

DMS259 SCH, **Media Archeology**, T R, 1300-1450
Trebor Scholz
Instructor's Website <http://collectivate.net>
Office hours: Tuesday 11-12pm
Rm 235

Description:

Media Archeology is a lecture course that gives you an overview of ideas by artists, writers and scientists who bridge(d) discourses between the arts and computer science. Media Archeology is an emerging field that reflects on today's technologies by linking them to the socio-technical histories out of which they emerged. Media Archeology examines emerging technologies in their historical socio-technological context.

The class consists of lectures and discussions of the readings, screenings of films, software, and new media installations, CD-ROMs, web sites, and guest presentations. We focus on historical, sociological, technological and political arguments, but also analyze many digital art works. Introduction to Media Archeology gives you a framework for the interpretation of evolving media forms and themes in digital art.

Required Course Book:

"The New Media >Reader" edited by Noah Wardip-Fruin and Nick Montfort

pick up book at Talking Leaves Bookstore (Main Street store).

SYLLABUS

This syllabus is subject to change. Please check frequently.

WEEK 1

* 08/30 Tuesday

INTRODUCTION, SYLLABUS

Set up membership for Rhizome.org (\$5 donation)

Buy "New Media >Reader" ~ \$48

Photos

Resources

- * What is New Media (Art)?

Examples

- * 09/01 Thursday

HISTORY OF COMPUTERS

Lecture:

"New Media from Borges to HTML" by Lev Manovich// p13

WEEK 2

"New Media >Reader" is expected in class today.

- * 09/06 Tuesday

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY AND ART

In-class assignment: Come to Thursday's class prepared to show two online pieces that confirm with what Manovich thinks of as "new media artworks"

>Read:

"The Garden of Forking Paths" by Jorge Luis Borges, 1941// p29

"As We May Think" Vannevar Bush, 1945// p35

- * 09/08 Thursday

Lecture:

"The Construction of Change" Roy Ascott, 1964 // p 127

WEEK 3

* 09/13 Tuesday

STRUCTURES OF THE INTERNET

Internet Timeline

<http://www.pbs.org/internet/timeline/>

>Read:

"The World Wide Web" Tim Berners-Lee, Robert Cailliau, Ari Loutonen, Henrik Frystyk Nielsen, and Arthur Secret, (1994) // p791

* 09/15 Thursday

GAMES

Guest Lecturer: Shawn Rider

2-2:50pm

WEEK 4

* 09/20 Tuesday

HYPERMEDIA

>Read:

"A File Structure for the Complex, the Changing, and the Indeterminate" Theodor H. Nelson, 1965// p 133

"The Cut-Up Method by Brion Gysin" by William S. Burroughs, 1963// p 89

In-Class Exercise

Audio: William Burroughs

* 09/22 Thursday

possible speakers: Chris Barr/ Julie Perini

WEEK 5

* 09/27 Tuesday

* QUIZ #1

>Read:

"Computer Lib" Theodor H. Nelson, 1974// p 301

"Dream Machines" Theodor H. Nelson, 1974// p 301

"Requiem for the Media" Jean Baudrillard, 1972 // p277

Lecture:

"The End of Books" Robert Coover, 1992

* 09/29 Thursday

Lecture:

Introduction to Net Art

<http://www.calarts.edu/%7Eline/history.html>

with excerpts from:

"Internet Art The Online Crash of Culture and Commerce" by Julian Stallabrass and

Net Art Links:

http://del.icio.us/Trebor/Net_Art

WEEK 6

* 10/04 Tuesday NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)

LECTURE by Artur Matuk, 10/04, 6pm DMS 235

>Read details online

* 10/06 Thursday

VIDEO SCREENING:

"Juristical Bodies" by DogFilm (Berlin)

WEEK 7

* 10/11 Tuesday

>Read:

A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century, Donna Haraway, 1985 // p 515

* 10/13 Thursday NO CLASS (Yom Kippur)

WEEK 8

* 10/18 Tuesday

FLOSS (Free/Libre Open Source Software)

>Read:

"The GNU Manifesto" Richard Stallman, 1993 // p543

"The Medium is the Message" Marshall McLuhan, 1964// p193

Demonstration of software

LECTURE WEDNESDAY 10/19

Prof. Giaco Schiesser, 6pm, Rm 235

See details online

* 10/20 Thursday

PROPERTY: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

<http://creativecommons.org>

Lecture:
terms and concepts.

