

ART 282 Introduction to Art & Technology
UMBC Visual Arts Department, Spring 2004
Timothy Nohe, Associate Professor

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 PM
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Course Description and Objectives:

ART 282 is a foundation course in the Visual Arts. Concepts related to image development, color, sequencing, narrativity and critical thinking form the core of the course. Students will build critical and conceptual flexibility in the computer studio by engaging developments that have emerged in contemporary visual culture, the sciences, and telecommunications. Technologies ranging from analog computers to artificial intelligence will be examined as constructs imprinted by a vibrant intellectual and cultural history. ART 282 will encourage an *Intermedia* practice, one in which a range of media converges in the computer. Students will create art forms such as World Wide Web pages, digital images, and print and 35-mm film output. In this course technological proficiency and conceptual growth are advanced in tandem.

No previous experience with computers is required; however, ART 210 *Visual Concepts* is required as a prerequisite and you must be a declared Visual Arts Department major. Please note that students must adhere to the policies of the Visual Arts Department and the University Computing Service regarding the Macintosh and PC computer labs. Failure to do so will result in the student losing access to computer labs.

Lectures & Practicum:

Lectures will examine technology as a product of history and human culture. Technologies will be examined as an extension of the body, senses and intellect. We will survey artistic practice from the Enlightenment to today's media hackers to demonstrate the way art influences us. New and emerging forms such as interactive performance, synthetic reality, hypertext, multimedia installation, virtual reality, body modification, artificial life and robotics will be presented to the class during lectures. Informed engagement with art historical and contemporary developments shall be key to developing creative flexibility and critical thinking skills.

Lab exercises with tools and interfaces will explore concepts surveyed during lectures. The Macintosh operating system, file management, color theory, image resolution, Internet authoring, etc. will be instructed in lab demonstrations. Students will apply their technical and conceptual skills to a variety of output, including World Wide Web pages, digital image photomontage, print output, and slide projection works. Members of the class will also be required to participate in discussions of topics and texts introduced in the course.

Projects & Grading:

Students will be graded by letter, A - F, on all collected or evaluated work. Work must be completed on time and in full satisfaction of each project goal. Late work (assignments handed in after the start of in-class critique sessions) will be automatically downgraded by one letter grade. An Incomplete can only be assigned to students with a passing record unable to complete work due to some unforeseeable serious illness or personal tragedy. Non-allowable excuses include foreseeable job assignments or work from other courses. Students must assume responsibility for preparing all necessary incomplete status paperwork for faculty signature and for submission to the department.

Requirements:

Assigned Projects; Technical Exercises (take-home and in-class); Participation (critiques); Attendance; an active UMBC email account.

A	Well above the expectations of the course. Outstanding participation, attendance, and mastery of tools and conceptual skills. A student producing work in the top 20 % of his or her class.
B	Above average assignments and mastery of tools, materials and concepts.
C	Average execution of assignments, participation and attendance.
D	Well below average work, attendance and participation in critiques.
F	Unsatisfactory work, attendance and participation in critiques.

UMBC Academic Integrity Statement:

"By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal."

Attendance:

ART 282 is a demanding course. Please note that three or more unexcused absences may result in failure. The instructor will pass out attendance sheets at the start of every class. Two unexcused late arrivals or early departures will be marked as the equivalent of one absence. Absence from a class is not an excuse for skipping a tutorial, reading assignment, or project. You are fully responsible for completing work.

Readings:

Critiques will frequently be initiated from topics covered in a text. In order to participate effectively, you will need to have read the text and be able to articulate your response to it within the context of class discussion and critique.

Suggested Supplementary Texts:

"Dreamweaver for Windows and Macintosh: Visual QuickStart Guide," J. Tarin Towers,
Peachpit Press

"HTML for the World Wide Web, Fourth Edition: Visual QuickStart Guide," Elizabeth Castro,
Peachpit Press

"Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh Visual Quickstart Guide," by Elaine Weinmann and
Peter Lourekas. Peachpit Press

Supplies:

Zip disks (Mac or PC format, 100 MB)

CD-R disks

Inkjet output