CART211 // Creative Computing & Network Cultures
Syllabus // Fall 2021 // Concordia University

Schedule:	Lectures:	Mondays 8.30-10.30am,
	Labs:	Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm
	All Lectures and Labs delivered via Zoom	
	Meeting links provided on the course Moodle page	

Instructor: Dr. Olivier Sorrentino [olivier.sorrentino@concordia.ca]

Office Hours: Mondays 1.30 – 3.30pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The CART211 course aims to provide students with a broad understanding of creative computing and network culture, by exploring its conceptual and expressive building blocks.

Here, we will explore histories of the Internet, of computing and interactivity, their impacts on society as well as the roles that digital creators may play within such spheres. At the same time, we will provide a working experience of the practical tools needed for creating network-based projects. Together, this exploration and experience will help students make sense of what they are doing within network cultures, and why.

Each class will be divided into two sessions. The first period will host discussions on issues relative to the weekly readings, while the second will accommodate lab times, for students to build engaging web sites that incorporate graphic interfaces, rich media, coding, and other means of publishing an online presence. The instructor will be present during both sessions, to moderate talks and help with lab works.

OBJECTIVES
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Plan and create a website using HTML, CSS and Javascript
- Understand networks, interactivity and computation arts in their historical context
- Develop a critical approach to online culture, digital media, their role within art and design

COURSE MATERIALS
All of the required documents are accessible in digital format from the links provided in Moodle. The mandatory readings [Read] are listed in the course schedule, alongside additional [Watch] and [Listen] resources. Please contact instructor for assistance to access this content.

TECHNICAL RESOURCES
Interneting is Hard (HTML and CSS tutorials) // w3schools.com (code for Javascript, HTML, CSS) // webdesign.tuts+ (Web courses and guides) // Test your technical web knowledge with the Hacker Test // Validate your code with the W3C Markup Validation Service

REQUIRED SOFTWARE
Please install the following before our first scheduled class: Zoom // Firefox // Atom or similar text editor, for coding HTML/CSS/Javascript

CLASS SCHEDULE
(contents subject to minor changes)

X. Sept. 06   *Labour Day* – University closed

---

01. Sept. 13 - Course Overview / Orientation
          + Lecture   - Digital vs. Analog Systems
          + Watch   - Video excerpts from the 1968 "Mother of All Demos"
          + Lab   - Setting Up Student Websites // Web Design Basics

---

02. Sept. 20 - History of the Internet / Computer Graphics
          + Read   - Roy Rosenzweig, "Writing the History of the Internet"
          + Watch   - CERN on the history of the World Wide Web
                         - Stuart Brown "A Brief History of Graphics"
          +Lab   - HTML

---

03. Sept. 27 - Online Counterculture
          + Read   - Fred Turner, "From Counterculture to Cyberculture"
          + Watch   - Stuart Hall, "A Definition of Culture"
          + Lab   - CSS

---

04. Oct. 04 - Social Networks
          + Watch   - Matt Castro, "Do You Remember MYSPACE?"
                         - Jaron Lanier, "How Social Media Ruins your Life"
                         - Casey Newton, "Inside the traumatic life of a Facebook moderator"
          +Lab   - JavaScript

X. Oct. 11   *Thanksgiving Day* – University closed

---

05. Oct. 18 - Internet Art
          + Read   - Rachel Greene, "Web Work: A History of Internet Art"
                         - Artie Vierkant, "The Image Object Post-Internet"
                         - Hybrid Manifesto, "Toward a New Ecology of Crypto Art"
          + Lab   - Combining HTML / CSS / Javascript

---

06. Oct. 25   ***Task 04 Review*** // presentations and peer evaluations

---

07. Nov. 01 - Intellectual Property and Sharing Culture
          + Read   - Richard Stallman, "The GNU Manifesto"
                         - Oli Sorenson, "Remixing Found Footage in the Age of Mass-Oriented
                         Networks"
          + Watch   - "Everything is a Remix
          + Lab   - Advanced CSS / Javascript

---

08. Nov. 08 - Online Representations of Gender, Activism and Ideology
          + Read   - Wendy Hhui Kyong Chun, "On Software, or the Persistence of Visual
                         Knowledge"
          + Watch   - Slavoj Žižek on Ideology and the film "They Live"
          + Lab   - Open Workshop

09. Nov. 15   *__Task 05 Deadline__* // presentations and peer evaluations

10. Nov. 22 - Screen and Hacker Culture
          + Read   - Sherry Turckle, "Loving the Machine for Itself"
          + Watch   - Brian Knappenberger, "The Internet's Own Boy"
          + Lab   - Embedding Social Media // Media Queries // W3C Validation

11. Nov. 29 - Material Networks
          + Read   - Tung-Hui Hu, "A Prehistory of the Cloud"
          + Watch   - Boston University report, "Coltan mining in Eastern Congo"
          + Listen   - James Bridle, "Under the Cloud"
          + Lab   - Open Workshop

12. Dec. 06   +Lab   - Open Workshop

13. Dec. 13   *__Task 06 Deadline__* // presentations and peer evaluations

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
Student will be graded according to the levels of skills, originality and eloquence expressed within the assignments listed below. Highest grades will be given to projects that not only meet the given requirements, but also engage creatively with the forms, functions and issues raised by web creation. All assignments must be published on the student's website (https://hybrid.concordia.ca/studentname/) before the start of the class on which the assignment is due. Assignments not presented in the above format will be considered incomplete. Late projects are subject to grade penalties. Students may collaborate on assignments in groups of two or three (only for Tasks 05 and 06), but project workloads should reflect the number of collaborators.

