

**The Artist as Programmer**  
**AHD-2241-B / VCD-2241-B**

Thursday, 12:10pm-3:00pm  
Room 404c

Justin Elm  
jelm@sva.edu  
212.592.2255

**OBJECTIVES & DESCRIPTION**

In the post-studio interdisciplinary art world, technology plays a critical role in an artist's practice. The ubiquity of the internet and computers demands a new kind of literacy. By examining contemporary artists working on the periphery of traditional media, we'll explore the implications for art and artists. Readings and lectures will be supplemented by in-class exercises that introduce fundamental programming principles with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. To emulate the interdisciplinary art world mentioned, this course is a hybrid art history course with studio practice.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class meeting and to participate fully in class demonstrations and discussions. Homework covering the previous week's demonstrations will be turned in at the beginning of each class. At the end of the semester, students will submit a final project.

Weekly Homework: 25%  
Attendance: 25%  
Participation: 25%  
Final Project: 25%

**ATTENDANCE**

There are no excused absences. More than two absences in a semester will negatively affect your final grade. In the event of illness, do not present a doctor's note or any other form of documentation to your instructor. If you have extenuating health-related circumstances that may necessitate excessive absences, please contact the Office of Disability Resources or Student Health and Counseling, respectively. Both offices provide support and may be able to grant accommodations for excessive absences. However, only in extreme circumstances would an accommodation be granted for absences that exceed the institutions policy.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

There are no required texts, all readings will be provided in PDF format on SVA's learning management system, Canvas.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty will fail the assignment for which an infraction is suspected and substantiated. More serious violations will be handled through the process enumerated in the SVA Handbook (p. 8).

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

In order to receive academic accommodations due to disability, a student must first register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Students approved for accommodations will be given an *ODS Accommodation Letter* to submit to their instructors. If a student does not provide an *ODS Accommodation Letter* to their instructor, they will not be eligible to receive accommodations in that course. All instructors are required to adhere to SVA's policies regarding accommodations for student's disabilities. Students who have a need for academic accommodations, or suspect they may have a disability should contact the ODS.

#### **Disability Resources**

340 East 24th Street, New York, NY 10010  
212.292.2282  
disabilityservices@sva.edu  
sva.edu/students/disability-resources

#### **Student Health & Counseling Services**

340 Easy 24<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010  
212.592.2246  
health@sva.edu  
sva.edu/students/health-counseling

### **OUTLINE**

All scheduled topics are subject to change relative to what we are able to achieve the week prior. Readings and assignments are listed on the day they are due, not the day they are assigned.

### **REFERENCE LINKS**

<https://html.com/>  
<https://github.com/>  
<https://jquery.com/>  
<https://codewars.com/>  
<https://stackoverflow.com/>  
<https://www.javascript.com/>  
<https://www.hackerrank.com/>  
<https://www.w3schools.com/css/>  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/>

**INTERESTING LINKS**

<http://formandcode.com/>  
<http://hello.processing.org/>  
<http://devart.withgoogle.com/>  
<http://chromeexperiments.com/>  
<http://threejsplaygnd.brangerbriz.net/>

**WEEK 1 – January 16****Syllabus, Introduction, Basic Techniques****WEEK 2 – January 23****HTML & CSS, Positioning, Assets, Structure**

Reading:

Ullman, Ellen, *Life In Code*, 'The Dumbing Down of Programming'  
(p. 39-55)

Assignment:

Secret Message

**WEEK 3 – January 30****HTML & CSS continued, Responsiveness, Media Queries**

Spotlight: Casey Reas

Reading:

Reas, Casey, & McWilliams, Chandler, *Form + Code*, 'Introduction & What is Code'  
(p. 8-26)

Assignment:

Learn How to Code, Basics of Programming I (Data Types)

**WEEK 4 – February 6****Introduction to JavaScript, Conditionals, Loops, Data Types**

Spotlight: Daniel Shiffman

Reading:

Reas, Casey, & McWilliams, Chandler, *Form + Code*, 'Repeat'  
(p. 42-65)

**WEEK 5 – February 13****Functions and Scope**

Spotlight: Bret Victor

Reading:

Victor, Bret, "Learnable Programming"

Assignment:  
Final Project Proposal

**WEEK 6 – February 20**  
**DOM and jQuery Part 1**  
Spotlight: Golan Levin

Reading:  
Levin, Golan, “Dialtones Report”

Assignment:  
Final Project Draft and Design

**WEEK 7 – February 27**  
**DOM and jQuery Part 2**  
Spotlight: Rafaël Rozendaal

Reading:  
Rozendaal, Rafaël, “Notes on Abstract Browsing”

Assignment:  
Final Project To-Do List

**SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS – March 2-6**

**WEEK 8 – March 12**  
**Introduction to Objects**  
Spotlight: Jon Rafman

Reading:  
Zhexi Zhang, Gary, “Infinite Lives: The online anthropology of Jon Rafman”

Assignment:  
Final Project Wireframes

**WEEK 9 – March 19**  
**Useful & Practical, Image Sliders**  
Spotlight: James Bridle

**WEEK 10 – March 26**  
**Canvas, Animate**  
Spotlight: Raven Kwok

**WEEK 11 – April 2**  
**Particle Nonsense**

Assignment:  
Final Project Halfway Point

**WEEK 12 – April 9**  
**Game Stuff or Drawing**

**WEEK 13 – April 16**  
**Review, Requests, Missing Pieces**

**WEEK 14 – April 23**  
**Review, Requests, Missing Pieces**

**WEEK 15 – April 30**  
**Final Project Presentations**

Assignment:  
Final Project Due