

**MCMA 557 - MFA Studio Practice Section 001, Spring 2008**  
**Mondays 3-6PM Comm. Room 12**

**Course Faculty and Contact Information:**

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**Catalog Description**

This first year course for all incoming MFA students in the college serves as an introduction to media creation strategies and concepts. The emphasis is on aesthetic and conceptual development as encountered within a variety of media arts. The course is team taught by a number of faculty in modules dedicated to various media forms—still image, time-based, spatial, and interactive.

**Course Objectives**

- 1) Develop a deeper understanding of contemporary issues and strategies in a range of artistic practices.
- 2) Produce one original artwork in response to these currents.
- 3) Expand the creative repertoire technically, formally, and conceptually.

**Course Structure**

The Spring semester is organized around three conceptual themes of particular relevance to a broad cross-section of contemporary artistic practice. These have been created as an extension of the themes presented in the Fall and in response to the creative directions being pursued by students in class. The themes are: “Autobiography/Ethnography,” “Analog Ghosts” and “Beyond the Wall, Beyond the Screen.”

In addition, a “menu” of technical skill sessions will be offered on Fridays throughout the semester. Led by faculty and staff, these workshops will introduce students to production concepts and platforms in a variety of media. Please refer to the NMC schedule provided in this document. Attending these workshops is not required but we encourage you to take advantage of these offerings to broaden your skills.

**Course Activities**

This course focuses on the creation and presentation of creative work, including placing the work in historical/aesthetic context, writing about the work, and engaging in verbal, public critique. These activities are designed to prepare students for the first year review,

thesis proposal, creative project and thesis paper, as well as to support ongoing artistic development. Each student is expected to:

- Present **two** show and tell research presentations selected from any of the three themes during the semester.
- Complete **all** in-class collaborative work.
- Present **one** rehearsal of first year review.
- Prepare a written assessment of your own creative practice at the end of the semester, two page, single spaced minimum
- Bring **one** work to completion that fits into the framework of one the assigned thematics.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation in a graduate arts course is necessarily holistic and will take into account the depth and quality of student engagement with the course material as evidenced by in-class participation and projects; artistic development as evidenced by an increasing sophistication of concept, form, and technique of the one project completed during the semester; and progress toward developing a consistent and self-motivated studio practice. This semester's three research presentations will be evaluated based on research, organization and presentation. Students who miss more than one class meeting or are late excessively may be penalized on their final grade.

### **Introduction**

**1/14** Expectations for Show & Tell research presentations. Semester overview.

### **Autobiography and Ethnography**

**1/21 MLK Day**

#### **1/28 Interview Art/The Art of the Interview**

In-class workshop and screening: the interview in media art, interview methods  
Collaborative Assignment: Interview Art  
For 2/4, conduct audio-only interview in pairs adopting a particular method.

#### **2/4 Critique of audio interview methods**

Due: Audio recordings for in-class review  
Student Show & Tell: Interview based artwork  
(Wago absent)

#### **2/11 Lighting and Shooting Interviews**

In-class workshop: Lighting and shooting on the Soundstage  
For 2/18, shoot interviews with HD camera (in pairs) for assigned project. Capture before next class.

#### **2/18 Editing Interviews – process and methods**

In-class workshop: view editing materials for interview strategies.

Graduate student development - preparing for first year reviews.  
Due: Camera interviews

### **Analog Ghosts**

#### **2/25 Transmission Arts Workshop I with John Anderson.**

In-class workshop: tools and tactics of micro-radio.

#### **3/3 Transmission Arts Workshop II – Field Play**

Student Show & Tell: Transmission Arts

In-class workshop: field play with micro-radio

#### **3/17 Creative Assembly**

In-class workshop: splicing Super 8, LP's, magnetic audio tape.

#### **3/23 Creative Destruction**

In-class workshop: scratch films, magnetic erasure

Student Show & Tell: Creative Assembly & Destruction

### **Beyond the Wall, Beyond the Screen**

#### **3/31 Introduction: Beyond the Wall, Beyond Screen**

Rehearsal for first year reviews

(Sarah absent)

#### **4/7 Expanded Image Artwork**

Student Show & Tell: Expanded Image/Media Installations

Collaborative Assignment: Projections in space

For 4/14: generate media for a space in the Communications Building

By 4/10: create list of needed technology for 4/14.

#### **4/14 Expanded Image Workshop**

Due: generate media for a space in the Communications Building

In-class workshop: installing media in space

(Jay absent)

#### **4/21 First year review dress rehearsal**

#### **4/28 Critique of one completed piece.**

Due: written assessment of your own creative practice.

#### **5/5 Exam Week**

## **Spring 2008 NMC workshops**

*Location: New Media Center, Room 9A*

*Times: 9:00am – 12:00pm, unless announced otherwise*

### **January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction to Final Cut Pro (Lilly Boruszkowski)

### **February 1<sup>st</sup>**

Introduction to Soundtrack Pro (Lilly Boruszkowski)

### **February 8<sup>th</sup>**

Photoshop: Step-by-step guide from creating the image to printing and digital publishing (John Corson)

### **February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Living in a Google World: The best use of Google and other free Apps (Matt MacCrimmon)

### **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

DVD Studio Pro and Compressor: Basic DVD Authoring (Mark Stoffel)

### **February 29<sup>th</sup>**

2D/3D Compositing & Advanced Image Processing using “Shake” – An introductory workshop (Youssef Osman)

### **March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Beyond the Basics of Soundtrack Pro: Creating music beds, fixing, sweetening & mixing (Mark Stoffel)

### **March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Demystifying Plug-ins: The various uses of non-outboard audio effects (Todd Herreman)

### **April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction to Dreamweaver (Sarah Kanouse)

### **April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Advanced editing with Final Cut Pro (Mark Stoffel)

### **April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction to Adobe Flash (Sarah Kanouse)

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS STILL SUBJECT TO CHANGE. LOOK FOR DETAILED MCMA LIST-SERV ANNOUNCEMENTS!