

NMED01H3S New Media Senior Project, Winter 2009

Course Lecturer: Gita Hashemi

<http://newmedia.opinionware.net>

Time: Thursdays 11:00-1:00 – Location: BV340

Contact Info

Email: <gita.hashemi@utoronto.ca> For most of this term, I will be off email Friday-Sunday inclusive. In the rest of the week, Mon-Thu, I try to reply within 24 hrs. Please use *only* your UTSC email address to contact me. I will *not* read/reply to email sent from any other address. I will be away and unavailable from March 27 to April 4 inclusive.

Office location and hours: B526D – Thu, 1:00-2:00 or by appointment (Email me.)

Course Description and Objectives

Welcome back. As you know, this is a capstone course for students majoring in New Media. As such, it is intended as a culminating experience, a space where you will develop your area(s) of special interest by integrating knowledge and skills you have gained in your academic majors. To that end, you will complete a major project of your own that demonstrates your ability to **extend, critique, and apply your knowledge and skills.**

Our work together will involve an iterative development and production process, discussions, presentations and formal and informal critique (in fine arts slang, ‘crits’). I believe you have all the skills and knowledge you must have in order to conceptualize, materialize and present a successful, meaningful and effective senior project. The knowledge and skills you do not have, you know how to get. So, my role will be that of a facilitator (I support), mentor (I guide), supervisor (I demand), critic (I evaluate).

On your part, success in this course requires a great deal of self-directedness, self-motivation and dedication to your work: In other words, a passion for your project and the commitment to working in class and, most prominently, outside class. As a capstone, this course also functions as a space for transitioning from an educational paradigm to a professional paradigm; therefore your commitment to keep up with the work is of utmost importance. The key factors for a productive experience remain your intellectual openness and curiosity, active participation, genuine effort and, this term more than ever, time management and organization. As part of our work, we will discuss strategies for project planning, structuring and management.

The assignments and grading are structured along two lines: senior project and seminar participation. You will have some time to revise and elaborate the proposal you submitted last term. You will submit periodic progress reports (2) and make a formal work-in-progress presentation prior to submitting your finished project. Your seminar participation requires that you actively engage in class discussions, critique your peers’ work formally (2) and informally, as well as participate in supporting your peers (in class and outside).

IMPORTANT: As our work progresses, it may be necessary to make changes to this outline, in particular to the schedule. Changes will be announced in class and on course website.

Last day to drop without academic penalty: Sunday, 22 March 2009.

Required Course Work	Weight	Due Date
Proposal revisions (wiki)	10%	by Thu, 05 Feb 2009
Progress reports (2, paper submission)	5%	Thus, 26 Feb and Mar 26 2009
Work-in-progress presentation (oral, visual + handout)	10%	Thus, 05, 12, 19 Mar 2009
Completed Senior Project (including documentation)	50%	Thu, 09 Apr 2009
(750 word essay + images + bio on wiki)	10%	
(Project deliverables)	40%	
Formal peer critique (2, on wiki)	5%	Thus, 12 Feb and 26 Mar 2009
Seminar participation	20%	Ongoing

Assignment description and criteria will be posted separately. All written assignments are due at the start of class unless otherwise indicated.

Schedule

Jan 15 – Term introduction, first review of proposals, group organization

Jan 22 – Discussion: Project planning and management; read N. Jenkins, “A Project Management Primer” (PDF on course website). Oral reports (Group A)

Jan 29 – Discussion: Topic TBA. Oral reports (Group B)

Feb 05 – Discussion: Topic to be decided by Group A. Group B will act as discussants.
Due: Revised Proposal

Feb 12 – Individual Consultations (sign-up for a time slot)
Due: Peer critique 1

Feb 19 – STUDY WEEK, NO CLASS

Feb 26 – Discussion: Topic to be decided by Group B. Group A will act as discussants.
Due: Progress Report 1

Mar 05 – Work-in-progress presentation and critique

Mar 12 – Work-in-progress presentation and critique

Mar 19 – Work-in-progress presentation and critique

Mar 26 – Individual Consultations (sign-up for a time slot)
Due: Peer critique 2 and Progress Report 2

Apr 02 – NO CLASS (I will be away and unavailable from March 27 to April 4 inclusive.)

