



The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Design and  
Creative Technologies  
College of Fine Arts

## Foundations Of Arts And Entertainment Technologies AET 304

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*"In this electronic age, we see ourselves being translated more and more into the form of information, moving toward the technological extension of consciousness." – Marshall McLuhan*

**Spring 2019, LAITS Online Broadcast  
MW, 10:00 – 11:30 am (and On Demand)**

**Instructor:** Jack W. Stamps, DMA  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 2-3pm in the Foundry (main level DFA)  
**Lead TA:** Thomas B. Yee, MM  
**TA Team Email:** [onlineaet304ta@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:onlineaet304ta@austin.utexas.edu)

**Only** email the above address for AET 304-related matters! Any emails sent to Dr. Stamps or Thomas directly will **not be responded to**. Any contact made to other staff or faculty of the School of Design and Creative Technologies or the College of Fine Arts about AET 304 matters will be considered a **violation of class policy** and may negatively affect the consideration of your request.

### **I. Rationale:**

This course presents a broad overview of digital media technologies, software and applications along with the fundamental concepts of digital representations of images and signals. Students will study an assortment of entertainment concepts or experiences, discover the underlying technology involved and learn how this technology is delivered to the participant. For example: What is the relationship between circuit-bending and DIY electronics? How does interactive art work? How do robotic lights move? How can a dancer's body movements affect the music that accompanies the dance? What goes on behind the scenes of a large-scale live musical performance? How are 3D printers changing art, manufacturing, and medicine? In pursuit of answers to such questions students will also consider the cultural, philosophical, ethical and practical aspects of entertainment technology.

### **II. Course Aims and Objectives:**

*By the end of this course, students will:*

- Understand the history, present and future of arts and entertainment technologies

- Consider the historical landmarks of entertainment technologies and their continuing impact on popular culture aesthetics of the present and future
- Experience and investigate a wide range of cutting-edge arts and entertainment technologies
- Personally engage arts and entertainment technologies through three creative projects
- Gain introductory experience on visual- and audio-editing software and crowdfunding tools
- Explore the infinite combinatorial possibilities of arts and entertainment technologies
- Consider the cultural/political/economic implications of arts and entertainment technologies
- Think critically about how, why, and where entertainment technologies are deployed

### III. **Assessment Model:**

#### **Attendance and Content Completion: 15%**

Attendance credit for the first three class sessions is assessed automatically based on being logged in to the LAITS broadcast stream in Canvas for the **entirety** of the class session. Completion credit for the On Demand content after the third class session is assessed by viewing the entirety of video content or reading the entirety of text content. Attendance credit for the first three class sessions may be excused by requesting excused absences (see Section VI below). Completion of the On Demand modules may not be excused. All content must be complete by **May 8 at 11:59 PM**.

#### **Session Comprehension Checks: 10%**

Comprehension checks during the first three class sessions will be assessed by Instapolls sent over the LAITS broadcast stream in Canvas. You **must** be logged in to the stream when the Instapoll begins to receive the Instapoll. If the Instapoll does not initially appear, **do not refresh** your webpage; the timing of receiving the Instapoll varies based on internet connection. Comprehension checks for the On Demand content after the third class session is administered at various points during the video content. The checks **must be completed at that time**; backtracking in the video or refreshing the page will forfeit your ability to answer the check. Therefore, attentiveness throughout the video content is **essential**. Instapolls for the first three class sessions may be excused by requesting excused absences (see Section VI). On Demand checks may not be excused. All content must be complete by **May 8 at 11:59 PM**.

#### **Quizzes (during “live” sessions) (4): 20%**

Each is worth 5% total semester grade. Email the TAs for a make-up quiz **up to one week later**.

#### **Topical Discussions (during “live” sessions) (4): 16%**

Each is worth 4% total semester grade. Email the TAs for a make-up discussion **up to one week later**.

#### **Creative Projects (3): 24%**

Please see the Assignment Prompts in Canvas for detailed instructions about each Creative Project. Projects will be accepted up to two weeks after the due date with an **increasing late penalty**. After the two weeks are up, any late projects must be emailed directly to the TA Team and can only receive 50% maximum of the original grade value. **May 8** by 11:59 PM is the deadline for accepting late assignments.

#### **Final Exam (1): 15%**

Absolutely **no late submissions will be accepted** for the Final Exam. A study packet will be provided.

