Internet Artware

PROFPRAC 3900-016 (2258)

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where:	MacLean 807	when:	Wens 1pm - 4pm
professor:	Nick Briz	email:	nbriz@saic.edu
TA:	Nimrod Astarhan	email:	nastar@saic.edu

// PROFPRAC: General Course Description

In the *Professional Practice Experience* (PROFPRAC 3900 or DEPARTMENT 3900) you will engage in a wide variety of professional practice activities to help prepare you for life after SAIC. Course activities may include applying for an on-campus exhibition, submitting a proposal for an off-campus exhibition, hosting a community event, creating a website, preparing a CV, networking events with alumni, or writing a project statement. The course emphasizes hands-on, real-world professional activities and opportunities for emerging artists, designers, and scholars. You should plan to take *Professional Practice Experience* during your third year at SAIC.

// Internet Artware: Specific Course Description

Our particular flavor of the Professional Practice Experience will focus on the professional practice of "creative technologists". This is a term used by various industries (Event Production, Digital/Advertising Agencies, Design Studios, Technology Companies, etc) to describe someone working professionally at the intersection of art and technology. This semester we'll be learning the skills and workflows necessary for success in this field. It's typical for creative technologists to be "generalists", having some background in various creative coding frameworks, creative software (Adobe, Blender, etc) and creative hardware (Microcontrollers, sensors, etc). While the full scope of creative technology is too much to cover in a single course, our focus (Internet/Web based creative projects) is an area of creative technology that encompasses many aspects of the practice.

The web browser is a blank canvas preinstalled in every kind of Internet connected device (mobile phones, laptops, VR headsets, etc). Through its code we can conjure up any kind of preexisting and not yet invented screen based media. The browser is also an art studio,

equipped with tools for making hypertext, interactive video, 2D and 3D animation, electronic music, sound sampling and synthesis, mixed reality (AR/VR), artificial intelligence and so much more. This semester we'll learn how to unlock all of the browser's creative potential by learning it's core languages (HTML, CSS and JavaScript) and it's creative APIs. The browser is also a place to share our work, collaborate with others and explore all manner of interesting cultural activity. In this course we will also learn the tools, workflows, conventions and methodologies of professional creative developers by working as an open source arts collective as we collaboratively develop a piece on online artware (software art).

// **PROFPRAC:** Shared Learning Goals

1. Implement a well-planned creative project, applying professional skills relevant to their artistic, creative, and/or scholarly practice.

2. Present a professional body of work in an online context, demonstrating a critical awareness of audience and selection of work.

3. Create connections and linkages with relevant practitioners, organizations, and institutions in students' field(s) of interest, with an attention to identifying key figures as well as situating their own work within these fields.

4. Demonstrate the ability to think, speak, and write clearly and effectively with regard to their creative and/or scholarly practice.

// **Class Website**

Although we'll be using canvas for attendance and turning in the first set of assignments, all of the details regarding how to complete specific assignments as well as other class notes and tutorials will be made available on our class website: http://netart.rocks/saic/artware

// PROFPRAC: Online Project

Professional Practice Learning Goal #2 requires that all students "*present a professional body of work in an online context, demonstrating a critical awareness of audience and selection of work*". Because we're exploring the professional practice of creative technologists, our "online context" will be the development of a GitHub portfolio. If you're not already familiar with GitHub, you can think of it as LinkedIn meets Behance for coders and developers. In addition to being a space to share your work and connect with others in your field (potential collaborators as well as recruiters), GitHub is also a space for "maintaining" and "versioning" your code as well as for the structured development of "open source" projects (all of which are concepts we will cover in class).

// PROFPRAC: Faculty-Defined Creative Project

Professional Practice Learning Goal #1 requires a "Faculty-Defined Creative Project" that implements a "*well-planned creative project, applying professional skills relevant to their artistic, creative, and/or scholarly practice.*" This semester we'll learn how to work as an open source arts collective by collaborating on an Internet "artware" (or software art) project. Creative technologists often work in groups/teams and so there exist industry standard tools and methodologies for how to efficiently work on shared code bases. While working together on this collaborative project we'll learn the conventions, processes and tools most commonly used in professional software development contexts.

