

Art 108* **Digital Media Culture** 3 credits/F2009

* HYBRID SECTION CLASS MEETS EVERY OTHER WEEK IN Joppa Hall / J003 (see meeting schedule page 3)

Tuesday 6:00 pm - 9:35 pm | J003 | Joppa Hall

Course Description

This course is an introduction to digital media and its culture. Through hands-on assignments, lectures, and readings, students learn the language of new media and its many applications within the fine arts. Topics include media theory, history of the computer, digital imaging, interdisciplinary arts, net art and the use of computer technologies in the creation of fine art. This course is taught in the Macintosh Digital Arts Lab using current software.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the major points in the history and development of computer technology, digital media and theory of new media.
(Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Science + Technology, Culture + Society)
2. Express the differences between analog and digital processes.
(Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Science + Technology)
3. Distinguish between linear and non-linear narratives.
(Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Science + Technology)
4. Employ new terminology and concepts demonstrating a heterogeneous knowledge of computer technology in general and digital media in particular.
(Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Science + Technology, Culture + Society)
5. Examine and debate the impact of computer technology/digital media on our culture and the language of new media through investigations critiques and readings of texts, artists, works and critical theories.
(Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Science + Technology, Culture + Society)

Class Policies

Attendance for class is mandatory.

Please have all notes, assignments and required materials on hand. You are responsible for assignments regardless of attendance; absence does not excuse anyone from assignments or project deadlines.

Late work is not accepted. A grade of zero is given.

Active participation in class critiques is also mandatory. This means discussing readings and materials in class and on the blog outside of class (if one is assigned), your own ideas and work processes, and speaking/writing constructively about your interpretation of others' work. All projects, assignments and readings are posted on the class calendar online. It is your responsibility to keep up with the calendar and have materials and readings prepared as appropriate. Please be on time for class and don't leave early, as chronic latecomers will be penalized in final grading and skipping out early equals an absence. While in class, please refrain from working on projects assigned in other classes or you will be dropped from the class.

Instructor: **Kenneth Jones**

**Associate Professor
Art**

**Joppa Hall J123
443-412-2326
kjones@harford.edu**

Office Hours:

Monday
9:45AM - 12:45PM

Tuesday
4:35PM - 6:00PM
(every other week)

Wednesday
10:45AM - 12:45PM

Class Website & Calendar

faculty.harford.edu/faculty/kjones/index.html

Click link on Art 108 class calendar.

Blackboard

owl.net.harford.edu

You are responsible for materials posted on these websites and due dates associated with them.

Grading Policy

Please see the link below for a downloadable PDF file with current information on how you will be evaluated in this class.

faculty.harford.edu/faculty/kjones/grading_policy_s09.pdf

Rules

Three unexcused absences will result in failing the class. An excused absence is requested by the student in advance of the absence, cleared by me. There is no make-up work. Unforeseen circumstances beyond your control, and extraordinary hardships will be discernible by your class instructor.

No cell phone calls, online surfing, instant messaging, shopping or web based interaction other than class based work while we are in session. Violators of this policy will automatically be dropped from the class. Cell phones must be turned off and only used on break.

About This Class

In order to complete your work to a satisfactory level, you will have to spend a considerable amount of time outside of class in the MAC LAB working on your projects or responding on BLACKBOARD or the BLOG. Expect to schedule at least 4-6 hours weekly on projects and assignments for this class.

Students will have access to a Mac Xserve on the local network in the lab. The Xserve gives each student storage space for files you generate in the mac lab. It is very useful for keeping your files backed up on a remote server or for storing large files, digital video or sound. In order to successfully complete the class, **all students are required to use their Harford Community College .edu email accounts.** Many class materials and important information will be sent and communicated to your harford.edu address. All matriculated students can sign up for a harford.edu email by visiting the college web page.

Mac Lab

Upon entering the Mac Lab, outside of class time, you must sign-in noting your station number. STUDENTS WITHOUT ID WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE LAB. Open lab hours will be posted outside of the Mac Lab as soon as they are available. There is absolutely no drinking nor eating in the Mac Lab. Please do not bring children in the lab. Violators of these rules will be dropped from the class. Preference of stations is given to matriculated students working on class assigned projects.

Digital Media Culture Blog

The class blog is a discussion group where we will share responses to assignments and readings. You must be able to access the both systems in order to pass the class. More information on signing up for the blog and your participation will follow in class.

The Spirit of a Group Lab Environment

In the spirit of the community college, a diverse group of students at many levels enter a given program. Here in the Mac Lab, we promote collaborative learning, open discussion and provide a non-judgemental forum for the expression of your ideas as art. Harford Community College and the Art + Design program establish this arena as a fertile ground for learning through experiment, question and open access. Please realize however, that with intense learning comes frustration; especially when the learning is entwined with changing technologies of hardware, software and mysterious devices of imaging. Mistakes illuminate unmapped terrain, failures open new doors. Infinite patience will provide immediate results. Ask your teacher and classmate for help, but don't depend on them as solutions, but as resources. Producing original content is paramount to your success as an artist.

Critiques

Class Critiques are our most valuable times together. Critiques are a time for sharing, giving, reflection and evaluation of your work and projects. The nature of a critique is much like a debate meeting a poetry reading. The only way to prepare for a critique is to have your work ready and have an open mind. More importantly however, is your evaluative attention and creative spirit interpreting the work of other students. It is better to arrive with more questions than answers. On critique days, please make sure that you arrive well before class and have your work prepared and ready for review. No work or prints will be accepted after critique begins.

Don't even think of printing out or finishing your work while critique is in session. This work will automatically be failed. Disruptive behavior and lateness will not be tolerated during scheduled critiques and may result in failure of the class.

