

Material Culture

Fall '25, Saraleah Fordyce
DESIGN 6690-4-DC: Material Culture

[Saraleah Fordyce](#) [moodle.cca.edu](#) Wed. 12:15-3:05p room: E2 main building

MFA Design is committed to inclusivity, diversity and anti-racism in the classroom. We aim to establish an awareness, acknowledgement, respect and acceptance for one another and the multiplicity of identities and cultural backgrounds of all individuals in our program. We are also committed to creating equitable systems and structures that promote opportunities for all students in our community.

Section Description	Material Culture is all of the things we make, and all of the interactions we have with those things. From ways of learning, to responsive dialog, and critical imaginaries; this course explores how the made world mirrors and shapes us, our role in that symphony of coevolution, and options for thoughtful participation.
Materials:	Digital and paper journals (provided), readings and other resources posted weekly on moodle.
Course Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insight: into the role of design in our social existence. - Information and Visual literacy: the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly mobilize both visual and text based information in order to extract and construct meaning. - Critical thinking: the habit of exploring issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. - Written and oral communication: the ability to develop and express ideas coherently and effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. - Collaboration: communication, respect, and flexibility as important professional and civil skills.
Expectations	Be present, prepared, flexible,, and generous with each other, yourselves, and the learning process.
Grading	70% weekly participation (journal, praxis, participation), 30% projects (3 projects, 10% each)
Support	please reach out to the LRC , Sara , the CCA Counselors , & the CCA Student Success Office anytime
Access	Please reach out if I can make this course more accessible, you can also find resources at access/disability services .
Privacy	I often publish images of students & work. If you do NOT want your images shared, please tell me.

I am always happy to meet with students, in person or over zoom. Reach out if you'd like to meet.

Word and phrase finding is part of what we are working on. If AI software is used in the process of completing an assignment, students are required to document their prompt as well as the AI response via dated screenshots. Prompting AI to create your finished product (as opposed to a process tool) is like paying someone to go to the gym for you.

ui: How do we want to learn? How do we want to be?

Ways of learning, knowing, being, and claiming agency

1. 9/3 <u>in class</u>	<i>liberation</i>	Freire.Banking
2. 9/10 <u>PREP</u>	<i>field philosophy</i> Guest: Elisabeth C Hughes	van Dooren.Crows
3. 9/17 <u>PREP</u>	<i>seeing</i> field trip: Recology	Escobar Meet at 12:15 at Recology: 401 Tunnel Ave, SF. <i>Closed-toe sturdy shoes!</i>
4. 9/24 <u>PREP</u>	<i>authority</i> 1:1's in class	Barthes.Death , submit proposal
5. 10/1 <u>PREP</u>	P1 due	Work week: no class meeting, project due

uii: How do we want to respond?

subversion, tools for visibility and critical detours, bootlegging and haunting

6. 10/8 <u>PREP</u>	<i>defamiliarizing</i>	Shklovsky, Art as Technique , share P1
7. 10/15 <u>PREP</u>	<i>remaking</i> Guest: Savithri Velaga	Brody on Gomez , Bonnicksen , Sharif, Magid, Kahlon,
8. 10/22 <u>PREP</u>	<i>Bootlegging &</i> Special event: Worlding Wednesday 6:30p	Schwartz's project: Unlicensed , Holzer.Rip Off Reworlding and Repair: discuss Escobar with Michael Washington and Ann Wolf's Darn It class
9. 10/29 <u>PREP</u>	<i>haunting</i> field trip: deYoung, 1:1's on site	Tuck & Ree.Glossary of Haunting Meet at the de Young 1p-2p
10. 11/5 <u>PREP</u>	P2 due	Present P2 in class, form groups for P3

uiii: How might we imagine?

continued use of narration and fiction as conceptual expansion, futures and alternates

11. 11/12 <u>PREP</u>	<i>tactility and interaction</i> field trip: Exploratorium	Haraway.Cyborg manifesto excerpt , supplemental: Russel.Glitch Feminism Meet at ticket area at the Exploratorium 12:45- 2:00p
12. 11/19 <u>PREP</u>	<i>in and with the world</i> Start P3 in class	Bruder.Alexas Body , supp: Crawford & Joler. Anatomy of AI
13. 11/26 <u>PREP</u>	<i>diegetic objects</i> 1:1, remote project work	D&R ch. 6 , supplemental: D&R pref & ch1 , Tharps Disc. Des. ch.14
14. 12/3 <u>PREP</u>	<i>work in class</i>	work week, desk visits
15. 12/10 <u>PREP</u>	P3 due	reflection map data points & assembly, project 3 due