

CTIN 511: Interactive Media Seminar

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Semester: Fall 2014

Time: Wednesday 4:00-5:50pm SCI 206 (weekly seminar)

COURSE OBJECTIVE & DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on the presentation and analysis of recent developments and applications of Interactive Media Art and Technology - it is also designed to provide CTIN MFA students with updates on the latest trends in technology and the opportunity to discuss these. The emphasis is on understanding the production processes involved in making these works and on comprehension of fundamental principles of interactivity in stand-alone, immersive, and networked environments. The objective for these cultural and scholarly intersections is to motivate and inspire MFA students to develop a stronger focus and clearer vision for their careers in the field of interactive media.

The course will involve four kinds of activities: 1) presentations by IMD faculty on their current research/art projects; 2) presentations by guest lecturers on their areas of expertise 3) seminar discussions of relevant readings and topics, and 4) field trips to events and places of interest. The topics that will be addressed include introductions to new and upcoming content platforms, new entertainment software products (such as previews of consumer games and web sites), production tools, current research on new business models and distribution methodologies, as well as current “hot topics” in new media business and law.

The course is structured around a two-hour weekly session consisting of speakers, presentations, and discussion. Students will be responsible for actively engaging in these sessions through specific assignments such as leading discussions, blogging and creating video documentation. In addition to the presentation sessions, at least one session per month will consist of a discussion/forum to which students may bring issues pertinent to their courses or projects, presentation of their projects in progress, sharing of tips and information, announcements, and any other topics related to the field of Interactive Media. The course will also include field trips and site visits to interactive or digital media production facilities.

This course is required for all first year and second year CTIN MFA students—third year students are asked to attend as part of CTIN 594ab. As such, CTIN 511 aims to forge a community among all MFA students in all three years of the program. This community will serve several purposes. First, it will afford first year students, who will be taking primarily cinema core courses and interactive

courses along with students from other programs, a venue to have regular contact with their peer group. Second, as the program progresses, it exposes first year students to students in the second and third year of the program, affording mentoring and peer contact opportunities that will benefit all MFA students.

COURSE FORMAT

Course Requirements

This is a credit/no credit class based on (1) attendance, (2) specific assignments or presentations. *There are a total of 14 sessions and students will be allowed one (1) excused absence (If clearly justified for medical or family emergencies and notification is given to Professor or SA).* An unexcused absence will be made up with an extended post (>1,000 words) to the IMD website on a topic of interest to our community. There will be (roughly) 12 guest or faculty presentations, and several Forum sessions for work-in-progress presentations, IMD events, or topical discussions. A list of dates and speakers will be distributed after the first session of the seminar.

Missing an Exam, Incompletes

Both the mid-term and final exam in this seminar are projects rather than written exams. However, USC standards still hold: The only acceptable excuses for missing an exam or taking an incomplete in the course are personal illnesses or a family emergency. Students must inform the professor before the exam and present verifiable evidence in order for a make-up to be scheduled. Students who wish to take incompletes must also present documentation of the problem to the instructor before final grades are due.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your course instructor (or TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General Principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's

own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, The Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/> Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://usc.edu/student-affaris/SJACS/> Information on intellectual property at USC is available at: <http://usc.edu/academe/acsen/issues/ipr/index.html>

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of emergency, when travel to campus is difficult, if not impossible, USC executive leadership will announce a digital way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of the Blackboard LMS (Learning Management System), teleconferencing, and other technologies. Instructors should be prepared to assign students a “Plan B” project that can be completed ‘at a distance.’ For additional information about maintaining your classes in an emergency, please access: <http://cst.usc.edu/services/emergencyprep.html>