Current Lab schedule:

faculty.harford.edu/faculty/kjones/f09lab.pdf

A cafe is around the corner, please eat and drink outside of the lab.

Kurt Tesnau, Program Assistant:

ktesnau@harford.edu

If needed, e-mail to schedule tutoring sessions with Kurt in advance.

Monitors:

Monitors can be a helpful resource when you are working in the lab. The current monitor is identified on the board outside of J003 & J005.

Blog

digitalmediaculture.blogspot.com

art108.tumblr.com

Course Goals

We are immersed inside a digital world. While each of us have different experiences and degrees of exposure to technology, our culture is being transformed by new media—we do not escape it. This course provides you with a foundation for understanding the development of this digital age by employing your critical skills of perception, research and evaluation, and ultimately the genesis of your personal opinion and value systems. At the end of the course you will have a better understanding of the language of new media and the art and culture that develops out of it. You will be able to increase your communication skills, use critical thinking and employ conceptual judgements while developing interpersonal skills of self-reliance, self-direction and group presentation.

Texts/Concepts

We will be reading a weekly selection of essays, articles, manifestos, and critical theory pertaining to digital media culture. These texts will either be available online or copied and distributed in class. Please investigate the readings enthusiastically, take notes and be prepared to discuss what you have read in class. Have materials read with discussion questions for class or the web. Many of our discussions will take place on the class blog.

What is a Hybrid Course ?

Hybrid courses combine face-to-face classroom instruction with computer-based, independent, or collaborative learning activities. Art 108 Digital Media Culture meets face-to-face half the time in the Mac Lab Studios in J003, and the other half online— yet still requires just as much time and effort on your part as any other course. Prior computer skills such as sending email with attachments, word processing, and navigating the Internet are necessary for success in these courses.

Supplies

Get these supplies as soon as possible:

- 1.) One unruled Composition Book 100 sheets, 9 3/4 by 7 1/2". This will be your idea journal. \$2.
- 2.) A portfolio to carry your printed work is a necessity. Make sure it is at least 16 x 20, as we can output up to 13 x 19. Red Rope Folders work well. Messy work is not tolerated!, \$10
- 3.) A USB flash drive. Buy the largest you can afford, but at least 1GB, \$10.

Gotham

The typeface used in this document is Gotham, designed by Tobias Jones, when he was a student at the Rhode Island School of Design. You can find more information about the style of this font, here: www.typography.com/catalog/gotham/features.html rmet.com/bey/

Because Gotham's forms come from the urban environment, the face enjoys a rare familiarity unavailable to most new designs. From the lettering that inspired it, Gotham inherited an honest and straightforward tone that is neutral without being clinical, and authoritative without being impersonal. And in the hands of designer Tobias Frere-Jones, the style gained a lowercase, an italic, and a full range of weights, which complement its plainness with a welcome sophistication. The result is a typeface that is friendly without being folksy, confident without being aloof. Like the ordinary lettering on which it was based, Gotham is simply quintessential.

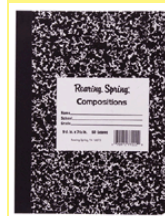
Make sure you have completed the reading prior to our discussion of it.

Completing a reading means having notes and questions ready to discuss about it. Completing readings when due is part of the assessment of your grade. Late assignments are lowered by a lettergrade for each day

*MEETING SCHEDULE

Sep 01	J003
Sep 08	J003
Sep 15	ONLINE
Sep 22	J003
Sep 29	ONLINE
Oct 06	J003
Oct 13	ONLINE
Oct 20	J003
Oct 27	ONLINE
Nov 03	ONLINE
Nov 10	J003
Nov 17	ONLINE
Nov 24	J003
Dec 01	ONLINE
Dec 08	J003

Sketchbooks are a "private laboratory of a million experiments."



—Katherine McCoy
(former Chair Cranbrook Academy Dept of Design)

Gallery Visits & Exhibition Papers

You are required to write (1) exhibition paper featuring work you have personally viewed at galleries or museums, or about an art lecture you have attended within the area. Throughout the semester we may have the chance to take tours of local exhibitions in the DC-NYC corridor. This paper is due the two weeks before the final. You can download guidelines for writing this paper here:

faculty.harford.edu/faculty/kjones/papers_guidelines.pdf

General Statements

COURSE POLICIES (See Link to right)

HCC students are bound by the academic policies outlined in the most current HCC Catalog. It is the student's responsibility to review these policies prior to the start of the semester.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

HCC is committed to serving students who have documented physical, learning, psychological, or other disabilities. Students who have a disability are responsible for contacting Disability Support Services at 443-412-2402 to discuss their needs for accommodations. All information shared with Disability Support Services will be held in confidence.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students will be familiar with and adhere to the policy governing academic dishonesty and its sanctions as written in the HCC Catalog 2009-10. Any student who plagiarizes material in written, oral or visual works may fail that assignment and/or course.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students will be familiar with and adhere to the policies and sanctions governing student conduct as written in the HCC Catalog 2009-10.

EXPLICIT MATERIALS STATEMENT

This course involves the access of the internet and other materials that may be considered as having a sensitive and controversial nature. This course may include the presentation of, or exposure to such materials in a classroom setting with the hope of developing a forum for debate on these contemporary issues.

DISCLAIMER

The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time throughout the semester, and will provide advance notice of such alteration.

HCC Academic Policies

www.harford.edu/Catalog/Current/acadPol.pdf

Student Services information can be found in OwlNet under the "My Academic Life" tab: Quick Links, Ask for Assistance, Student Services Hours & Locations.