**ART 649: Special Topics in Studio Arts: Interactive Art**

**Spring 2018-UMBC**

**Instructor: Mr. Joe Reinsel**

**Meeting Day/Time: Thurs. 1pm-4:40pm**

**Place: Lions Brothers Building**

**Office Hours: By appointment (face to face and online)**

**Course Description:**

Through the combination of real-time audio/video synthesis software such as P5, Arduino, Max/MSP/Jitter, and alternative interfaces (sensors, video tracking, speech recognition, etc), students will explore responsive media spaces from phenomenological, social and computational perspectives. Readings from a wide range of disciplines - art, architecture, cognitive science, philosophy, and computer science - will provide theoretical foundations for studio-based inquiry. Although emphasis will be placed on cultural forms that make active use of physical space and depend on real-time computation (interactive, installation, performance, hybrid architectures, etc.) students may choose to create screen based interactive narrative, custom hardware interfaces, interactive sculptural objects or non real-time works such as generative, genetic or evolutionary compositions of sound and/or image.

**Course Structure**:

Technically, the first part of the semester will be spent on learning the ins and outs of P5 as a creative tool. The majority of the semester will focus on applications of P5 and Max for creating projects that are dependent on real-time computation and interactivity. Video manipulation, sound generation, motion tracking, 3d, voice recognition, sensors, networking media, among other subjects will be introduced and explored.

**Requirements**:

Online Studio:

In an effort to build a collective resource from which critique, class discussion and collaborative research can evolve, each student is required to maintain an individual web site that can be accessed from a link on the class Blackboard site. Individual web sites should function as an on-line open studio in which you share your work-in-progress with other students. The site may include such elements as a growing list of bibliographical references relevant to the focus of your work, sketches, found images or objects (scanned or downloaded news clippings, photos, animations, sound files, video clips, texts, email, etc.), and links to other interesting sites.

**Details on online studio will be discussed on the first day of class.**

You will visit the on-line studios of your classmates on a regular basis. The on-line studio is an important means for discovering common interests among your peers and evolving collaborative projects. Use them as a place to explore alternative methods for developing your projects, organizing information, and initiating dialogue with your classmates.

**Readings**:

Readings will be distributed throughout the semester. Students may be asked to give presentations and/or lead discussions on readings. Critiques will frequently be initiated from various topics covered in the readings. In order to participate effectively you will need to have read the required texts and be able to articulate your responses to them within the context of class discussion and critique.

**Participation**:

Participation in class discussion and critique is essential to developing communication skills that will prepare you to understand and discuss your own work and the work of your peers with greater clarity and depth. Attendance is crucial to this process. You have a pedagogical responsibility to the community of the classroom. Your participation grade will reflect the degree and manner with which you exercise this responsibility. Responsible participation includes regular attendance and thoughtful, engaged contributions and responses to readings, class discussion, critique, and on-line studios. In-class review of work is the foundation of group discussion and critique.

**Attendance**:

I take attendance promptly. Request to be marked late if you come in late or you will be marked absent for that class. Three late arriving/early departures equal one absence. Four absences (for any reason) will lower your semester grade a full letter. Five absences (for any reason) will result in failure of the course. I do not discern between excused and unexcused absences. An absence for any reason is an absence. It is your responsibility to initiate and maintain communication with me in case of an unusual circumstance.

**Class Meetings**

During the semester there will be two times that I will not be available to hold an official class because of previous obligations. I will expect everyone in the class to be involved in working on their projects and discussions with other members in the class. I will be available via e-mail during both of these times.

**Materials and Technical References**:

* Google drive space, USB key drive recommended
* Max/MSP/Jitter Manuals and Getting Started- available for download at [http://www.cycling74.com](http://www.cycling74.com/)
* Max Forum @ [cycling74.com](http://cycling74.com/)

\*Other resources will be provided in class and during the semester.

**Grading**:

This class is about process and interaction. Your presentations in critique should clearly demonstrate class participation and an iterative process in your work. Your grade will reflect the degree to which you demonstrate that your practice is self-motivated, iterative, and engaged with and responsive to the community of the class. If you are concerned about your grade, make an appointment with me during office hours and we will discuss ways you might improve in your efforts to learn and develop as an artist.

**Save often and back-up all of your work! Assignments that are lost to the ether or otherwise missing cannot be graded.**

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**Academic Integrity**

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult[*UMBC policies*](http://www.umbc.edu/policies/pdfs/iii-1.10.03.pdf), or the[*Faculty Handbook*](http://www.umbc.edu/provost/Faculty_Handbook/section14.pdf)(Section 14.3). For graduate courses, see the[*Graduate School*](http://www.umbc.edu/gradschool/essentials/proc_misconduct.html)website."

**Student Support /Disability Services**:

UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Student Support Services (SSS)  
is the UMBC department designated to:

* receive and maintain **confidential** files of disability-related documentation,
* certify eligibility for services,
* determine reasonable accommodations,
* develop with each student plans for the provision of such accommodations, and
* serve as a liaison between faculty members and students regarding disability-related issues.

If you have a disability and want to request accommodations, contact SSS in the Math/Psych Building, Room 213 or Academic IV-B wing Room 345 (or call 410-455-2459 or 410-455-3250). SSS will require you to provide appropriate documentation of disability and complete a Request for Services form available at <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/sss>. If you require accommodations for this class, make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your SSS-approved accommodations.

**Course Calendar**

This course outline is subject to change if necessary, at the discretion of the instructor.

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| **Date** | **Lecture/Daily Topic** |
| Jan 2 | Introduction: MAX/MSP/Jitter |
| Feb 4 | MAX/MSP/Jitter: Making a video mixer |
| Feb 11 | MAX/MSP/Jitter: Interaction and video |
| Feb 18 | **Project 1: Due in Class** |
| Feb 25 | Processing: Live Camera interactions |
| March 3 | Live video installation |
| March 10 | **Project 2: Due in Class** |
| March 17 | Spring Break |
| March 24 | Arduino and Wiring |
| March 31 | Sensors and lights |
| April 7 | Interfacing MAX with Arduino |
| April 14 | **Project 3: Due in Class/ Discuss Final Project** |
| April 21 | Work on Final Project |
| April 28 | Mid stage Final Project critique |
| May 5 | **Final Projects due in Class** |