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MART 201H.50: History of Digital Arts and Culture

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MART 201

History of Digital Arts & Culture

2021

The University of Montana, Missoula

Online Course

Professor: Greg Twigg

Office Hours: T W R from 11am-12pm

In-Person at McGill 231

ZOOM-in @ <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/95096565656>

EMAIL: greg.twigg@umontana.edu

Graduate TA: Katie Moorish

Office Hours: By Appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to MART 201, a 14-session online course comprised of readings, curated videos and articles, assignments, quizzes and an essays that will help you learn the essential concepts, ideas and visionaries necessary for full participation in our tech-saturated, information-rich society. This course places current digital technologies within a historical context in order to understand and articulate how the digital world in which we live, and the tools with which we create, are connected to people, cultures and times before the latest innovations were even conceived. This knowledge will prepare students to engage with creative professionals across areas of expertise and to have a broader sense of their lives as citizens in a globally and historically connected world. We introduce the diverse innovators of the earliest computing, explore contemporary topics like artificial intelligence and Net Neutrality, and challenge students to make meaningful connections with the technology they use each day.

To begin, please read the Course Information section which will explain the principles of the course. Then move on to the assignments page to view quizzes and assignment information, as well as the semester schedule.

This course does not require any specific software or special equipment, other than a computer with access to the internet. You are here reading this, so I assume we have all that taken care of.

It is important to remember that all email correspondence sent through Moodle goes to your university email account so please check it regularly, even though you may use a different account as your primary. It is a legal requirement that all email exchanges do go through university mail servers, so if you need to forward email to a personal account, contact the university IT department to help make that happen.

Please notice that there will be a self assessment at the end of most sessions. These will not be graded or even visible by your instructor, but are in place as a way to make sure that you connected with the materials and are able to retain it in a meaningful way.

OBJECTIVES

MART 201 is a course that provides a comprehensive look at some of the major innovations, ideas and components that surround us in today's digital environment. We have tried to focus on the subjects that digital artists should be submerging themselves into, exploring, researching and pursuing as areas of creativity and professional development. We feel that it is critical for students to enter the real world with a solid understanding of these histories, concepts, tools and innovators in order to fully engage with other creatives and programmers, and move with confidence through a very complex industry that is in constant change. By the end of this course, we will understand the technical and conceptual foundations of new media and modern technologies and where they came from. We will understand and be able to write critically and clearly about the fundamentals of digital tools, including networking, digital culture, copyright, digital citizenship, interactivity, and basic health practices.

TOPICS

- Basic computation
- Structural components of modern computer hardware/software
- The internet, its history and functionality
- Net neutrality
- Relevant file formats
- Understand the concept of resolution as it pertains to print, video and web
- Cloud computing and Big Data
- 3D printing
- Microcomputers/processors
- Planned Obsolescence
- Video Games: History and Implications
- Virtual Reality
- Augmented Reality
- Copyright and Creative Commons
- Artificial Intelligence
- The Deep/Dark Web
- Robotics
- Digital Citizenship & Health

GRADING

Philosophy

It is a common misconception that teachers assign grades when in reality it is the student who earns the grade. You are responsible for the effort put into each project therefore you assign

your own grade. The purpose of grading, from a teachers perspective, is to clearly and accurately pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of your progress.

Evaluation

Your overall grade will be based on your understanding of the information and ideas discussed, your formal, technical, and conceptual progress as demonstrated in projects, your participation in peer discussions/evaluations, and professionalism during the course.

Grades will be based on the following formula:

Four posed questions 20% (5% each)

Four research units 20% (5% each)

Two reports will account for 40% of the final grade (20% each)

Final essay will account for 20% of the final grade

Grading Scale

Points (decimals will be rounded to the nearest whole number) will translate into the following letter grade:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D	60-69
F	0-59

There will be a total of 100 points for the course, making it easy to track the progress of your grade. Check your grade regularly throughout the semester. Please keep in mind that your grade will be represented as a number of points, not a percentage.

Late Submission Policy

IMPORTANT / LATE WORK: Projects handed in after the due date and time will have points deducted from the assignment. Those that are uploaded late, but within one day of the due date will automatically lose 1 point. For those uploaded after that, the number of deducted points will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Sensitive Subject Matter & Censorship

This course operates under a no-censorship policy, and you should feel free to experiment with challenging topics in your projects. That said - if you submit work with violent or sexually explicit themes, containing hate speech, racial slurs or other sensitive subject matter, I might contact you to request more background information on your choices.

Online etiquette

You are expected to conduct yourself with proper respect for the online classroom environment. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Be respectful of your peers and instructors.

Disability Services for Students

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. We will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification. If you are registered with DSS, please send an email at the beginning of the course with your paperwork attached.

Accessibility

We are currently in the process of transitioning the course to increase accessibility for all students. Please be in touch if you have any questions or would like to speak about accessibility concerns. We're happy to work with you and provide reasonable accommodations.

Incompletes

Students are responsible for completing the required coursework within the time frame of the semester. Students are NOT entitled to an Incomplete grade if the coursework is not completed. Incomplete grades are only given in cases of utmost emergency and are only assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

Academic Misconduct and Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/Dean%20of%20Students/default.phpmic> penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/Dean%20of%20Students/default.phpflavorName>