### Letter Grade Policy:

To ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will **not be rounded up or down** at any stage. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999... The University does not recognize the grade of A+. Thus, the conversion from percentage value to letter grade is as follows:

A = 94 – 100  
A- = 90 – 93.999...  
B+ = 87 – 89.999...  
B = 84 – 86.999...  
B- = 80 – 83.999...  
C+ = 77 – 79.999...  
C = 74 – 76.999...  
C- = 70 – 73.999...  
D+ = 67 – 69.999...  
D = 64 – 66.999...  
D- = 60 – 63.999...  
F = 0 – 59.999...

## IV. Academic Integrity

### Cheating and Plagiarism

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the student Honor Code and Academic Integrity policies as outlined by the Office of the Dean of Students [here](#). Infractions of this policy will be **severely penalized**. We have uncovered evidence of students cheating on quizzes or caught plagiarism on creative projects red-handed in past semesters. In such cases, **failing** the course, **suspension** from school, or even **expulsion** are all penalties that may be applied at the discretion of the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic Dishonesty may ruin your **grade, academic career**, and can **stain your reputation** for decades to come.

### Academic Dishonesty

“Academic dishonesty” or “scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such an act. In AET 304, this includes but is not limited to:

- 1) Submitting all or part of someone else’s work as your own, **without properly crediting** your sources (this especially applies to creative projects). When in doubt, **cite your sources!**
- 2) **Sharing answers** to Comprehension Checks, Quizzes, or the Final Exam with other students
- 3) Taking Comprehension Checks, Quizzes, or the Final Exam together with other students. If you are with other students during the broadcast, **do not** interact with them while taking these.
- 4) **Using forbidden aids** like internet searches on Comprehension Checks, Quizzes, or the Final Exam

## V. Course Schedule

AET304 Course Syllabus

Week	Date(s)	Topic	Assignments and Comments
1	1/23	Introduction, Syllabus	<b>Live Session:</b> 10:00 – 11:30 AM, LAITS Video Stream Tool
<b>I. Music and Audio Technology</b>			
2	1/28 1/30	The History of Music Technology A Closer Look at Logic X	<b>Live Session:</b> 10:00 – 11:30 AM, LAITS Video Stream Tool <b>Live Session:</b> 10:00 – 11:30 AM, LAITS Video Stream Tool
3	2/3-2/9	Modern Songwriting Music and Concert Technologies	From Week 3 on, all content will be viewed <b>On Demand</b> through the <b>Modules</b> tab at your convenience/schedule.
4	2/10-2/16	Benefits and Consequences Cultural Implications of Sampling	
5.1	2/17-2/23 2/20	Adapting to the Digital Revolution <b>Live:</b> Unit I Discussion and Quiz	
<b>II. Performance &amp; Visual Technology</b>			
5.2	2/17-2/23	Tools of Digital Visualization	
6	2/24-3/2	The .GIF as Art Form Robotics and Entertainment	<b>Creative Project 1:</b> Short Recursive Animation (Due 3/9)
7	3/3-3/9 3/6	Projection Design Max/MSP <b>Live:</b> Unit II Discussion and Quiz	
<b>III. The World of Video Gaming</b>			
8	3/10-3/16 3/17-3/23	From Pong to Tomorrow Mobile Apps and Gaming <b>Spring Break:</b> No Class!	
9	3/24-3/30	Virtual Reality Augmented Reality	
10	3/31-4/6	The Sociology of Gaming Gaming Aesthetics Studies	<b>Creative Project 2:</b> Video Game Crowdfunding (Due 4/13)
11.1	4/7-4/13 4/10	Video Game Design <b>Live:</b> Unit III Discussion and Quiz	
<b>IV. The Democratization of Technology</b>			
11.2	4/7-4/13	Makerspaces and DIY Technology	
12	4/14-4/20	Podcasting	<b>Creative Project 3:</b> Podcast Episode (Due 4/27)
13	4/21-4/27	Processing	
14	4/28-5/4 5/1	Subversive Technologies Redemptive Technologies <b>Live:</b> Unit IV Discussion and Quiz	
<b>V. The New Heuristics of Art</b>			
15	5/5-5/8 5/9-5/11	The Device Course Wrap-up and Takeaways <b>Final Exam:</b> administered via Canvas	Final Exam Study Packet Distributed (approx.. 5/5) <b>Late Projects</b> (up to 50% Total Credit): Due 5/8, 11:59 PM <b>Extra Credit</b> (from last two weeks): Due 5/8, 11:59 PM <b>Absolutely no late submissions accepted!</b> Due 5/11, 11:59 PM

## VI. AET 304 Class Policies

### 1. Class attendance and participation policy:

AET 304 in Spring 2019 is a **hybrid broadcast course**. This means that the first three class sessions will take place **live** at the class times listed above. After the third class session, the course content will be delivered in an **On Demand** format through the Canvas modules tab. This means that students will be able to view video- and text-based content based on their own schedules and optimal learning conditions.

