute.org/
VWork: http://www.vwork.com/
Vdrome: http://www.vdrome.org/
Net Art: http://www.net-art.org/
Elephant Magazine: https://elephantmag.com/
Eyebeam: http://eyebeam.org/
eyeo Festival: http://eyeofestival.com/
FAT (Free Art Technology Lab): http://fffff.at/about/
FORM+CODE: http://formandcode.com/
We Make Money, Not Art: http://we-make-money-not-art.com/
* Leonardo: International Society for the Arts, Science, and Technology
Moma | Architecture and Design: here
The New Museum: http://www.newmuseum.org/
Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum: http://www.cooperhewitt.org/
Artsy: https://www.artsy.net/
Transfer Gallery: http://transfergallery.com/
Art Forum
Presentation Subjects:

Cory Arcangel
Hito Steyerl
Shazia Sikandar
Jennifer Steinkamp
Casey Reas
Anthony Antonellis
Molly Soda
Angela Washco
Jacolby Satterwhite
Artie Vierkant
Katja Novitskova
Jonathan Monaghan
Stefanie Posavec
Ed Fornieles
Erica Scourti
Jason Salavon
Eva and Franco Mattes
Hasan Elahi
Dina Kelberman
Zach Blas
Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries
Ed Atkins
John Maeda
Cecile B Evans
Roxy Paine

Kate Cooper
LaTurbo Avedon
Constant Dullaart
Erica Scourti
Sara Ludy
Tyler Coburn
Amalia Ulman
Heather Dewey Hagborg
Trevor Paglen
Katie Torn
James Bridle
Alexei Shulgin
Olia Lialina
Penelope Umbrico
Heath Bunting
Rafael Rozendaal
Petra Cortright
Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch
The Yes Men
Brenna Murphy
Jesse Darling
Rafael Rozendaal
Golan Levin
Rafael Lozano Hemmer