

English 1102: Art, Technology and Creative Production
Georgia Institute of Technology (Spring 2009)

(Section B2-MWF 11, Rm. 317; Section P2-MWF 1 and Section L-MWF 2, Rm. 311)

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Office hours: Mon 3-4, Wed. 3-4 and Fri. 3-4 and other times by appointment

Required Textbooks

Dixon, Steve and Barry Smith. *Digital Performance: A History of New Media in Theatre, Dance, Performance Art, and Installation*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007.

Lunsford, Andrea and John Ruszkiewicz, *Everything's an Argument*, Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

Additional readings will be distributed via our T Square site, as noted below.

Description of Course

The goal of English 1102 is to improve students' written and oral communication skills through critical readings and analysis of select texts, material objects, and practices utilizing a cultural studies perspective. Students will learn how to master a variety of discourse and research methods, how to read various cultural texts, and how to produce their own texts in response.

These sections of 1102 will examine the role of computers in contemporary art making. Students will examine live performance events, videos, films and electronic texts that have been crafted by artists using advanced computer technologies as creative tools of expression. Each week we will look at a different art form and individual artist who uses computer-based media as integral components of production. The class introduces participants to art and technology studies, while exposing them to practitioners in the Atlanta area. Guest artists and scholars will be invited to class to present their work and discuss subjects related to art/technology integration. During the course, students will collaboratively produce a Web site highlighting the Atlanta-based practitioners that we have studied during the semester.

Attendance and late assignment policy

Given the importance of your feedback to your peers, your involvement and contribution are absolutely crucial to the success of this class. Therefore you are required to be present and active in class discussions.

What happens if you miss class? Four absences will lower your grade one letter grade (i.e., A- becomes B-; B becomes C). Six absences will lower your grade two letter grades (i.e., B- becomes a D; C+ becomes F). Ten absences will result in failure. You are responsible for keeping track of your own absences. I take attendance, and you can check with me anytime to make sure our records agree, but my attendance record will be the official one.

If you miss a scheduled oral presentation, you will receive a grade of 0 for that presentation. If you are tardy handing in a paper, the grade for the paper will be reduced by one letter (i.e. B becomes a C) for each day the assignment is late.

As a professional courtesy, please send an e-mail message if illness, an unexpected personal emergency, or business obligations prevent you from attending class or a team meeting (just as you would if you were going to miss work). Providing a reason is a profession courtesy, not an excuse.

Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are responsible for information presented in classes you miss. Please check GA Tech's position about class attendance:
<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4b.php>

Grading breakdown

The grades for the class will adhere to this table:

EVALUATION	Letter grade	Numeric equivalent in this class	GA Tech 4-point equivalent
SOURCE: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/5a.php	A+	98-99	4.00
	A	94-97	
	A-	90-93	
	B+	88-89	3.00
	B	84-87	
	B-	80-83	
	C+	78-79	2.00
	C	74-77	
	C-	70-73	
	D+	68-69	1.00
	D	64-67	
	D-	60-63	
	F	0-59	0.00

Determination of final grade:

Response papers and assignments: 30%

Participation in activities and in-class discussions: 20%

Oral presentations: 20%

Final Digital Portfolios: 30%

Weekly breakdown (assignments and reading requirements)

Note: Assignments are due on the day that they are listed. The schedule of assignments and required reading is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. On occasion, we will be attending performances that would substitute for an in-class activity, and I will give you plenty of notice when an event is scheduled.

Week one**Mon. Jan. 5 Introduction**

In class: Introduction to course, review of syllabus, introduction of students.

Wed. Jan. 7 Issues and Contexts

Reading assignment: *Digital Performance*, chapter 1, pages 1-12

In class: Overview of digital performance as subject of inquiry by professor.

Fri. Jan. 9 Outside Activity

Class session at alternate time. Students will attend *Laser Light Show*- a special event at the Fox Theatre on Sat. Jan. 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Week two**Mon. Jan 12 Cases Studies of Art and Technology Projects**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 1, pages 13-33

In class: Review of reading by instructor and discussion with students

Wed. Jan. 14 History of Multimedia-based Theatre Production

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 2, pages 37-45

In class: Overview of history of multimedia theatre by professor and discussion with students re: subjects in the chapter, diagnostic writing exercise in class.

