USC School for Cinematic Arts | Media Arts + Practice

IML 602: Practice of Media Arts

Time: Wednesday 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm
Location: SCI 211
Professor: Andreas Kratky
Units: 4
Prerequisites: none
Zoom-link: tbd
Office Hours: Wednesday 3 to 4 pm or by appointment
Office hour zoom-link:
          https://usc.zoom.us/j/93263710235?pwd=STQ5YngzbW5FOGFNYmlnNnBGS2ZVZz09
Contact: akratky@cinema.usc.edu

Course Description

The class IML 602 is an introduction to the field of practical research and development in the media arts. It introduces the notion of open and hybrid research methodologies spanning the arts, sciences and humanities and provides a sampling of examples of applied methodologies in various fields of the arts. This sampling will not be exhaustive, but serve as an opportunity to discuss and criticize a range of existing research strategies in and in relation to arts-research. The purpose of the class is to support you in developing, framing and formulating your own specific approach and strategies to conduct inquiry. We will combine discourse and making to encourage your own hybrid set of methodologies central to your work. In a field like ours, we cannot fall-back on established disciplinary forms and cannot just adopt "traditional" ways of how to do things, instead it is our task and critical potential to innovate creating hybrid methods in a highly individual process. This class is intended to support you in this process and your interests and creative procedures are central to the class.

Course Structure

This course focuses on the development of research methodologies and practical skills in media creation and reflection. It is conceived on the notion of a tight integration of theoretical and practical research and development and introduces a broad spectrum of different approaches and techniques in the field of media arts. An introduction and support for technological aspects of media creation is offered in conjunction with a rigorous consideration of the historical embedding and development of these practices. The class will examine interdisciplinary cross-overs between the arts, the humanities and the sciences. In the course of these discussions students will formulate a research profile and methodology specific to their individual interests that balances theoretical and practical creative work. Students will consider how their work relates to other disciplines and their established discourses, methodologies and prior art. The field of media arts is broad and fast moving and we are interested in methodological diversity. An important part of the class is dedicated to providing guidance in the practical implementation of projects and technological questions. We will follow an iterative approach based on peer

review, using the group as peer critics. Students are required to take the class at least once. The class is repeatable to give the opportunity to use the workshop and feedback structure to further pursue the development of practical research methodologies and project work. The class can be used as a scaffolding towards the development of a dissertation project.

Course objectives

- Develop your personal approach to conducting research and development
- Critically reflect your work approach within the larger cultural and historic context
- Get acquainted with existing role models and methodologies
- Formulate a specific methodology that represents the core motivations and processes of your work and that you can communicate to others
- Provide constructive criticism and support for your fellow students.

Description of Assignments

Over the course of the semester students will develop one practical creative project that embodies their research and artistic approach and probe a line of inquiry. This project will go through several iterations and review sessions. At the end of the semester it will be in a finished presentable form.
The project and its theoretical background will be reflected in a semester paper, which is intended to be in a publishable state at the end of the semester.
Besides the project and paper every student is expected to prepare the assigned readings and participate actively in their discussion. In peer review sessions students are expected to provide constructive criticism for their fellow students. The assignments are evaluated according to the grading structure specified below.

Grading Structure

CNTV 602 criteria for grading are as follows:
- Class participation: 5%
- Semester project: 50%
- Semester paper: 30%
- Critical feedback and peer review: 15%

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale
A   95-100
A-   90-94
B+   87-89
B   83-86
B-   80-82
C+   77-79
C   73-76
C-   70-72
D+   67-69
D   63-66
D-   60-62
F   59 and below

Participation Policy
MA+P classes often depend on group work and in-class critique, which makes participation crucial. You are expected to participate in every scheduled class session. This might be through in-person attendance, virtual attendance, or asynchronous viewing of class recordings and subsequent feedback/discussion. If you must miss a class, please be sure to get any notes and assignments from a classmate so you do not fall behind.

For students attending class virtually in Zoom, please log in using your USC-enabled Zoom account for security purposes. It is also recommended that you keep your camera turned on so you can better interact with the class and participate in class activities.

If you feel that you are unable to participate in the ways listed above, please speak to your professor. Accommodations may be made for certain situations.

Graduate Diversity Lab

As part of SCA's stated values and commitment to building more inclusive media industries, all incoming graduate students will attend five sessions in their first semester focused on building stronger, more welcoming and equitable media communities. Each student will select a date for a professional development training based in the principles of transformative justice, and then, four 90-minute seminars of their choice throughout the semester. Feel free to attend more than four sessions if they are of interest to you. Session topics and schedule will be available on the first week of classes. Attending these five sessions is part of IML 602 and will be factored into the course grade.

Mid-term Conferences

These conferences allow you to get a sense of your overall progress, areas for improvement and an estimated grade at mid-point in the semester. If you are in danger of failing, you will be alerted in writing and in a conference; we will outline together what steps must be taken in order for you to pass. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of USC's add/drop and withdrawal deadlines.

