



Short Syllabus



Course Title

Visual, Digital and Media Cultures

Lecturer

Ofri Cnaani

Contact details

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Semester

Spring 2023

Short Description

Artist Christi Nielsen once wrote: "On whatever platform I'm on, I consider it a space. Each medium becomes a venue." This course will give a broad introduction to the nature, manipulation, and creation of digital media. The notion of 'art' as a unified field of specialist cultural production is then called into question in the context of the wider discussion about creativity and amateur media practices. How do we decide if a piece of media art or a YouTube clip is any good? In the age of social media and user-generated content, are we all artists now? How is the act of "seeing" being reconsidered and reconstructed? The course starts by examining some of the ways in which artists have used media and technology across different historical periods. We introduce aesthetic concerns to the study of media, raising questions about cultural appreciation, value, taste, and social and political issues concerning art. Students will consider some socio-economic implications arising from digitization, as well as how software defines and influences creation. Through critical readings, artistic examples, and more, students will become familiar with contemporary concepts such as the information society, virtuality, and digital aesthetics, and will explore questions about the extent to which digital media signals a transformation in power, politics and subjectivity.

Final grade components

Class presentation 15%

2 pages mid-term creative journey 25%

1500 words final essay 50%

Participation: 10%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously



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received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.*

Additional requirements

* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details