DESMA 9: Art, Science & Technology

SYLLABUS

General Education Lecture course
Satisfies Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice
5 units

UCLA Department of Design | Media Arts
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Course Description

9. Art, Science & Technology ***(5)***
Lecture, two hours; outside study, 12 hours. Open to students of all disciplines. Introductory course to explore and survey the cultural impact of scientific and technological innovations, technology driven art inspired by science and art/science collaborative projects. Students will be introduced to the vast array of cutting edge research taking place on campus, and scientists leading this work will guest lecture. Emphasis will be on art projects that use technology and respond to new scientific concepts. P/NP or letter grading.

Course Objective(s)

Art, Science & Technology is an introductory course that explores how similar technologies are driving new forms of art and science. It broadly surveys scientific and technological innovations, using technology in innovative ways; it is art inspired by science and art/science collaborative projects. Art is taken to encompass contemporary forms of expression that are technologically driven. The class is designed for students of all disciplines, including the non-declared, with a goal to inspire students to think outside of the box, explore divergent and convergent thought and seek out knowledge and inspiration from many different disciplines as well as encourage collaboration with their peers. Scientists will visit the class and will discuss their cutting edge research, discovery and innovation. The intent is to show that scientists describe their moments of discovery in similar terms as artists do about their creative breakthroughs and that, fundamentally, both grapple with identical questions of the nature of reality. Students also will be introduced to the world-class research conducted on this campus and will be encouraged to visit artists' studios and scientists'

laboratories. Every week will be devoted to a particular theme with required reading, and students will be asked to maintain a blog that incorporates their own ideas in relation to the subject. Midterm and final papers are based on the weekly lectures and blogs will be graded weekly. The final grade is based on the midterm and final paper, along with the blog.

Course material

An extensive course reader will be available on the class website as pdf files as well as links and selected archived video talks from the EDA lecture series: http://classes.dma.ucla.edu/Fall06/desma9

Assignments

Weekly reading assignments with viewing of archived video streams are required for class participation and to complete the midterm and final papers effectively. Students should work with the professor and their TA throughout the quarter regarding their research topics for the midterm and final papers.

Grading

Grading is based on the assignments (midterm paper-40 percent, final paper- 50 percent, blog journal-10 percent).

Midterm paper: students will take a one hour test where they write about an image presented that was discussed in weeks 1-4. No less than three and no more five double spaced papers are required.

Final paper: students will take one of the five subjects presented during weeks 1-10 and elaborate on the material covered in class and their own research related to the subject. No less than five and no more than 10 double-spaced pages is required. **The final paper is due no later than Wednesday of finals week**.

Blog: students are asked to do weekly blogging related to the topics covered. Specifically, they will be looking at the daily news and/or researching books or other resources related to the subject. The blog will be reviewed weekly and graded with the final paper.

Teaching Assistant Roles

Class will meet twice a week. One teaching assistant will be assigned for no more than 30 students enrolled. The entire class will meet for a two-hour lecture that includes a guest speaker once a week. The second one hour meeting will consist of groups of no more than 30 led by teaching assistants who will be checking attendance. Teaching assistants will hold office hours for four hours weekly. Additional lectures and events will be required as psrt of the course work. The instructor will hold regularly scheduled office hours.