// PROFPRAC: Faculty Mentoring

"*Faculty mentoring is a core component of the Academic Spine courses. According to student testimonials and student digital course evaluations, one of the most appreciated and loved aspects of the Spine courses is the faculty individual meetings with the students. Each faculty member is expected to hold mentoring hours.*" We will have multiple opportunities throughout the semester for faculty mentoring, during the first half of the semester these will be 1-on-1 meetings (see schedule below), during the second half of the semester these will be group meetings (as we work on our collaborative project).

// Schedule/Outline

The **first half of the semester** is focused on the development of your online creative coding portfolio (see Online Project above). By the end of the first half of the semester you'll be expected to have at least 2 internet art pieces/sketches on your GitHub account (online portfolio). Because everyone is going to be entering this course with different coding experience, each student will choose a different starting point from the narrative on [the class website](). The narrative includes tutorials and demos I've produced, as well as specific assignments (pieces/sketches) associated with each. I'll be meeting 1-on-1 with each student a couple of times during this period to discuss your progress.

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01: Jan 02: MC 807  : introduction to the course
02: Feb 09:   zoom  : 1-on-1 calibration meetings
03: Feb 16: MC 807  : Decentralization Online
04: Feb 23:   zoom  : 1-on-1 progress meetings        (Assignment #1 due Feb 23)
05: Mar 02: MC 807  : Freelancing as a Creative Technologist
06: Mar 09:   zoom  : 1-on-1 progress meetings
07: Mar 16: MC 807  : They Myth of Writing Code from "Scratch"
08: Mar 23: MC 807  : Open Source Collaboration        (Assignment #2 due Mar 23)
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The **second half of the semester** will be spent developing a collaborative artware project which will also become a part of your online portfolio. These will be a class project (see Faculty-Defined Creative Project above) structured around learning industry standard methodologies, conventions and workflows for collaboration on creative technology projects. More details can be found on on [the class website]().

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09: Mar 30: MC 807  : Intro to Artware (Software Art)
10: Apr 06: MC 807  : artware: filters && tools
11: Apr 13: MC 807  : artware: functions
12: Apr 20: MC 807  : artware: parameterization        (Assignment #3 due Apr 20)
13: Apr 27: MC 807  : Agile Development
14: May 04: MC 807  : artware: the framework
15: May 11: MC 807  : artware: release party           (Assignment #4 due May 11)
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credit will be determined according to the following breakdown (details for each of the projects/assignments can be found on the class website):

→ Participation in class/group discussions   30%
    (and 1-on-1 meetings)

→ Development of your Coding Portfolio   35%
    (assignments #1 and #2)

→ Contribution to the Collaborative Artware   35%
    (assignments #3 and #4)

// "Grading" at SAIC

SAIC adheres to a credit/no credit grading system. The adjacent grade symbols are used to denote credit status. Undergraduate and non-degree-seeking students must achieve at least average performance in the course, the traditional grade equivalent of a C or 80% in order to earn CR (credit). Graduate students must achieve the traditional grade equivalent of a B or 90% in order to earn CR (credit).

If a student would like a grade equivalent they should give you a Student Letter Grade Form, which they can request at the Registrar's Office.

CR	Credit
NCR	No Credit
W	Withdrawal
INC	Incomplete
IP	Thesis In Progress
NR	Grade Not Reported by Instructor

Grades of INC (Incomplete) will be granted by the instructor only upon request by the student and only if the instructor believes that the student's reason for the request is justified. Incompletes must be completed within the first two weeks of the next regular semester, or the grade will automatically be changed to NCR (no credit).