- (a) For the first three live class sessions, attendance—and *attentiveness*—is essential and required. Attendance is facilitated through the LAITS broadcast stream in Canvas and assessed by Instapolls. Students must attend the **entire session** to be counted present.
- (b) After the third class session, attendance and participation is assessed automatically via viewing video- and text-based content in the Modules tab in Canvas. Attentiveness is essential, and multitasking during video content is **highly discouraged**. Students must view the **entirety** of video content to receive completion credit.
- (c) In addition to the first three live class sessions, there will be **four live sessions** (one per unit) throughout the semester. Each of these sessions will consist of one Topical Discussion followed by one Quiz over the unit material. These sessions will take place in the normal class time—**10:00 – 11:30 AM**. The full session time may not be needed.
- (d) If one must miss a class session and desires to ask for an excused absence, it is the *student's* responsibility to let the TA team know by email **in advance** of the absence. An excused absence **may not be** granted if you notify us only after missing a class session. It is the **student's responsibility** to catch up with material or class activities missed due to the absence—the TA team will not necessarily remind the student of what needs to be made up from the class session missed.
- (e) Instapolls and Attendance in the first three class sessions may be excused, but the Topical Discussions and Quizzes in the four live sessions **must be made up** or they will receive zeroes. Make-up Quizzes may be taken **within one week** of the live class session, and make-up Topical Discussions may be submitted **within one week** as well. Contact the TA email to schedule a make-up Quiz or receive instructions for a make-up Discussion.

#### Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify the TA Team of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, we will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. With advance notice, we are happy to accommodate religious holy days.

### 2. Required Course Materials:

**Required Textbook:** *Pixels, Samples, Lumens, Illusion* by Dr. Jack W. Stamps. **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**. Kendall Hunt Publishing (Dubuque, IA: 2018). Available in the UT Co-Op in paperback or as a digital copy at the below link (with a \$35 discount!):

<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/pixels-samples-lumens-illusion-foundations-art-and-entertainment-technologies>

The textbook comes with a one-use code for accessing online supplemental materials including links to videos, websites, music tracks, and more. Being able to access these online supplemental materials will be **essential** to success in the course. Thus, buying a physical or digital textbook with a **working access code** is required. Buying a used textbook may result in having an access code that has already been used once and is thus invalid. Buying a new digital copy from the link above is **highly recommended**.

### 3. Piazza and Email Correspondence:

There are two modes of correspondence between students and the teacher/TA team in AET 304: **Piazza** and **Email**. Carefully note the appropriate usage of the two tools:

**Piazza:** Accessible through a tab in Canvas, Piazza works as a **forum space** for AET 304 students to ask questions about the course materials, discuss interesting course-related topics, and quickly answer each other's questions if **TA action or attention is not required**. For example: if a student needs to clarify a question about the Creative Project instructions, the student may ask on Piazza and receive confirmation or clarification from other students in the course. Dr. Stamps and the TA Team reserve the right to delete posts that are inappropriate, off-topic, rude to classmates, or violate academic integrity.

**Email:** Any student request that **requires TA action or attention** must be directed to the TA Team email. Requests made through other channels will not be acknowledged.

## VII. Other University Notices and Policies

### Documented Disability Statement

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 or 1-866-329-3986. AET 304 will be unable to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. *(Note to Faculty: Details of a student's disability are confidential. Faculty should not ask questions related to a student's condition or diagnosis when receiving an official accommodation letter.)*

- If you require accommodations on completing assignments and quizzes/exams, please email a digital copy of your official SSD accommodations letter to the shared TA email address as soon as possible. We will be happy to provide accommodations as specified in the accommodation letter from SSD.
- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).
- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information:  
[http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for\\_cstudents.php](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php)

### Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

### Q drop Policy

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:

"Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

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