Designing for Live Performance ITPG-GT.2521
Andrew Lazarow
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Monday, 11:00 - 1:55
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 - 3:00

Course Description:

For centuries, great works of music, theater, and dance, have combined art and science to make integrated performances that move audiences. Today, we are seeing major changes as artists experiment with video and real-time interactivity to draw audiences even deeper into the performance, and enhance the shared experience of the moment. This class explores conceptual approaches to design, contemporary software, prototyping frameworks, and data flow programming to provide student designers with the cutting-edge tools necessary to confidently collaborate with writers, directors, and performers. Structured as a studio course, students will make designs for iconic theater pieces, and collaborate with working artists to design original projects.

Assignments will include:

• Readings and blog post responses.
• Exercises in distilling ideas and reactions to scripts.
• Creating conceptual designs based on a story.
• Making model boxes as scenic designs with a team.
• Exercises in dataflow programming.
• A Midterm: Projecting prototype projections onto model box of a contemporary show.
• A Final: Designing a prototype for a new project being written, and full scale designs for a key scene/song.

Partnerships:
The course will bring in working professionals and guest critics. The final will also pair students with new projects written by working writers.

Attendance and credit
Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Two (2) absences – excused or unexcused - will result in failure of the course. Chronic late arrivals will weigh significantly on your final grade.

Students are expected to demonstrate – and are graded on - continued effort, participation and progress in all aspects of the course.
All assignments must be submitted to pass this course. Assignments are to be submitted on time. There is no make-up work in this course.

Blog posts, 10%
Design and programming exercises, 15%
Midterm and Midterm Presentation, 25%
Final and Final presentation, 35%
Participation, 15%

Outline (subject to change)

Assignment:
Read: *Empty Space* by Peter Brook excerpts.
Read: “Visits to a Small Planet” by Elanor Fuchs.
Read: “XTeam Advantage” by Henrik Bresman & Katrin Kaeufer
Post response on blog.

Assignments:
Read: Play 1.
Post: Elanor Fuchs responses and Conceptual Sentences on blog.
Make: "Cornell Box" emotional response.
Start: Empty Model Box.

Assignments:
Finish: Blank model box.
Build: Set for play 1
Include: Dream Cast
  Assignments:
  Read: Midterm Project.
  Read “Innovating The Adjacent Possible” by James L. McQuivey.
  Post: Fuchs response / One sentence
  Post: Response to “Innovating the Adjacent Possible.”
  Prepare: Visual Research.
  Start: White Model.

Week Five 10/7/2013. Present Midterm source material and white models. Overview of projection surfaces. Intro to data flow programming in Isadora.
  Assignments:
  Continue: Color Model Draft.
  Integrate: Projections of at least three moments onto model.
  Start: Moving image design of one song.

FALL BREAK

  Assignments:
  Finish Midterm.

Week Seven 10/28/2013. Present Midterms to guest critics.
  Assignments:
  Make: Groups for Finals.
  Read: Finals Assignments.
  Cast: Group

  Assignments:
  Create: Image research
  Break: Primary Scene into Beats.
  Post: Fuch’s responses / Concept Sentences
  Start: White Model
  Meet: With writers of final.

Assignments:
  Continue: Color model
  Create: Simple interactive projection element
  Create: Initial movement for primary scene

**Week Ten 11/18/2013.** Present progress on final. Work through movement elements and interactivity. Skill topics TBD.
  Assignments:
    Continue: Work on final.
    Create: Draft of video for primary scene

**Week Eleven 11/25/2013.** Show design drafts with movement elements. Work through scenes and presentation.
  Assignments:
    Continue work on final design.
    Include: Interactivity if not already present.

**Week Twelve 12/2/2013.** Prepare final for presentation.