

SM5336: ART IN THE INFORMATION AGE: CREATIVE ACT, ART OBJECT, AESTHETIC PERCEPTION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Art in the Information Age: Creative Act, Art Object, Aesthetic Perception

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

5336

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

By the completion of the class, the student will be able to:

- have an understanding of the philosophy of new media studies, which is necessary for one to have a good grasp of the contemporary evolution of diverse creative practices,
- give a knowledge of the contemporary digital culture of creation,
- explore how diverse forms of artistic practices (Music, Cinema, Storytelling, Video Games) are affected by the digital revolution,
- differentiate between different forms of new media art practices and their recent history, and
- assess the media specificity of the analog and digital tools for creation.

Note on Readings (individual):

This class is about the use of tools in digital creative practices and the conceptual thinking pertaining to it. The readings are an important part of the classes. Students are encouraged, before or during the lectures, to discuss the readings, and to ask questions about it. In the assignments, they have to demonstrate a good understanding of the readings.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	To have a critical reflection about general philosophical concepts and the ways in which those concepts can be applied to new media art as an artform and a practice. To explore what creativity means in this context: what is the creative experience, what does it mean to be a digital-analog artist? How do those tools give way to a new phenomenology of the artist? How does the artist perceive the world and act upon it as well as upon his surrounding culture? (Summaries)	30			x
2	To explore how diverse forms of artistic practices (Music, Cinema, Storytelling, Video Games) are better understood through the use of philosophical concepts	10		x	
3	To differentiate between various forms of new media art practices and their recent history	10			x
4	To understand the industrial process and logics of creative digital tools	10	x		
5	To be able to articulate concepts and empirical information creatively in a diversity of contexts pertaining to creative production (written assignments). To have a knowledge of the art journals dealing with new media art topics and to be able to write critical reports or analyses about new media arts in professional art journals	30			x
6	To be able to present conceptually challenging material orally	10		x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures: on philosophical theories applied to new media art	Understand key concepts such as theories, technologies, aesthetics related to new media arts	1, 2, 6	3 hrs/wk
2	In class presentation and discussion (to prepare the final assignment)	Synthesize and present orally the information and sources of information presented in the lecture	2, 6	
3	Draft for the final term assignment	Explain key concepts such as theories and artwork produced in new media art milieus	3	
4	Research	Individual research on theoretical and empirical material (online documentation provided)	4	
5	Synthesize complex information	Weekly readings on critical new media studies and new media art practices	1, 2, 5	
6	First hand research and analysis	Conducting an interview with a new media artist	5, 6	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Midterm individual essay	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Readings summaries	1, 2, 3	30	-	Yes
3	Final essay proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	10	-	Yes
4	Final individual essay	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	Yes
5	In-class presentation (individual)	2, 5, 6	10	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Summaries (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Excellent

- (A+, A, A-) - Strong evidence of original thinking
- good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize
 - superior grasp of subject matter
 - evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

- (B+, B, B-) - Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability
- reasonable understanding of issues
 - evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair

- (C+, C, C-) - Student who is profiting from the university experience
- understanding of the subject
 - ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal

- (D) - Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

- (F) - Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter
- weakness in critical and analytic skills
 - limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Network of concepts and Essay (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's own initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories and concepts for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

- (A+, A, A-) - Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative
 - Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis
 - Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize
 - Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
 - Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights

Good

- (B+, B, B-) - Firm grasp of materials, ability to explain key concepts and assumptions
- Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
 - Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently
 - Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

Fair

- (C+, C, C-) - Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts
- Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
 - Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to interpret opinions
 - Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

Marginal

- (D) - Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts
- Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources
 - Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
 - Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography

Failure

- (F) - Poor grasp of materials
- No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
 - Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions
 - Irrelevant bibliography

Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

This assessment is graded on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show co-operation in conducting a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in the student's own initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal experience.

Excellent

- (A+, A, A-) - Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative
 - Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management
 - Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize

Good

- (B+, B, B-) - Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter
- Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition
 - Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management

Fair

(C+, C, C-) - Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter

- Fair organization, weak structure and composition
- Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and diction, fair time-management

Marginal

(D) - Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter

- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management

Failure

(F) - Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter

- No organization, structure or/and composition
 - Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management
-

Assessment Task

Summaries (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Failure

(F) Lack of ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Assessment Task

Network of concepts and Essay (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's own initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories and concepts for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Failure

(F) Lack of ability to use primary and secondary sources, and construct a well-organized argument and analysis.

Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

This assessment is graded on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show co-operation in conducting a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in the student's own initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent content and fluency of presentation.

Good

(B+, B) Good content and fluency of presentation.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal content and fluency of presentation.

Failure

(F) Lack of content and fluency of presentation.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Digital creative tools; new media art history; art practices; theory of new media; phenomenology of the creative act; culture and politics of creation; hardware, software, wetware, middleware; interface; code; technological mediation; performance; postdigitalism; postmedia; posthuman; control; cyberpunk; noise; glitch

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Heidegger, Martin. "The Origin of the Work of Art", in <i>Off the Beaten Track</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002). Translation of Holzwege (Frankfurt: Vittorio Klostermann, 1950), pp.1-56
2	Latour, Bruno. "Reflections on Etienne Souriau's Les Différents Modes d' Existence." In <i>The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism</i> edited by Levi R. Bryant, Nick Srnicek, and Graham Harman. re.press, 2011.pp.1-42
3	Massumi, Brian. "Forces", pp.10-46, in <i>A User's Guide to Capitalism and Schizophrenia: Deviations from Deleuze and Guattari</i> . 1st ed. The MIT Press, 1992.
4	Massumi, Brian. "The Brightness Confound", pp.162-176, <i>Parables for the Virtual#: Movement, Affect, Sensation</i> . Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2002.
5	Massumi, Brian. "The Diagram as Technique of Existence: Ovum of the Universe Segmented", pp.87-103, in <i>Semblance and Event: Activist Philosophy and the Occurrent Arts (Technologies of Lived Abstraction)</i> . MIT Press, 2011. (against cognitivist interpretations)
6	O'Sullivan, Simon. "From Stuttering and Stammering to the Diagram: Deleuze, Bacon and Contemporary Art Practice", pp. 247-5, <i>Deleuze Studies</i> vol. 3, no. 2, December 2009
7	Sayers, Sean, 'Jacques Rancière. The Politics of Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible'. Culture Machine. 2004

8	Rancière, Jacques. "The distribution of the sensible". The Politics of Aesthetics. Pbk. Ed edition. London#; New York: Continuum, 2006. pp.7-46
9	Hui, Yuk. "What Is a Digital Object?" Metaphilosophy 43, no. 4 (2012): 380–95.
10	Lucy Lippard, "Escape Attempts," Six Years: The Dematerialization of the Art Object 1966-1972 ed. Lucy Lippard (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997),vii-xxii
11	Hadjioannou, Markos. (2012) Physical Presences, in From Light to Byte. Toward an Ethics of Digital Cinema pp.71-102
12	Johnston, John. (1999). Machinic Vision. Critical Inquiry 26(1), 27–48
13	Chun, Wendy Hui Kyong. "On Software, or the Persistence of Visual Knowledge." Grey Room 18 (2004): 26–51.
14	Alia Al-Saji. 'The memory of another past: Bergson, Deleuze and a new theory of time' , Continental Philosophy Review (2004) 37: 203–239
15	Hui, Yuk. (2013). Archivist Manifesto. Mute. Retrieved from http://www.metamute.org/editorial/lab/archivist-manifesto
16	Stiegler, Bernard. "Memory" in Critical Terms for Media Studies pp. 64-87
17	Online Resources
18	Art and materiality: http://www.desk.nl/~northam/oro/zk2.htm
19	Classic art, new media art and tools: http://www.rchoetzlein.com/theory/2009/what-is-newmedia-art/
20	New media art and medium: http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/themes/
21	Digital tool Processing, Jitter, Max MSP, Cinder, Open Frameworks Creative Coding Toolkits Panel - LISA2012: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2piKhCsdmc
22	Digital cinematography revolution: Side by Side (2012) http://vimeo.com/35206631
23	Media art and culture: http://monoskop.org/Media_art_and_culture
24	Mark Tribe, New Media Art: https://wiki.brown.edu/confluence/display/MarkTribe/New+Media+Art

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Nil