Fri. Jan. 16 Group Discussion

Reading: Articles about Digital Theatre Praxis by Dr. David Saltz posted on T Square Site

In class: Students will break into groups to discuss the reading and to generate discussion topics and outlines for oral critiques of the *Laser Light Show* event from Jan. 10.

Week three

Mon. Jan 19 **No Class**

Holiday-no class

Wed. Jan. 21 **Use of Multimedia in Theatre**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 4, pages 73-85

In class: Continuation of multimedia theatre history and samples of digital theatre events by professor.

Fri. Jan. 23 **Outside Activity**

Students will attend an event on Sat. Jan. 24: Open studio visits at the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center. Details about the event will be presented by professor in class on Wed. Jan. 21.

Week four

Mon. Jan. 26 **Writing and Grammar Guidelines for Assignments Continued**

Reading: *Everything's an Argument*, chapters 15, pages 441-466

In class: Overview of research methods for the course by professor (part 2). Guidelines for first assignment will be distributed in anticipation of the Feb. 2 deadline.

Wed. Jan. 28 **History of Multimedia Performance**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 5, pages 87-98

In class: Review of reading, guidelines and activities for preparation of in-class speakers

Fri. Jan. 30 **Guest Speaker**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 5, pages 99-111

In class: **The Director of the Atlanta Film Festival** will present information about this year's selections and will invite students to volunteer at the Festival as interns.

Week five

Mon. Feb. 2 **Assignment Due**

First assignment due at the beginning of class

No reading

In class: Discussion and oral presentations of assignments.

Wed. Feb. 4 **Proposals**

Reading: *Everything's an Argument*, chapter 11, pages 327-363

In class: Discussion of research methods in course by professor and students.

Fri. Feb. 6 **Robot Performance**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 12, pages 271-284

In class: Discussion of reading

Week six**Mon. Feb. 9 Guest Speaker**

Reading: Posted on our T Square site

In class: **Charlie Smith, Multimedia Artist from Atlanta** speaks about his experiences creating “fire” sculptures for the Burning Man Festival.

Wed. Feb. 11 Robot Performance Continued

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 12, pages 284-302

In class: Overview of robot and cyborg performance by professor, display of videos showing robot/cyborg works and discussion with students about case studies in reading.

Fri. Feb. 13 Cyborg Performance

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 13, pages 303-318

In class: Continuation of overview of cyborg performance by professor and discussion with students about case studies in reading.

Week seven**Mon. Feb. 16 Fluid Architecture**

Readings: Various authors write about architecture and technology, as posted on our T Square site.

In class: Demonstration and discussion of software and hardware tools for drafting developed and presented by **professors from the School of Architecture at GA Tech.**

Wed. Feb. 18 Virtual Reality

Reading: *Digital Theatre*, chapter 15, pages 363-376

In class: Discussion of readings, professor distributes second class assignment.

Thurs. Feb. 19 Outside Activity

Students are required to attend a performance of Cirque du Soleil’s production *Kooza*. The show will take place at 8: 00 p.m. at Atlantic Station. Details about the production and direction to the venue can be found at:

http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/CirqueduSoleil/en/showstickets/kooza/intro/intro.htm?icid=home_page/promo/kooza/atlanta

Fri. Feb. 20 **No class** (because of Thursday’s event)

Week eight**Mon. Feb. 23 Virtual Reality Continued**

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 15, pages 376-394

In class: Discussion of reading by professor and students

Wed. Feb. 25 Mid-term Evaluation

In class: midterm evaluation of course and texts by students

Fri. Feb. 27 Virtual Reality Performance

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 20, pages 483-496

In class: Overview of theatre in cyberspace and Second Life projects by professor and discussion of reading with students.

Week nine

Mon. March 2 Overview of Student Evaluations

No reading

In class: Discussion of findings from mid-term evaluations by students.

Wed. March 4 Analyzing Web Sites by Artists: Charlie Smith

No reading

In class: Groups present evaluation of Charlie's site.

Fri. March 6 Evaluating Sources

Reading: *Everything's an Argument*, chapter 15, pages 441-466

In class: Review of the second assignment guidelines (group assignment) in anticipation of the March 23 deadline.

