History and Theory of New Media
ARTH 110

Spring 2026   Section 01   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026   Modified 01/23/2026

🕐 Course Information

Lecture/Discussion format

Starting Week 1, 1/22
Tuesday, Thursday, 3:00 AM to 4:15 PM, Art Building Room 133

🖥 Course Description and Requisites

The history of art and technology introducing contemporary critical theory and practice. Course will address digital visualization, simulation, interactive network technologies in the arts and speculate on the artistic implications of advances in engineering and science.

Prerequisite: ARTH 070B or ARTH 072 or instructor consent.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

Classroom expectations

ARTH110-01 follows a lecture/discussion format. Topics are introduced in lecture with examples of iconic works, and visual analysis. Activities are project to project or relevant to student research on the lecture material.

Students are expected to be active listeners and learners and to contribute at a variety of levels of comprehension and collaboration. In class activities require in-person participation for the best outcomes and attendance on projects will be graded accordingly.

Paper notebooks should be used for lecture note taking. Electronic devices may be used on Thursdays for in class research. Note: If you are a student, registered with the AEC, and you require an electronic device for note taking, of course, this is allowed. Smartphones are discouraged in class at all times. To avoid distracting others, they should be silenced during class time, presentations and testing.

Classroom behavior is expected to be professional. Loud talking over lecture or presentation will be met with an appropriate response and could be asked to leave. Students found utilizing electronic devices for any non-course related work without the permission of the Professor will be asked to leave.

Closed beverage containers are allowed in the class room. Small snacks, not meals, are allowed.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives on projects; for example, students are required to participate in the first project and its development. Attendance is the responsibility of the student.

Participation in class activities will be used in grading when parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in this syllabus, a grading rubric or as a percentage in the prompt.

University Policy F15-12 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf), Attendance and Participation

Formal written documentation of absence is required if you are going to miss a required project Midterm or Final Exam. Students should cross check their calendars with this syllabus and notify the Professor at least 2 weeks prior to the date of absence, where possible. Emergencies still require written documentation - a doctor's note, funeral announcement, parent letter, plane ticket, hospital admittance, police report - though within a reasonable amount of time.

Extensions for assignments are granted on an individual basis and students needing an extension can request this in writing through email. Canvas email is preferred for all course-related correspondence.

Academic Integrity - (University Policy F15-7). University Academic Integrity Policies (http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/policies.php.)

Commitment to learning is evidenced by enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 [pdf] requires students to be honest and ethical in all academic course work. Faculty members are required to report any or all infractions upon academic integrity to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. To avoide adverse effects upon one's academic career, please avoid unethical practices such as plagiarism. Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website for more information.

All written and presented assignments must be original to this class (no "recycling" or "double dipping"). For full marks they must meet all requirements of the assignment, and provide proper citations for sources used (including textbook, Internet sources, and any AI - see below.)

More information on the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy can be found here. (https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/docs/SJSU-Academic-Integrity-Policy-F15-7.pdf.)

AI use in this course

AI use for written assignments is strongly discouraged in this course. If found, an appropriate response will be made based on these steps:

3.1.1 verbal reprimand;

3.1.2 repetition of the assignment with sufficient change in instructions such that none of the original assignment can be utilized;

3.1.3 lower grade on the evaluation instrument;

3.1.4 failure on the evaluation instrument;

3.1.5 reduction in course grade;

3.1.6 failure in the course;

Please read through this pdf generated by SJSU's Writing Center - AI Writing in Academics. (https://itservicedesk.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/AI%20Writing%20in%20Academics.pdf)

Note that: Direct use of text generated from artificial intelligence (e.g. on a platform such as Chat GPT) constitutes plagiarism unless all of the AI-generated text is placed in quotation marks, the AI source is cited, and the ChatGPT prompt is also stated in works cited, bibliography or reference list.

Any use of artificial intelligence for factual information must be cited properly with reliable published sources. Note: Grammarly or similar grammar software, when extensively used may show an AI score in the University detector. These tools must be acknowledged in the sources or reference list, i.e. "This assignment was produced with assistance of grammar-checking software."
Per University Policy S16-9 please find student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class.

▤ Program Information

Department Name: Art and Art History
Department Office: ART 116
Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/art
Department Email: art@sjsu.edu
Department phone number: 408-924-4325

◎ Course Goals

The goals of this course are to engage students in critical and theoretical dimensions of the history of new media art. The course includes works of new media from across the 20th c. to the 21st c. Works of early computer art, video art, net.art, web art, and most recent technologies are examined through research and projects. Themes in digital art explored through key artists and artworks. A lineage of digital art is traced from post-sixties experimentation to contemporary mixed reality.

Upon completion of this course, students:

- will be able to articulate visual and technical elements of new media artworks using relevant concepts and analysis.
- will gain knowledge of new media art in the context of relevant resources and collections.
- will comprehend the development of new media art in the context of traditional forms.
- will gain mastery of art historical analysis relevant to new media art.
- will be able to think critically about new media art from the standpoint of its aesthetic, technological, and social dimensions.