ASSIGNMENTS / GRADED TASKS
01. Attendance and Participation (15%, ongoing until end of term)
CART211 grades include points for attendance, partaking in-class discussions and peer evaluations, regularly updating one's personal website, helping other students, handing-in assignments on time, and other means of contributing to the dynamic workflow of every class.

02. Reading Summary Blog (20%, 10x 2 points, ongoing until end of term)
For every [Read] item posted in the class schedule, students will write approximately 100 words to summarize and comment on the issues addressed in these articles and essays. The 100 word paragraphs will be added as entries to student websites, and contribute to building their web archive (Task 04). Each reading summary counts for 2 points (pass/fail) in the student's final grade.

03. Weekly lab practice (20%, 10x 2 points, ongoing until end of term)
During lab time, students will follow practical web development exercises, which will count for 2 points (pass/fail) in their final grade, for every successfully completed exercise. Students must also add these exercises to their personal website, to building their web archive (Task 04).

04. Web Archive (15%, ongoing until end of term, with mid-term presentation)
Students will design a personal website to store and display their weekly reading summaries (Task 02) and lab practice (Task 03). This site should contain well-structured assets, semantic tags and other conventional modes of content organization. The website may be designed as a blog, scrapbook, online

catalog, virtual light box or other formats proposed to, and approved by instructor. Students will present their web archive to the class, around mid-term, to discuss as a work-in-progress with peer students.

05. Proposal for Final Website (10%, delivered on Nov 15)
Students will submit a well-structured proposal for their final project, containing:
- One 500 - 750 word essay (2-3 pages double spaced) using MLA citation format
- Thumbnail sketches of their proposed site in jpeg or png format
- A moodboard with proposed site layout, typography, color scheme, and image samples
- Students will present their proposal to the class, to be discussed within peer evaluations

06. Final Website (20%, delivered on Dec 13)
Students will create a website which demonstrates the skills and techniques learned so far in this course, containing:
- Well-structured assets and semantic tags (HTML, CSS and JavaScript)
- An original idea or statement, which critiques or celebrates one or more issues covered in the course reading
- An engaging design, which conveys one or more issues covered in the course reading
- Students will present their proposal to the class, to be discussed within peer evaluations

GRADING POLICY - All the above task grades will be added together for a total out of 100%, then be transferred to a letter grade, based on Concordia University's grade point equivalents, as listed in the Undergraduate Calendar, Section 16.3.3.

GRADE SCALE GUIDELINE

A+ 94-100% (GPA 4.3)	**A** 87-93% (GPA 4.0)	**A-** 80-86% (GPA 3.7)
B+ 76-79% (GPA 3.3)	**B** 73-75% (GPA 3.0)	**B-** 70-72% (GPA 2.7)
C+ 66-69% (GPA 2.3)	**C** 63-65% (GPA 2.0)	**C-** 60-62% (GPA 2.3)
D+ 56-59% (GPA 1.3)	**D** 53-55% (GPA 1.0)	**D-** 50-52% (GPA 0.7)
F/FNS < 50% (Fail/no Sup.)	**R** < 20% (Repeat)	**NR** Grade Not Reported

COMPUTATION LAB - Managed by Sabine Rosenberg, the Computation Lab is a service provided to students in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, to provide various resources such as workshops and project assistance. If you need any help with your assignments or other technical issues, don't hesitate to go to them at clab.concordia@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT STANDARD FOR ABSENCE - Official department policy states that a maximum of two student absences per term is tolerated without standard medical note or other written justification document. Written notifications are sent to students after two missed classes, and a third unjustified absence for a given course usually results in the student's automatic failure. Students coming in late to a course, should note that previously missed classes count as absence. Although catch up sessions may be provided during instructor's office hours, course contents cannot be repeated within classes to absent or late students. **Please note, special accommodations may be given to students, until all COVID-19 sanitary measures have been lifted.**

EMAIL POLICY - Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions in class during the weekly lectures and labs or drop in at instructor's office hours. Otherwise, email correspondences are most welcome, when observing basic protocols like clearly identifying yourself, posing brief / precise questions and allowing up to 48 hours for instructor's reply.

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION - Please do not hesitate to contact instructor to request an academic accommodation for any medical condition or learning disability. Advisors at the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities will assist all students in finding equal access to education.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - Concordia students should maintain academic integrity throughout their studies. The most common plagiarism offense under the Academic Code of Conduct regards "the presentation of work from another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement." Please cite your sources! When in doubt, students may consult the university's official Code of Conduct page.

DEPARTMENT & CDA FEES – **Because of COVID-19 sanitary measures, usual CDA fees have been lifted until further notice.** Students usually pay an annual department fee of $50 at the beginning of the fall semester. This applies to each year of study in the DCART program, to cover the maintenance and consumables of the department labs. CDA fees of $45 per semester enable access to fifth floor classroom workstations, the Open Access Lab and edit rooms, as well the CDA server and AV equipment. For more information, see http://cda.concordia.ca/.

For more general information about this class, please refer to the DCART syllabus.