

Topics: Digital Art (ART 220): Syllabus

Block 4, Fall 2019

Class Times: Monday-Friday, 9-11:30 am 1-3 pm

Class Location: McWethy 333 (Cole Library 212)

Instructor: Tim Porter

Office Location: McWethy 114

Instructor Email (Preferred): TPorter@cornellcollege.edu

Office Phone: (319) 895-4328

Course Description:

This course serves as a survey of digital art production methods and digital culture. Production methods explored will include photo-manipulation in Adobe Photoshop, graphic design in Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator/InDesign, and ~~iterative 3D design between a tool such as Blender or PTC Creo and 3D printing~~. Additionally, students will work on a project of their choosing, research suitable production methods, and create a video tutorial detailing their research. Through these projects, students will learn about the fundamentals of digital art and design. Students will be encouraged to explore their creative voices, and challenge themselves and develop their skills to make works of art, not just design. Digital culture will be explored through short documentaries played during class time and readings shared on are.na to inform the class's art making.

Prerequisite:

ART 103 (Drawing) or 104 (Studio Art Basics: 2D, 3D, or Photo).

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment:

- No required materials, all texts and materials will be online and provided.

Course Goals:

Students will:

- Independently produce projects as a response to assignments that successfully and thoughtfully incorporate a working knowledge of a range of digital production tools. (*Knowledge*)
- Employ and develop skills in many subsets of digital production, including graphic design, photo editing, and digital modeling. (*Knowledge*)

- Independently research a project in the medium of their choosing and produce a tutorial detailing the processes used to create the project. (*Inquiry & Communication*)
- Reflect upon and integrate various cultural and historical facets of digital culture into their studio work. (*Intercultural Literacy*)
- Thoughtfully and deeply reflect upon their own and other's artistic processes through written form through the use of critiques and a daily journal. (*Communication*)

Course Support of Educational Priorities and Outcomes:

This course supports the following Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College:

- Knowledge. We research and develop a range of artistic skills and processes.
- Communication. We develop our communicative skills, both visually through our art, but also through the tutorials produced as well as in dialogue with each other about our artistic processes.
- Inquiry. We learn how to effectively research digital production methods, to keep pace with the rapid development of the tools we use.
- Intercultural literacy. We research and emulate the art-making processes and ideas of other artists.

Method of Instruction:

The majority of this course will be spent in the studio working. General goals for each project will be presented alongside formal introduction of each project, allowing time to collect ideas and plan. Because each student enters the classroom with different backgrounds and interests, I am open to collaborating with you to tailor an assignment to fit your interests or needs. Feel free to come to me with a proposal!

Instruction will include demonstration of tools and processes, video documentaries about relevant topics in digital culture, readings on topics related to class material, one-on-one discussions and guidance about student work with the professor, and planned group critiques about each others' works. Students should be prepared to discuss individual progress with the instructor frequently. Throughout the block, students will experiment with a range of production tools, media, and techniques. Students will independently produce a project, researching how to use related tools, and share their findings with the class in the form of a video tutorial.

Method of Evaluation:

Each student will be evaluated on 5-4 finished projects, additional daily entries in the journal, written analyses and critiques of peer works, a tutorial detailing the findings of their independent projects, and class participation.

Due to the difficulty in objectively evaluating art (especially because students enter the classroom with a range of skill levels and backgrounds), work will be evaluated considering:

- personal improvement
- skill development and craftsmanship
- creativity and conceptual development
- effort and work ethic
- involvement and participation in class

Individual project grades will not be given, but time will be set aside mid-term during Week 3 for students to receive feedback and discuss progress with the professor if needed. A grade will not be given during these meetings (final grades will be determined at the end of the course), however, feel free to ask for an approximate evaluation and feedback at any point it may be needed.

It is best to think of this class as a full-time job. You are expected to work a 40-hour work week in the studio including class time, outside class time, during evenings, weekends, and studio days. It will be apparent to me which students are putting in the appropriate amount of time in the studio.

In-progress and formal class critiques will be scheduled at regular intervals. Students will be reminded of project and materials to be submitted at that time. Critiques and group feedback will be a vital part of both evaluating your own work and developing your skills in evaluating others. Don't miss the critiques! Remember that these are a large part of your class participation for this class.

