CourseNo: ARCHA4794_001_2013_3

Meeting Location: AVERY HALL 300

Meeting Time: R 02:00P-04:00P

Instructor Information: Amanda J Parkes

Human-centered design has emerged as one of the tenets of contemporary design, and studies in ergonomics have taught designers to revere the form and abilities of the body as the standard for analysis in interaction. Yet our notion of the body is changing. New technologies are allowing our bodies to become enhanced, augmented, expanded in functionality and altered in form, while ubiquitous & embedded technologies are allowing the devices we carry and the garments we wear to converge into a 'secondary skin' which functions as an extension of ourselves creating our own mobile personal environment. Beyond our exteriors, advancements in biotechnology are allowing for an easier facilitation of changing the body from the inside out through DNA modification or synthetic biology, creating a rich and inspiring landscape for future thought experiments around the body.

We will also examine the body in presentation- how the languages of fashion photography, installation, and performance art work in the construction of narrative and fantasy and how technological augmentation can work to recontextualize the relationship between the body, clothing and the environmental experience. The course will conclude with a discussion of how the effects of technologies for collective thought and distribution (social media and the internet) are affecting the development of body augmentation in a larger context. Blurring the line between wearables, structures, and future concepts, this course explores how our changing notion of the body alters how and what we strive to design for ourselves.

Structure:

The course will be a mixture of studio design work, combined with lectures, readings, discussion and critique. Through a combination of

producing objects and engaging in critical reflection, students will be encouraged to develop a design practice which innovates technically in process and materials as well as situates their work in the context of contemporary culture and technology.