

**Fordham University** || Fall 2018

**Explorations of New Media and Digital Design** || NMDD 1001.L02

**Monday 6.00-8.45 pm**

**Leon Lowenstein Bldg. Room 310**

**Instructor: Chester Dols** || [chester.dols@gmail.com](mailto:chester.dols@gmail.com)

### **Course Description:**

New media and digital design are large and expanding fields which are ever growing through and with emerging technologies. This course will serve as an introduction to current new media practices and digital design strategies with the intention of breaking down the greater interdisciplinary field into smaller more consumable parts. As a class, we will discuss and analyze notable histories, geographies, and practices of art, design and technology to contextualize developing mediums and their applications. Each class will be part seminar and part workshop in order to bridge theory and practice. Together, as a class we will question how we perceive, consume, digest, reflect, identify, and (re)produce within our immediate digital landscape.

### **Objectives:**

- Students will be exposed to a broad range of topics and interests of new media/digital design.
- Students will be able to contextualize current new media practices within a larger discourse of media, art, and design.
- Students will gain a basic understanding of digital design paradigms, internet architecture, and the politics of designing digital media that operate on an intimate, local, and global scale.
- Students will demonstrate critical understanding of digital design theory and practice through critical reading, writing, discussion, and practical labs.
- Students will develop an understanding of the logic and potential application of CSS, PHP, HTML, and other common web languages.

### **Evaluation:**

- **Participation 20% of final grade:** An assessment of each student's participation in the course will be made based upon their contributions to in-class discussions and design workshops. Participation grades are not based on mastery of course content but rather meaningful and consistent engagement in class discussions and group work.
- **Blogs 30% of final grade:** Each student is required to have a personal blog. Responses to readings, field trips, and documentation of projects should be submitted through class blog. Blogs will be graded on the timely completion and posting of weekly homework, documentation of in class work, and thoughtfulness given to the students design process.
- **Midterm Project 20% of final grade**
- **Final Project 30% of final grade**

### Course Schedule:

Aug. 29	'Hello World'	Introductions
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday	NO CLASS
Sept. 10		Graphic Design
Sept. 17		Internet Architecture & Web Basics
Sept. 24		UX/UI & Designing Interactivity
Oct. 1	Midterm Projects Begin	Politics & Ethical Design
Oct. 8	Columbus Day Holiday	NO CLASS
Oct. 15	Midterm Due	In Class Presentations & Critique
Oct. 22		Creative Code & Physical Computing
Oct. 29	Field Trip: Cooper Hewitt	Exhibition Design & Curation
Nov. 5		Art, Sculpture, & New Media
Nov. 12	Field Trip: MoMA or BitForms Gallery	Contemporary Design and Art Practice
Nov. 19		Performance and Performativity
Nov. 26	Final Projects Begin	Identity, Utopia, Security, & Technology
Dec. 3		Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality
Dec. 10	Final Due	In Class Presentations & Critiques

### Policies & Procedures

- **Student Responsibilities:** Students are responsible for attending class on time, actively participating in class discussions, submitting assignments on time, and reading all course materials by their assigned date. Schedule time to meet with me during office hours if you experience difficulty with readings and/ or assignments that cannot be adequately addressed during class time. Students are also expected to regularly check their fordham.edu email accounts and the course blackboard site.
- **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you come in after attendance is taken you will be marked tardy, and two tardies equal an absence. Students are permitted no more than two absences as semester. Students who exceed two absences, will have their final grades reduced for each additional absence. Exceptions may be made for medical or

other emergencies but it is the student's responsibility to notify both their class dean and me with the necessary documentation.

- **Late Assignments:** Assignments may be submitted after their due date but will be reduced by a letter grade for each day they are late. Attendance is required for exams and critiques. Make-up exams will only be allowed if documentation of an emergency can be demonstrated to the class dean and me.
- **Academic Integrity** A University, by its nature, strives to foster and recognize originality of thought. Originality can only be recognized, however, when people acknowledge the sources of ideas or works that are not their own. Therefore, students must maintain the highest standards with regards to honesty, effort and performance. As a Jesuit, Catholic University, Fordham is committed to ensuring that all members of the academic community strive not only for excellence in scholarship but also for integrity of character. In the pursuit of knowledge and personal development, it is imperative that students present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique and eventual reformulation. As part of this process, each student must acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration, and destruction of library materials. For further details, consult the Standards of Academic Integrity on the University website.
- **Student Resources** Students with Disabilities: If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, please visit the Office of Disability Services, call them at 718-817-0655, or email [disabilityservices@fordham.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@fordham.edu). Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. The office will coordinate with faculty, staff, and administrators to ensure that the facilitation of reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities is provided. Writing Center: If you struggle with the writing required in this course, please make use of the Writing Center. For more information about their services see the Writing Center's website. Counseling and Psychological Services: University life is full of challenges. Fordham offers support for anyone who feels like they need help dealing with the pressures of life as a student. CPS offers free individual and group counseling and psychotherapy in a safe and confidential setting. For more information about their services see the Counseling and Psych Services website. Academic Coaching: Any student who struggles with time-management and/or organization is invited to one-on-one academic coaching sessions (typically once a week for 45 minutes). Please contact [disabilityservices@fordham.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@fordham.edu) for more information.