Week ten

Mon. March 9 Interactivity in Performances

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 23, pages 559-576

In class: Review of concepts of interactivity from reading and discussion of case studies by students.

Note-Section L attends Hawks vs. New Orleans game at Philips Arena at 7:00 p.m. Professor will hand out tickets and give instructions for meeting place during the session on Wed. March 4.

Wed. March 11 Continuation of Case Studies

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 23, pages 577-598

In class: discussions of reading and distribution of final project guidelines by professor.

Fri. March 13 Guest Speakers

Reading: Review of Web sites of guest speakers

In class: **Actors from Dad's Garage Theatre** speak about technology-infused live comedy events at the theatre.

Note-Section L does not have class today (as they attended the Hawks vs. New Orleans game on Monday March 9) and opted to select this day off.

Week eleven

Mon. March 16 **Spring Break**

Spring break- no class

Wed. March 18 **Spring Break**

Spring break-no class

Fri. March 20 **Spring Break**

Spring break-no class

Week twelve

Mon. March 23 **Video Game Performances**

Second assignment due at the beginning of class

Reading: *Digital Performance*, chapter 24, pages 599-621

In class: Each group presents outline of design options for website

Wed. March 25 **Independent Research by Groups Re: Design for Website**

Note-Section B2 attends Hawks vs. San Antonio game at Philips Arena at 7:00 p.m. Tickets and instructions will be handled by professor prior to event.

Fri. March 27 **New Technologies and Storytelling**

Reading: To be distributed via our T Square site

In class: Overview of guidelines for third assignment (group assignment) in anticipation of the April 6 due date. Groups report on progress of design projects.

Week thirteen

Mon. March 30 **Overview of Final Oral Presentation**

No reading

In class: Professor presents and discussed guidelines for final oral presentation.

Wed. April 1 **Current Case Studies in Performance and Technology**

Reading: Available via T Square.

In class: Professor speaks about performance and recordation/distribution issues and she and students discuss reading.

Fri. April 3 **Current Case Studies Continued**

No reading

In class: Review by professor and students of themes and subjects in reading.

Note Section B2 will be attending the Hip-Hop concert at Philips Arena at 7:00 p.m. Professor will distribute tickets and info. re: meeting place prior to the event. This section will have today off from class.

Week fourteen**Mon. April 6 Catch-Up Day**

Third assignment due at the beginning of class

No reading

In class: Presentation of third assignment by groups.

Wed. April 8 Current Research

Reading: Available on T Square

In class: Review of reading professor and students

Fri. April 10 Current Research Continued

No reading

In class: Discussion of case studies and current research

Week fifteen**Mon. April 13 Oral Presentations**

No reading

In class: oral presentations by groups

Wed. April 15 Oral Presentations

No reading

In class: oral presentations

Fri. April 17 Oral Presentations

No reading

In class: oral presentations

Reading: none

Week sixteen**Mon. April 20 Diagnostic Writing Exercise**

In class: Diagnostic Writing Exercise

Reading: none

Wed. April 22 Oral Presentations

No reading

In class: oral presentations

Fri. April 24 Oral Presentations

No reading

In class: oral presentations

Week seventeen**Mon. April 27 Final Digital Portfolios Due**

Portfolios for each student due by 5:00 p.m., sent via e-mail to me at my Gatech address (kfarley6@mail.gatech.edu). The guidelines for the Final Portfolios will be discussed many times in class.

Academic misconduct

The most serious kind of academic misconduct is plagiarism, which occurs when a writer, speaker, or designer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, images, or other original material or code without fully acknowledging its source by quotation marks as appropriate, in footnotes or endnotes, in works cited, and in other ways as appropriate (modified from WPA Statement on "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism"). If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the assignment in which you have engaged in academic misconduct and be referred to the Office of Student Integrity, as required by Georgia Tech policy. I strongly urge you to be familiar with Georgia Tech's Honor Challenge <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/> as well as the Office of Student Integrity: <http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/>. You should be familiar with the process for academic misconduct: http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/academic_misconduct.php

Non-discrimination policy

This class does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a veteran. Alternative viewpoints are welcome; however, statements that are deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, classist, or otherwise discriminatory toward others in the class or outside the class will not be tolerated.