AME 194 Topics in Digital Culture and Media Arts

Fall 2009
T,Th: 10:30-11:45
Instructors: Thanassis Rikakis, Hari Sundaram, Jessica Mumford
(Jessica.Mumford@asu.edu, t.rikakis@asu.edu; Hari.Sundaram@asu.edu)

(Syllabus and Class Schedule subject to adjustments – check class facebook site regularly)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 25th
Defining culture (Rikakis)
  How we live, learn, create, and communicate in the 21st century
  Product and process – take one; the gesture game
  Syllabus discussion

Thursday, August 27th
Digital: the computational substrate of contemporary culture (Sundaram)
  Sms, Iphone, Facebook, Notebook, Watch, Ipod, Cable tv

Tuesday, September 1st
Culture and Societal Structure (Rikakis)
  The micro-macro link
  Emergence in society
  Product and process – take two; the gesture game
  Xenakis: Pithoprakta and Metastasis

Readings due:
  Sawyer – Social Emergence: pages 5-9;
  Buchanan – Why Do Complex Systems do Better Without Us
  OR
  Sin Cities – The Geometry of Crime
  Watts – Six Degrees: pages 244-250

On-line assignment I due

Thursday, September 3rd
Effects of computation on culture (Sundaram)
  Impact on space (social / physical)
  Impact on time (knowledge propagation; twitter; physical time)

Tuesday, September 8th
Physical constraints and the digital effects: the hybrid experience (Rikakis, Sundaram)
  Embodiment, digital culture and phenomenology

Readings due
  Durish – Where the action is: pages 99 to 117 [99 to 110 required]

Thursday, September 10th
Perception and cognition in a hybrid world (Sundaram, Rikakis)
  Complex aesthetics
Pithoprakta and Metastasis revisited

Readings due:

*Hutchins – Cognition in the Wild: pages 353 to 370*

Tuesday, September 15th
Quiz on key digital culture concepts
Make-up of teams for Project One

Thursday, September 17th
Project A preparation (Mumford)

Tuesday, September 22nd
Hybrid presentations of Project A on one DC area: live, learn, create and communicate; teams one and two

Thursday, September 24th
Hybrid presentations of Project A on one DC area: live, learn, create and communicate; teams three and four

Tuesday, September 29th
Designing and Building hybrid (physical digital) spaces (SALA lecturer)
*Readings/viewings due TBD*

Thursday, October 1st
Designing and Building hybrid (physical digital) spaces (SALA lecturer)
*Readings/viewings due TBD*

Tuesday, October 6th
Learning in Hybrid Environments (D. Birchfield)
*Readings/viewings due TBD*

Thursday, October 8th
Learning in Hybrid Environments (D. Birchfield)
*Readings/viewings due TBD*

Tuesday, October 13th
Creative practice in digital culture (Rikakis)
Interactive works: The motione project
Digital effects, Animation and Sound Production: The Lord of the Rings; Video Games, Fight Club
*Viewing assignments due (all linked from class site)*
- Motione- 22 (class site)
- Motione- how it was made: [http://ame.asu.edu/motione/gallery.html](http://ame.asu.edu/motione/gallery.html)
- *NFL Madden 2006* video

*Readings due*
Thursday, October 15th
Creative practice in digital culture (Rikakis)
Hybrid Installations: The Absolute Instrument
Open forms and audience participation; Jason Freeman and Miranda July

Viewing/Reading assignments due
  Absolute Video( linked from class site)
http://www.jasonfreeman.net/: piano etudes, graph theory, flou, Shakespeare cuisinart
http://mirandajuly.com/web: Learning to love you more, Nobody belongs here more than you,
How will I know her

Tuesday, October 20th
Designing and Building hybrid (physical digital) products (SDI lecturer)
Readings/viewings due TBD

Thursday, October 22nd
Designing and Building hybrid (physical digital) products (SDI lecturer)
Readings/viewings due TBD

Tuesday, October 27th
Hybrid communication (Sundaram)
  Information exchange and digital culture; tools and processes

Thursday, October 29th
Hybrid communication (Sundaram)
  networks and creative practice: flickr, UTube, metafilter
  long tail and digital culture

Tuesday, November 3rd
Term paper due
Project B preparation

Thursday, November 5th
Project B preparation

Tuesday, November 10th
Project B presentation; hybrid presentations on two integrated areas of digital culture; teams one and two

Thursday, November 12th
Project B presentation; hybrid presentations on two integrated areas of digital culture; teams three and four

Tuesday, November 17th
Product and process in digital culture (Rikakis)
Improvisation vs fixed outcome
Readings due:
  Sawyer- Social Emergence: pages 182-187
  Sawyer- Improvisational Cultures: Collaborative Emergence and Creativity in Improvisation (class site)
  Online assignment II due
Thursday, November 19th
Ubiquitous culture and complex problem solving (Rikakis, Sundaram)

Readings due:
  * Mixed Reality Rehabilitation (class site)
  * Wuchty, *The increasing dominance of teams in production of knowledge*; Science (class site)
  * Page – *The Difference*; pages 180-185

Tuesday, November 24th
Collective achievement and IP (Sundaram)

Tuesday, December 1st
Term paper discussion; Importance of computational proficiency in digital culture (Sundaram)

Thursday, December 3rd
Final Project preparation (Mumford)

Tuesday, December 8th
Final Project preparation (Mumford)

Tuesday, December 15th
Final Exam 9:50 – 11:40am
Final project presentation and posting of final online presentation (Rikakis, Sundaram, Mumford)

**GRADING**
Final project 20%
Term paper 20%
Project B 20%
Project A 10%
Quiz 15%
Pop quizzes on readings 8%
Class participation 7%

**READINGS (all available through class site or ASU Libraries with ASUrite ID)**
- Paul Dourish; *Where the Action Is*
- R. Keith Sawyer; *Social Emergence-Societies as Complex Systems*
- R. Keith Sawyer; *Improvisational Cultures: Collaborative Emergence and Creativity in Improvisation*
- Scott Page; *The Difference*
- Edwin Hutchins; *Cognition in the Wild*
- Duncan J. Watts; *Six Degrees*
- Wuchty, S., et al.; *The increasing dominance of teams in production of knowledge, Science 2006*
- Mark Buchanan; *Why Do Complex Systems do Better Without Us, New Scientist 2008*
- Mark Buchanan; *Sin Cities – The Geometry of Crime, New Scientist 2008*

**MEDIA** (all available through class site or ASU Libraries with ASUrite ID)
Bill T Jones et al; Motione/22
Peter Jackson et al; *The Lord of the Rings*
Ianis Xenakis; *Metastasis, Phithoprakti*
Dan Paluska; *The Absolute Machine*
Miranda July; *Learning to love you more, Nobody belongs here more than you, How will I know her*
Jason Freeman; Piano etudes, Graph theory, Flou, Shakespeare cuisinart