📊 Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) - ART/ARTH110 - History and Theory of New Media

CLO1 - Articulate visual and formal analysis of new media artwork(s).
CLO2 - Identify key artworks, styles, and new media-related art themes.
CLO3 - Identify and discuss social, technical and aesthetic factors impacting new media art.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have mastered:

CLO4 - Understanding key concepts and themes in history/theory of New Media Art.

CLO5 - Critical evaluation of New Media Art on historical and aesthetic terms.

CLO6 - Chronological knowledge of New Media Art as it relates to the 20th and 21st century.

CLO7 - Vocabulary relevant to the demonstration of critical analysis of New Media Art.

📘 Course Materials

Liaison Librarian for the Department of Art, Art History: Michael Aguilar, MLIS

User Engagement & Insights Librarian

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library

San José State University

michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu

☷ Course Requirements and Assignments

Course requirements include participation, weekly assignments and quizzes, a 1,000 document, 3 pass/fail projects, and a Final Exam. Assignments include short quizzes, reading comprehension activities, and discussion posts.

"*Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including, but not limited to, internships, labs, and clinical*

practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the Syllabus." [University Policy S16-9](#)

More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at: [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

Participation - (10%) Consists of student engagement with projects in the form of attendance for group work, contributions in class, originality and critical thinking in addressing writing assignments.

Weekly assignments - (15%) There are approx. 10 - 25 pages of reading per week in the form of webpages, pdfs, and textbook. Students should read ahead of lecture delivery. and in conjunction with weekly activities, as assigned. One quiz will be required each week along with a discussion post or short research assignment to review the week's lecture.

Exercises 1 - 3 (35%) Two exercises and a third, graded presentation are designed for active participation in art history and theory.

- Exercise 1 - Online community: YLEM gathering (10%) Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Exercise 2 - Writing about Digital Art (10%) Weeks 6, 7, 8, 9.
- Exercise 3 - Systems project with peer review. Weeks 10, 11, 12, 13. (15%)

Midterm (10%) Week 9.

Final Exam (30%) - The Final is an essay, and completion of the write-up for Exercise 3.

Note: Failure to submit Final Exam results in a '0' for the semester. Make up testing is available with a formal written excuse. Last minute absence must be fully documented and contact made with Professor with in 36 hours of the Final Exam. Ideally, formal excuses should be provided two weeks in advance of absence, in order to reschedule for "make-up" Exam day.

[University policy S17-1](#) states that "*Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.*"

✔ Grading Information

Evaluation Criteria and Grade Scale for Letter Grades:

Where possible, assignments include a rubric with grading criteria. It is designed to contribute to student success with a scaled set of goals for the best completion.

Assignments are both discursive or informal and formalized, requiring writing style that is either less formal in tone or academic. Library sources should always be cited, if used, regardless and students should read through the standard formatting for assignments in this syllabus. Additionally, Library guides and Writing Center guides, for details of writing quality, are available to assist student writing. If you have questions about academic form or style, please ask.

Students will also be asked to assess their peers and self-evaluate on some assignments and quizzes.

A reasonable extension (on no more than 3 assignments) can be requested from the Professor.

Late Work has a 2% late penalty per day late assessed for most submissions.

It is student responsibility to communicate any absences at least two weeks in advance of a required deadline or test and formal excuses are required if you plan to miss a test.

Plagiarism on assignments results in an 'F' for the assignment and for all parties involved. Canvas is equipped with plagiarism detection software, so do not try it. Direct use of text generated from AI (e.g. on a platform such as Chat GPT) **without attribution**constitutes plagiarism. (please see Classroom Expectatioins)

All AI generated *factual information* must be supported with reliable sources and it should be noted in the Reference list at the end. **Note:** Grammarly or similar software brings up an AI score in Turnitin. Grammarly use should be included at end: "This paper was produced with assistance of grammar-checking software."

Before using any AI or Grammarly, consult this document [AI and Academic Writing. (https://itservicedesk.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/AI%20Writing%20in%20Academics.pdf)](https://itservicedesk.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/AI%20Writing%20in%20Academics.pdf)

If you have questions about plagiarism and how to avoid it, please read [University Policy F15-7](#) and ask questions.

Numeric Grade Equivalents Scale

A plus	960 to 1000	96 to 100%	C plus	760 to 799	76 to 79%
A	930 to 959	93 to 95%	C	730 to 759	73 to 75%
A minus	900 to 929	90 to 92%	C minus	729 to 700	70 to 72%
B plus	860 to 899	86 to 89 %	D plus	660 to 699	66 to 69%
B	830 to 859	83 to 85%	D	630 to 659	63 to 65%
B minus	800 to 829	80 to 82%	D minus	600 to 620	60 to 62%

"All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades."

