Seminar in Media and Design Studies  
CNTV 601 | 4 units  
Fall 2018  
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
SCI 209

CNTV 601: Seminar in Media and Design Studies focuses on the various practices that comprise the hybrid arena of theory/practice within the broader context of contemporary media, expanded cinema and digital culture within an academic context. The course is designed to establish a productive vocabulary, explore practices and workflows and connect with the other core iMAP courses to lay a foundation for future work in the program.

With this in mind, the goals of the course are threefold: 1) to identify and become acquainted with diverse methodologies for practice and research with special attention to arts-based, practice-based and design-based research, especially in the context of a major research university; 2) to explore tactics for integrating theory and practice with respect to research goals; and 3) to demonstrate methods for establishing a robust research ecology.

With regard to structure, this is a seminar course in which participants are expected to contribute by leading sessions related to course readings, interacting actively with guest speakers, and sharing work-in-progress when appropriate. Sessions will typically cover readings, engage with guests, and focus on diverse research tactics and practices. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Participants will leave the course knowing how to write a literature/media review; how to define a research problem, determine research questions and plan the research project; how to articulate one’s own research methodology; and how to situate one’s own theory/practice within a broader critical and cultural context.

REQUIRED BOOKS


OTHER ARTS-BASED RESEARCH TEXTS


*Arts-Based Research: A Primer*, James Haywood Rolling, Jr., Peter Lang, 2013.


JOURNALS

*The Disrupted Journal of Media Practice*  
Journal of Writing in Creative Practice /  
http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/journals/view-Journal,id=154/  
“Disrupting the Humanities: Towards the Posthumanities”  
Centre for Disrupted Media
COURSE PROJECTS

Short Essays #1 and #2 / 20% each
Imagine being asked – perhaps during a job talk or interview – the questions below, and write a response between 750 and 1,000 words, and include a bibliography.

1) What is a practice-based PhD?
Due February 16, 2017

2) How would characterize or define your own research methodology?
Due March 23, 2017

Defining an iMAP Methodology / 20%
Due before May 9
Interview an iMAP graduate or ABD candidate about his/her/their dissertation project, object of performance, and write a 500-word description of the methodology employed.

Final Project / Literature and/or Media Review / 25% /
Draft Due April 6; Final Draft Due May 9
The literature review is fundamental to traditional scholarly practice and often constitutes a first step in the production of a dissertation. It is also useful in the creation of fields for the qualifying exam. You’ll be asked to write a 10-page literature or media review, due as your final project in the form of both a written paper and presentation at the end of the semester.

Presentations / 15% / Ongoing
All participants will contribute by presenting various readings and leading discussions.

SCHEDULE

SECTION ONE : MAPPING THE RESEARCH TERRAIN

WEEK 1 / AUGUST 21 / CARTOONING TO MUTATE CONSCIOUSNESS /
Irit Rogoff, “What Is a Theorist?”

WEEK 2 / AUGUST 28 / ARTS-BASED RESEARCH /
Hazel Smith and Roger Dean, “Introduction,” Practice-led Research, Research-led Practice in the Creative Arts, full text online via USC Library.
Henk Slager, “Art and Method.”
http://www.oarplatform.com/issue/issue-zero/

WEEK 3 / SEPTEMBER 4 / DISCIPLINES AND CONTROL
Giorgio Agamben, “What Is an Apparatus?”
Gilles Deleuze, “Postscript to the Societies of Control.”

WEEK 4 / SEPTEMBER 11 // PRAXIS / PRACTICE
Christopher Crouch and Jane Pearce, Doing Research in Design, Chapters 1-5.
Erin Manning, “10 Propositions for Research-Creation.”
Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, “Race and/as Technology; or, How To Do Things With Race.”
The Marvelous Clouds, Introduction and Chapter One

WEEK 5 / SEPTEMBER 18 // THINGS / MATTER / MATERIALS /
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Two.

SECTION TWO : RESEARCH PRACTICES

WEEK 6 / SEPTEMBER 25 // CRITICAL MAKING
DUE: SHORT ESSAY #1
http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/01/13/making-it-2
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Three.

WEEK 7 / OCTOBER 2 // CRAFT
Paul Carter, “Interest: The Ethics of Invention” in Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry.
Barbara Bolt, “The Magic is in the Handling,” in Practice as Research: Approaches to Creative Arts Enquiry.
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Four

WEEK 8 / OCTOBER 9 // RESISTANCE
Michel de Certeau, “Making Do’: Uses and Tactics.”
Gilles Deleuze, “What Is a Minor Literature?”
Krzysztof Wodiczko, “Interrogative Design.”
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Five

WEEK 9 / OCTOBER 16 // CINEMATIC PRACTICE AS RESEARCH
The Derek Jarman Lab / http://www.jarmanlab.org/#post-58
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Six.

WEEK 10 / OCTOBER 23 // FIELD TRIP TBD

WEEK 11 / OCTOBER 30 // LAB-BASED RESEARCH
DUE: SHORT ESSAY #2
SpecLab
Sensory Ethnography Lab
Tactics and Tactility Lab
SenseLab
Tara McPherson, Feminist in a Software Lab, excerpts.
The Marvelous Clouds, Chapter Seven.

WEEK 12 / NOVEMBER 6 // ETHNOGRAPHIC PRACTICE / EMBODIED INTERACTION
The Marvelous Clouds, Conclusion

WEEK 13 / NOVEMBER 13 // ARCHITECTURAL THINKING
DUE: FIRST DRAFT OF LIT REVIEW

SECTION THREE: MANIFESTING RESEARCH

WEEK 14 / NOVEMBER 20 // SITUATING RESEARCH
Fred Moten and Stefano Harney, “The University and the Undercommons: Seven Theses.”
Donna Haraway, “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective”

WEEK 15 / NOVEMBER 27 // THOUGHTS ON WRITING
Eric Hayot, “The Uneven U,” from The Elements of Academic Style: Writing for the Humanities.
Nick Sousanis, Unflattening, excerpts.

WEEK 16 / DECEMBER 4 // PRESENTATIONS

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-affairs/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