DVD:
"Revolution OS"

WEEK 9

* 10/25 Tuesday

No >Reading

* 10/27 Thursday

DATABASES, MAPS, VISUALIZATION

No reading

Lecture outlining key concepts in this field and giving examples of art works

Tiffany Holmes
<http://tiffanyholmes.com>

Golan Levin
<http://www.flong.com/>

DVD:
DEAF 03

WEEK 10

* 11/01 Tuesday

RESISTANCE AND THE WWW

"The term 'tactical media' refers to a critical usage and theorization of media practices that draw on all forms of old and new, both lucid and sophisticated media, for achieving a variety of noncommercial goals and pushing all kinds of potentially subversive political issues." – Critical Art Ensemble

>Read:

Nomadic Power & Cultural Resistance (1994)// p 781

Critical Art Ensemble's "Chapter 6 Contestational Robotics" from Digital Resistance. Available online: <http://www.critical-art.net/books/digital/>

In-Class Assignment: How do you act as a responsible citizen? What could you do?

* 11/03 Thursday

Lecture on Contemporary Art Activist Practices

Links:

<http://del.icio.us/Trebor/Activism>

WEEK 11

* 11/08 Tuesday

AFTER MECHANICAL REPRODUCTION

>Read:

"The Work of Culture in the Age of Cybernetic Systems" Bill Nichols, 1988// p 25

* 11/10 Thursday

Lecture:

"The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" by Walter Benjamin

WEEK 12

11/15 Tuesday

PRIVACY / SURVEILLANCE

>Read:

Surveillance & Capture: Two Models of Privacy, Phil Agre (1994)// p737

11/17 Thursday

Lecture:

Electronic Surveillance in the Workplace

<http://www.fwlaw.com/techsurv.html>

Exposing the Global Surveillance System

<http://mediafilter.org/caq/CAQ59GlobalSnoop.html>

Examples:

Surveillance Camera Players

WEEK 13

* 11/22 Tuesday Instructor in Zurich (<http://collectivate.net/currently>)

* 11/24 Thursday NO CLASS (fall recess)

WEEK 14

* 11/29 Tuesday Instructor in Munich (<http://collectivate.net/currently>)

Class meets DVD: CYBER WAR!

* 12/01 Thursday

Discussion of DVD

PARTICIPATORY CULTURES

Terms:

participatory online cultures, weblog, wiki, collaboration, cooperation, consultation

>Read:

From "Soft Architecture Machines" Nicholas Negroponte, 1975 // p353

"Happenings in the New York Scene" Alan Kaprow, 1961 // p 83

"The Lessons of Lucasfilm's Habitat" //p 663

Lecture:

"Radio as an Apparatus of Communication" Bertold Brecht

Examples:

Kuro5hin, Wikipedia, Flickr, LinkedIn, Tribe, del.icio.us

WEEK 15

* 12/06 Tuesday

Final Exam

* 12/08 Thursday

Surprise

Required Student Activities

Students must actively read all reading assignments (clearly marked by READ:) and be able to discuss them during class. The readings that are listed after "lecture:" are suggested readings. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the instructor will

present the readings followed by discussion. You are required to take detailed notes during all lectures. You must buy a notebook. The course reader is required.

Attendance:

After 3 unexcused absences any further absences lower your final grade by a half grade. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance book at the end of class.

Examinations and Requirements

On Tuesday, September 27, 2005 we will write the first quiz. 10 questions. Multiple choice.

On Tuesday, October 18, 2005 there will be a multiple choice quiz covering all material presented in lectures and required readings to this date.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2005 we will hold a final essay exam during which students will be required to answer questions from all readings and covered material in lectures.

Grading Policy

* Participation in class: 30%

Participation is based on having done the readings (15%). It is easy to determine if you did the reading-- so please come prepared and bring the course book. If you consistently read the texts and come prepared you will do well.

The other 15% for participation are for your notebook that you will need to hand in on December 6th. You will need to demonstrate that you consistently throughout the semester took notes during lectures.

* Quiz 1. multiple choice quiz: 15%

* Mid-term. 3 page multiple choice quiz: 15 %

* Student presentation: 15%

You will need to present an artist or text. 20 minutes.

* Final. 3 page multiple choice quiz, and 2 pages short answers. 25%

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities (physical, learning, or psychological) which may make it difficult to carry out the course work as outlined, and/or requires

accommodations such as recruiting note takers, readers, or extended time on exams and assignments, may contact the Office of Disability Services, 25 Capen Hall, 645 2608, and also the instructor during the first two weeks of class. ODS will provide information and will review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Incomplete Policy

Incompletes are only granted in the case of legitimate, documented emergencies, and only to students in good standing in the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is literary theft and a betrayal of trust. The term is derived from the Latin word for kidnapper and refers to the act of signing one's own name to words, phrases, or ideas, which are the literary property of another. Plagiarism comes in many forms, all to be avoided: outright copying or disguised use of words and phrases from an unacknowledged source. This includes copying and pasting from any online source. To avoid Plagiarism, students are encouraged to make it their habit to put quotation marks around words and phrases, or to isolate and indent longer passages that you are using from someone else's writing. Students can cite the source in a footnote/endnote, or within parentheses in your text. The penalties for Plagiarism can be severe: from an F for the particular assignment, to an F for the course, and to referral of the case to the Dean of Undergraduate Education for administrative judgment.