Distribution of Grade Weight:

Photo-manipulation Project (due 12/5)	17.6%
Poster Project (due 12/5)	17.6%
Zine Project (due 12/17)	17.6%
3D Modeling Project (due 12/17)	0%
Independent Project & Tutorial including Works Cited (due 12/17)	23.6%
16 daily Sketchbook Entries	11.8%
Class Participation (including attendance, critiques, improvement, etc.)	11.8%
Total	100%

Grading Benchmarks:

A	Turned in <i>all</i> assignments/projects on time Excelled at <i>all</i> assignments in regards to <i>all</i> of the bulleted criteria
B	Turned in <i>all</i> assignments/projects on time Performed <i>above average</i> in regards to a <i>majority</i> of the bulleted criteria
C	Turned in <i>all</i> assignments/projects on time Performed <i>on average</i> in regards to a <i>majority</i> of the bulleted criteria
D	Turned in <i>most</i> of the assignments/projects Performed <i>below average</i> in regards to a <i>majority</i> of the bulleted criteria
F	<i>Missing some or many</i> of the assignments/projects Performed <i>poorly</i> in regards to <i>all</i> of the bulleted criteria

For every class day an assignment is late, the grade on that assignment will drop by one letter interval from the grade you would've earned had it been submitted on time (i.e., an A- assignment three days late is a B-). Presentations will not be rescheduled.

Journals:

For this class, you should keep a journal containing daily entries. This journal can be a physical notebook or a digital journal, either on Moodle or a shared Google Doc. These entries are where you write/illustrate your thoughts about anything related to the class material, responses to lessons, critiques, your artwork, your influences, etc. These should be clearly dated, and can be anything, so long as they pertain to the course or your art-making. This is a good place to practice using the terminology we study. Some sketchbook entries may be assigned in class as exercises or in response to class discussion. You should create one sketchbook entry per day, for a total of 16 entries by the end of the class when I collect them for the final time. I will collect the physical notebooks and look over your entries *each weekend*, to keep myself informed of your learning process. While notes taken in class from my presentations may go in the sketchbook, they do not count as daily sketchbook entries. Stay on top of these daily entries as the class progresses, it will help me help you!

All students will be required to submit their sketchbooks on Monday of Week 4 for me to grade them. After I have reviewed your sketchbooks, I will email you when it is time to pick them up (likely the Friday of block break).

Clean-Up and Storage:

Since we share the computer lab with the rest of the college, we cannot leave materials in the classroom outside of class time. Please keep the lab tidy for the college community.

Classroom/Building Hours:

For each project, we will begin work during class time, however, you will need to work on projects every day and outside class to complete them in a satisfactory manner. The software will be available on the lab computers outside of class time, so feel free to come work whenever the library is open. The hours are posted on the front door of the building.

Due to the nature of the lab reservation system, we will only have required class time in the mornings, 9-11:30, all 5 days of the week. Unlike some other studio classes, we cannot afford to have an entire day designated as a studio day, so afternoons will serve as flexible time for you to work on projects as needed. I can be present in the lab any afternoon of the block, and am available to assist you during the afternoons, but I will not be taking attendance.

Attendance/Participation:

Each day will contain one morning session. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. If you are not present for attendance, you will be counted absent. If you are late, make sure I know you have arrived so I can change your absence to a tardy. If you leave early without discussing with me, you will be counted tardy. Two tardies equal an absence. After one absence, your grade will drop an interval (A to A-) for each additional absence. Though this attendance policy seems severe, there are only 18 counted class sessions (see above), you *cannot* afford to miss class.

If you need to leave class early, you should discuss this with me prior to the class in question for it to be excused. Consistently arriving late or leaving early is disrespectful and disruptive for other students. Always speak with me if you foresee an excused absence, but do not assume it will be excused. It is your responsibility to inquire about missed assignments from another student, though, due to the method of instruction for this course, it may be impossible to make up. Though I post materials to Moodle; technical demonstrations, lectures, and project introductions will not be repeated. Additionally, it is your responsibility to be aware of college withdrawal policies.

During class times, please refrain from listening to music on headphones.

Office Hours:

I try to be in in my office from 9-5 every weekday when not teaching, working on class materials and my own art practice. The building is big and there are several places I might be working, though it's probably in my office. If you have trouble finding me, send me an email or speak with me during class if you would like to set up a specific time to meet. I will be happy to chat about whatever you might need help with!

Disabilities and Accommodations Policy:

From the Cornell College catalogue:

Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Office of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

Academic Honesty:

From the Cornell College catalogue:

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgment of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty."

Though the idea of "cheating" may seem unlikely in a studio art class, I expect that you are making your own work in full and contributing to class discussions/critiques. You should be in the studio working on projects during class time as well as in the evenings and weekends.