// Course Materials

- If you are taking this class, presumably you already have a preferred code editor. If not, you will need to download and install modern code editor. A few popular examples are [Atom](#), [SublimeText](#) and [VSCode](#). In my video tutorials I will be using Atom (this is my recommendation) but you are free to use whichever code editor you feel most comfortable with.

- You will also need to download and install more than 1 modern web browser, I'd recommend at least [Firefox](#) and [Chrome](#); you can additionally install [Brave](#) and [Opera](#) if you'd like.

- You will also need to download and install the [git](#) command line tool.

- You will need to create a [GitHub](#) account for your online portfolio. If this is your first time setting up a GitHub account I also recommend you sign up for the [GitHub Student Developer Pack](#) which comes with all sorts of valuable freebies.

// Attendance Policy

TL:DR come to class, if you can't, communication is key

SAIC policy states that students are expected to attend all classes regularly and on time. **If the student misses a class for other than a <u>reasonable cause</u>.** If a student needs to miss class with reasonable cause, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor before the date of the class being missed to receive instruction for how to make up for the missed class. **If a student misses MORE than three (communicated and excused with reasonable cause) classes, the student will be at risk of failing.**

Reasonable cause to miss a class might include:
- → Illness or hospitalization (the student should contact Health Services, who will relay information to the faculty in whose class the student is enrolled)
- → Family illness or death (the student should also contact their academic advisor, who can relay information to all faculty)
- → professional opportunities (should be communicated to the professor && approved ahead of time)

// Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

SAIC is committed to full compliance with all laws regarding equal opportunities for students with disabilities. Students with known or suspected disabilities, such as a Reading/Writing Disorder, ADD/ADHD, and/or a mental health condition who think they would benefit from assistance or accommodations should first contact the [Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC)](#) to schedule an appointment. DLRC staff will review your disability documentation and work with you to determine reasonable accommodations. They will then provide you with a letter outlining the approved accommodations for you to deliver to your instructors. This letter must be presented before any accommodations will be implemented. You should contact the DLRC as early in the semester as possible. The DLRC is located within the Wellness Center on the 13th floor of 116 S Michigan Ave. and can be reached via phone at 312.499.4278 or email at dlrc@saic.edu

// Diversity Statement

I am firmly committed to diversity and equality in all areas of campus life, including specifically members of the LGBTQ community. In this class I will work to promote an anti-discriminatory environment where everyone feels safe and welcome. I recognize that discrimination can be direct or indirect and take place at both institutional and personal levels. I believe that such discrimination is unacceptable and I am committed to providing equality of opportunity for all by eliminating any and all discrimination, harassment, bullying, or victimization. The success of this policy relies on the support and understanding of everyone in this class. We all have a responsibility not to be offensive to each other, or to participate in, or condone harassment or discrimination of any kind. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

// Plagiarism

Academic misconduct includes both plagiarism and cheating, and may consist of: the submission of the work of another as one's own; unauthorized assistance on a test or assignment; submission of the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all instructors; or the failure to properly cite texts or ideas from other sources. Academic misconduct also includes the falsification of academic or student-related records,

such as transcripts, evaluations and letters of recommendation. Academic misconduct extends to all spaces on campus, including satellite locations and online education.

Academic integrity is expected in all coursework, including online learning. It is assumed that the person receiving the credit for the course is the person completing the work. SAIC has processes in place, including LDAP authentication, to verify student identity.

// Writing Center Information Resource Material

Writing Center

Lakeview Building, 116 S. Michigan Ave., 10thFloor

writingcenter@saic.edu

312.499.4138

http://www.saic.edu/academics/academicresources/writingcenter/

Appointments

Schedule in advance: https://www.supersaas.com/schedule/saic/WritingCenter

Short-notice: Call 312.499.4138 to see if there are any openings

Hours

Monday –Thursday: 9:00 AM -7:15 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM -5:15 PM

Walk-in hours: Monday –Thursday: 4:15–7:15 PM