Course Outline:

1. Week
   • Aug 23, 2023: Introduction
                   Overview over course structure

2. Week
   • Aug 30, 2023: Discussion: Research – the science approach
                   Student introduction presentations of prior work
                   Reading: Paul Feyerabend, Against Method, excerpt

3. Week
   • Sept 6, 2023: Artist methodologies
                   Reading: Amir Eshel: *Thinking Pictures.* In: Poetic Thinking Today
                   Individual project workshop

4. Week
- Sept 13, 2023: The University

  Presentation of student research interests and semester projects
  Reading: Stefano Harney/Fred Moten: *The University and the Undercommons.* In: The Undercommons

5. Week
- Sept 20, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *Black-Feminist Epistemology*

  Reading: Sheila Gregory, Reimagining Black Feminist Epistemology and Praxis
  Individual project workshop

6. Week
- Sept 27, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The experimenter*

  Reading: Rom Harré: *The Materiality of Instruments in a Metaphysics for Experiments.* In: Radder*: The Philosophy of Scientific Experimentation*
  Individual project workshop

7. Week
- Oct 4, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The pata-scientist*

  Reading: Andrew Hugill, *Pataphysics*
  Reading: Stephen Ramsay, *Patacomputing*. In: Reading Machines
  Individual project workshop

8. Week
- Oct 11, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *Feminist Data*

  Reading: Catherine D'Ignazio, Lauren F. Klein, *Data Feminism*, excerpt
  Individual project workshop

9. Week
- Oct 18, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *Post-Research Condition*

  Reading: Peter Osborne, Not going back - But not forward either: Once more on Art and/as Research
  Individual project workshop

10. Week
- Oct 25, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The maker*

  Reading: Matt Ratto, Critical Making: *Conceptual and Material Studies in Technology and Social Life*
  Presentation and discussion of paper concepts

11. Week
- Nov 1, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The activist*

  Reading: Rita Raley, *Dataveillance and Counterveillance.* In: Gitelman: *Raw Data is an Oxymoron*
  Individual project workshop

12. Week
- Nov 8, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The traveler*

  Reading: Guy Debord, *Theory of the dérive*
  Individual project workshop
  Paper drafts due

13. Week
- Nov 15, 2023: Methodology case-studies: *The performer*
Reading: Diana Taylor, *Memory as Cultural Practice.* In: The Archive and the Repertoire
Individual project workshop

14. Week
- Nov 22, 2023: Thanksgiving

15. Week
- Nov 29, 2023: Presentation of final projects
Final papers due
Discussion and peer review
Class round-up

Final Exam
- Dec 6, 2023: Final projects and papers due (by 9 pm)

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Land Acknowledgement Statement:
For those participating from the LA Basin, we acknowledge our presence on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Tongva and Chumash peoples.

Disability "Acknowledgement"
In the spirit of disability culture, please feel free to stim, stretch, knit, doodle, move around, change seats, do yoga or do what feels right to your bodymind.

SCA Diversity and Inclusion Statement:
Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self- expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm; e-mail diversity@cinema.usc.edu. You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/

Course Content:
The required materials (readings, screenings, etc.) that are used in this course may, at times, depict or address potentially sensitive subject matter. Our discussions in class may also include these topics. The selection and presentation of these materials do not amount to an endorsement of the ideas expressed in them. If you have personal concerns about any of these materials, please discuss them with your professor so they may arrange appropriate alternatives if needed.

Disruptive Student Behavior:
Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class

pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Academic Conduct:
Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/.   Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Statement on Fair Use:
Fair use is a legal principle that defines certain limitations on the exclusive rights of copyright holders. Projects in this class are produced with fair use doctrines in mind using its four pillars: (1) the purpose and character of use, (2) the nature of the copyrighted work, (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work. Generally speaking, this means you must only use as much of a copyrighted work as is necessary to make your point, and you must cite your sources accordingly.

Citation Guidelines:
We assert that work produced in our classes is covered under the Doctrine of Fair Use. In order to make this claim, however, all projects must include academically appropriate citations in the form of a References section, which covers all sources, in order to receive a passing grade. The References section is either included in the project itself or as a separate document, as appropriate. For citation purposes, we follow *Kairos Journal of Rhetoric,Technology and Pedagogy* style guide; Kairos uses APA format, which is slightly modified and whose general guidelines and specific examples may be found here: http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/styleguide.html#apa

Computer Code:
Computer code is often shared and reused. This is appropriate in a MA+P course unless otherwise directed by the assignment. If you do use code, you should attribute it. Please follow these protocols from MIT which call for placing a comment in one's code with a URL to the original source, a note if it was adapted, and the date of retrieval: https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/writing-code

Research:
Need to do research but don't know where to start? Searching for a book, article, or data to support your argument? Not sure how to cite a source in your bibliography? Ask a librarian!
Research help is available:
  • In person and by phone, chat and email at Ask a Librarian
  • Through research guides and FAQs
  • By contacting your subject librarian
USC Libraries: https://libraries.usc.edu/

COVID-19 Information for Students Coming to Campus
USC has COVID-19 and health protocols requirements for students who will be coming to campus. Please consult the USC COVID-19 resource center website for the latest COVID-19 testing and health protocol requirements. Requirements are continuously updated so please check frequently.

Students should also stay informed with the "We Are USC" portal:
https://we-are.usc.edu/students/

Students are also expected to follow the University's Expectations on Student Behavior.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Student Health Leave Coordinator – 213-740-0411 or uscsupport@usc.edu
https://campussupport.usc.edu/students/health-and-wellness/health-leave-of-absence/
Located in the USC Campus Support and Intervention office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

USC Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086 or eeotix@usc.edu
https://eeotix.usc.edu/
Find information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776
https://osas.usc.edu/
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)
ombuds.usc.edu
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.