Apr 09 – Senior Project Presentation 11 AM – 4 PM, ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY
(meeting time subject to change pending available space)

Course Policies and Expectations

Participation: As a seminar course, our work in class and outside primarily depends on your active participation. We will conduct a lot of formal and informal critiques of projects at various stages. You are expected to take serious interest in the work of your peers and actively contribute to critiquing them. Moreover, you must participate in your groups' assigned tasks.

Attendance: Your continued and punctual presence is *required*. Please inform me in advance if you know you will be absent, and provide appropriate reason and documentation. I expect that you arrive for class on time. Late arrivals and unexcused absences will be noted and affect your participation mark accordingly. Please make the habit to be there and to be punctual.

Meeting: I expect that you meet with me individually at least once during the term. It is your responsibility to sign up for this.

Lateness: Unexcused late submission of any course work results in 2% deduction from the final course grade per day late. All assignments are due at the start of class on the due date unless otherwise noted. If you must be late, it is entirely your responsibility to inform me and justify the lateness. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.

Work-in-Progress Presentation: It will be close to impossible to reschedule a presentation. Please do your best to present on your assigned date.

Senior Project Submission: There will be absolutely no extension of the deadline for submission of the final project including documentation. Your project will be marked based on what you submit on the due date. LATE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU PROVIDE VALID MEDICAL REASON AND DOCUMENTATION.

Collaboration: You will do some of your course work in collaboration with your peers. It is absolutely important that you do the work you are responsible for within the time you agree on. I consider all group members equally responsible for taking initiative and communicating.

Readings: There will be a few assigned articles. You are expected to read them before attending the class in which they will be discussed.

Time Commitment: On average, this course will require 7-9 HOURS OF DEDICATED STUDY/WORK OUTSIDE THE CLASS TIME.

Communication: You are responsible for checking the course website regularly for updates. As well, from time to time I will send out information as necessary to your UTSC email address. Please remember to check your email regularly.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the representation of the work of someone else as one's own work, and is a serious academic offense. I fully encourage you to draw from the material we engage with and discuss assignments with others in the class, but the work you actually submit should always be yours. Ideas and material obtained from any source should always be acknowledged and appropriately cited in your bibliography.

Learning to Critique

What is a critique?

A critique is an oral or written discussion strategy used to analyze, describe, and interpret works of art. Critiques help you hone your persuasive oral and writing, information-gathering, and justification skills.

Below is a sample set of focus questions for an art critique related to four major areas of art criticism: description, analysis, interpretation, judgment.

Description

Describe the work without using value words such as "beautiful" or "ugly":

- What is the written description on the label or in the program about the work?
- What is the title and who is (are) the artist(s)?
- When and where was the work created?
- Describe the elements of the work (i.e., line movement, light, space).
- Describe the technical qualities of the work (i.e., tools, materials, instruments).
- Describe the subject matter. What is it all about? Are there recognizable images?

Analysis

Describe how the work is organized as a complete composition:

- How is the work constructed or planned (i.e., acts, movements, lines)?
- Identify some of the similarities throughout the work (i.e., repetition of lines, two songs in each act).
- Identify some of the points of emphasis in the work (i.e., specific scene, figure, movement).
- If the work has subjects or characters, what are the relationships between or among them?

Interpretation

Describe how the work makes you think or feel:

- Describe the expressive qualities you find in the work. What expressive language would you use to describe the qualities (i.e., tragic, ugly, funny)?
- Does the work remind you of other things you have experienced (i.e., analogy or metaphor)?
- How does the work relate to other ideas or events in the world and/or in your other studies?

Judgment or Evaluation

Present your opinion of the work's success or failure:

- What qualities of the work make you feel it is a success or failure?
- Compare it with similar works that you think are good or bad.
- What criteria can you list to help others judge this work?
- How original is the work? Why do you feel this work is original or not original?

Source: <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3338/>