See University Policy F13-1 for more details. More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following two university policies

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9
- University Attendance and Participation policy F15-12
- University Grading System Policy F18-5

Additional Note: This syllabus is subject to change, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, or in the case that changes will significantly enhance the quality of the course. Students will collectively have the opportunity to shape the ways in which the course unfolds. Further information about course readings and exam details and paper submission guidelines will be announced during the semester.

Department Advising - For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors (https://www.sjsu.edu/art/resources/advising.php) or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4353, art@sjsu.edu (mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

Dropping and Adding - Students should be aware of FA2022 deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub (https://www.sjsu.edu/advising/). Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/Academic_Calendar-AY2023-24.pdf) or with the University's Late Drop policy. (https://www.sjsu.edu/ue/student-petitions/drops/index.php)

🏛 University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes

When	Topic	Notes
FIRST CLASS Thursday 01/22/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Introduction to course themes, projects and requirements	Look over this webpage for Thursday, 1/22. 'Ylem' history webpage (https://ylem.org/gathering/) Week 1 - quiz Week 1 - discussion - Ylem history webpage
LECTURE Tuesday Week 2 01/27/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Video Art: New Medium	Read: John Handhardt, From Screen to Gallery: Cinema, Video and Installation (https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/591162) 2008. John Handhardt, Video Art: Expanded Forms, 1990 (https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1622211/files/folder/Readings/Video%20/preview=85413758) Week 2 - quiz Week 2 - discussion: Video: The New Medium.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 2 01/29/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Reviewing/brainstorming	We will be brainstorming for the Ylem gathering "exhibition" **'Ylem gatherings' web pages** http://www.glassroutes.org/gathering.html (http://www.glassroutes.org/gathering.html) Welcome to the Gathering! ((2025-02-16))glassroutes.org (http://www.glassroutes.org/gathering.html) http://carto.graphicsgathering.org (http://carto.graphicsgathering.org/)
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 3 02/03/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Internet as New Medium:: Virtual Communities	Lecture: Estaban Calvo, Tuesday night lecture series. Week 3 quiz Week 3 discussion post

When	Topic	Notes
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 3 02/05/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	brainstorming	What will we do? Art, panel/s
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 4 02/10/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Web/Net Art: New Medium	etoy, jodi, Olia Lialina, Antonio Mutandas Week 4 quiz Week 4 discussion post
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 4 02/12/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Team brainstorming	
LECTURE Thursday, Week 5 02/17/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	VR: New Medium	Artists: Char Davies Reflection document due. Week 5 quiz. Week 5 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 5 02/19/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Presentation practice	Prep for Sunday gathering, Feb. 22, 12 - 1 interviews, 1 - 4 exhibition, 4 - 6pm, interviews.

When	Topic	Notes
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 6 02/24/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Tactical Media, Game Interventions, Hacking	TBA Week 6 quiz. Week 6 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday Week 6 02/26/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 7 03/03/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	AR - New Medium	Artists: Tamiko Thiel, Mark Lee, Indigenous at the MET, Mark Swarek Lab at NYU Week 7 quiz. Week 7 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 7 03/05/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		

When	Topic	Notes
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 8 03/10/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Feminism and Media Art: The Power of the Image, Part 1.	Artists: Ana Mendieta, Lynn Hershman-Leeson, Joan Jonas, Martha Rosler, Linda Dement, Christine Tamblyn, Dana Birnbaum; Suzanne Lacey, VNS Matrix, Gretcher Bender Annie Abraham, PurpleNoise, new digital works exploring this theme. Readings: Lucy Lippart, Sweeping Exchanges: Feminist Art of the 1970s. Lynn Hershman "The Fantasy Beyond Control"; Week 8 quiz. Week 8 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 8 03/12/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 9 03/17/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	X Art: Mixed Reality Experience	Tanya Zimbardo lecture, 5pm Room 133, Art Building. **(attendance is required)** Week 9 quiz Week 9 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 9 03/19/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Thompson Gallery	Visit to Thompson Gallery - ART Building	

When	Topic	Notes
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 10 03/24/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Review	
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 10 03/26/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Midterm	
BREAK 03/30 - 04/03	**SPRING BREAK**	
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 11 04/07/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Artificial Life: New Medium	Topics: Autopoesis, mimicry, emulation, living systems Week 11 quiz Week 11 discussion.
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 11 04/09/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		Living systems - team brainstorm
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 12 04/14/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Artificial Nature: A Theme in Digital Art	Refers to section in textbook. Week 12 quiz. Week 12 discussion.

When	Topic	Notes
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 12 04/16/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		Formulate points for visual analysis and comprehension of the artwork.
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 13 04/21/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	In class visit	**Ken Rinaldo lecture, 5pm, Room 133, (attendance is required)**
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 13 04/23/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133		
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 14 04/28/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Student presentations	
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 14 04/30/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Student presentations	

When	Topic	Notes
LECTURE Tuesday, Week 15 05/05/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Student presentations	
ACTIVITY Thursday, Week 15 05/07/2026 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Art Building Room 133	Exam Review / Last Class	
FINAL EXAM Thursday Week 15 05/14/2026 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Art Building Room 133		