

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: 4-Dimensional Design Course No: FDC-180/181 Course Section: _____
School: Art and Design Department: Foundation Art (Room 430, Main Building) _____
Day: _____ Time: _____ Place of Class Meetings: _____
Credit Hours: 3
Chairperson: William Fasolino Course Coordinator: Beth Warshafsky
Semester & Year: FALL 2007 – SPRING 2008 Prerequisites: Admission

II. INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ellen Scott Academic Title: Adjunct Instructor
Office Location: Foundation Art Room 430, Main Building
Contact Information:
Office Hours: Monday 4:00-5:00 (by appointment)
Email Address: escott@pratt.edu

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through the use of computers, video, photo, sound and lighting equipment, students are introduced to basic concepts of art and design in space and time. Assignments direct students in creating works that utilize attributes of time and movement, elements of moving image, serial, sequential, and narrative ordering, still and moving image editing, sound and image relations, and object and event analysis. In focusing on the relations between students' spacing and timing skills, the 4D course extends and supplements the other Foundation courses, and prepares students for further work with time-based media. Sections of this course are reserved for undergraduate students. The course may not be repeated.

IV. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will acquire proficiency in both the **concepts** of time-based art & design and the **tools and methods** necessary to create this work. Students will develop an understanding of the temporalization of form across a wide range of time-based work. Students will also learn the hardware and software necessary to create short-form time-based work including video and digital still cameras, microphones, lights, and computer graphic and editing software.

Classroom time includes lectures, technical demonstrations, relevant viewings, individual and group work time, and class critiques. We may travel to local museums and/or galleries to see relevant exhibits.

Critiques are a conversation. They provide a way to expand and refine our understanding of key principles, technical considerations, and aesthetic choices of an assignment. Comments, questions, answers, and thinking out loud by both teacher and students create a two-way dialogue that enriches learning for everyone. Active participation in critiques is an important part of your grade.

Over the year, the course will gradually build on students' knowledge through a sequence of problems that reinforce and expand students' aesthetic and technical abilities. All students will be expected to

obtain a fundamental proficiency in concepts and tools before moving on to the second semester of study. Across the year, we will work together to achieve these goals and objectives:

Course Goals:

1. To become familiar with the basic concepts of time, space, and movement.
2. To develop skills in temporal and spatial design.
3. To acquire knowledge of sound design as it relates to image and time-based structures.
4. To become proficient in the craft of editing sound and image.
5. To become proficient with the tools of 4D including computer hardware and software.
6. To develop a fundamental proficiency in shooting moving footage.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to apply the course goals to their work.
2. Students will be able to work conceptually.
3. Students will be able to use graphic and editing software.
4. Students will be able to compose with sound and image.
5. Students will be able to explore and integrate the following 4D principles in their work:

4D Principles

- **Attributes of Time:**
 - Clock time
 - Subjective time
 - Edited Time
- **Principles of Movement:**
 - Animated movement
 - Graphic movement
 - Vector motion
 - Recorded & edited movement
- **Editing:**
 - Rhythmic structures
 - Continuity editing
 - Simultaneous event streams
 - Transitions
- **Ordering Structures:**
 - Series
 - Sequence
 - Narrative
 - Lyrical
- **Sound design:**
 - Music
 - Rhythm
 - Dialogue
 - Sound effects
 - Atmospheric/spatial
- **Composition** on the X, Y and Z axis
- **Compositing** with layers and transparencies
- **Storyboarding**
- **Project planning**

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

MATERIALS

- Firewire drive (required for all Foundation students; you received a notice about this)
- 1 Sketchbook or notebook for class notes and writing exercises
- 1 mini DV tape for recording video
- **optional:** smaller, more portable storage, e.g. CDs, DVDs, USB flash disks

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is mandatory.
- For each class you miss, write a one-paragraph description of what you did during class time, i.e. the full 3 hours. This applies to both unexcused and excused absences -- it's an explanation, not a penalty.
- Penalties for absences are covered by Pratt policy, as follows:
 - **Unexcused Absences:** More than two unexcused absences will result in reduction of the semester grade by one whole grade. More than three unexcused absences are grounds for failure.
 - **Excused Absences:** More than three excused absences will result in a reduction of the semester grade by one whole grade. More than four excused absences are grounds for failure.

LATENESS

- Come to class on time. Late arrivals affect the entire class and will hurt your grade; three late arrivals are equivalent to one absence.

HOMEWORK

- All class work and homework assignments are to be completed on time unless the professor grants a special extension.
- Homework is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will be marked down 1/2 grade per day.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

You will earn a letter grade for the course according to definitions on page 4. Individual assignments will be marked on a simple ✓-, ✓, ✓+ system. You will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Homework assessment standards:

1. Must be presented on due date (unless an extension is agreed to)
2. Demonstration in homework that assignment parameters are understood
3. Degree of conceptual understanding
4. Degree of technical skill
5. Quality of presentation
6. Willingness to revise assignments based on feedback when requested

Classwork assessment standards:

1. Attendance and punctuality
2. Participation in discussion and critiques
3. Attentiveness
4. Making good use of work time
5. Generosity and respect for fellow students

VI. GRADES

A, A- (Excellent)

The student has consistently demonstrated outstanding ability in comprehension and interpretation of the content of the course. He/she must exhibit leadership qualities in class, inspiring his/her peers in class work, homework and contribution in critiques.

B+, B, B- (Above Average)

The student has acquired a comprehensive knowledge of the content of the course. He/she has exhibited ample growth in both skills, ambition and leadership qualities.

C+, C, C- (Acceptable)

The student has shown satisfactory understanding of the content of the course. This student's talent, drive or growth is average.

D (Less than acceptable)

The student has lacked satisfactory understanding in some important respects. He/she has exhibited less than average growth, attendance and out of class requirements.

F (Failure)

The student has failed to meet the minimum standard for the course. Doesn't meet lateness or absence requirements, inadequate or incomplete homework and poor participation in class.

VII. POLICIES

All students must adhere to all Institute-wide policies as listed in the Bulletin under "Community Standards."

Anyone requiring special accommodations for disabilities must obtain clearance from the Office of Disabilities Services at the beginning to the semester. They should contact Mai McDonald in the Office of the VP for Student Affairs, 718 636-3711.

Further questions on academic issues: contact the Foundation Office, Room 430 Main, 718 636-3617