

**Digital Design 102: Media Design in the Digital Age**

**Professor TBA**

Meets: TBA  
Email: n/a  
Office: TBA  
Phone: n/a

**Course description:**

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of new media, its definitions, and potential design. We will explore the basic principles and construction methods as well as historical precedents to digital based media. Along the way students will gain a better understanding of how computers and their systems work, and be exposed to some of the leaders in digital art and design, as well as being exposed to examples of these leaders' work and their resulting impact on the medium.

**Course objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will have learned:

- A history of computers & computer art
- A history of the World Wide Web
- Methods & examples of 2 dimensional digital design
- Methods & examples of 3 dimensional digital design
- How computers & their components work
- Principles of New Media
- How the Internet was designed & how it functions
- Concepts of virtual reality & identity
- What is and what is not New Media

**Credit Hours:**

3 hours

**Pre-requisites:**

None

**Required readings:**

*Hamlet on the Holodeck* by Janet Murray  
*How Computers Work* by Ron White  
*The Computer in the Visual Arts* by Anne Spalter  
*The Language of New Media* by Lev Manovich

**Strongly suggested:**

While this class has not been designated as 'web-enhanced,' it is strongly urged that students wishing to take full advantage of the class have:

- Some familiarity with the Internet;
- Access to the Internet from home or elsewhere
- An active email account.

**Due dates:**

Late assignments will not be accepted without a physician's or counselor's note.

**Grading:**

Quizes	40
Paper	20
Final Exam	20
Participation	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grades:**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-50	F

There is no R grade in this course.

**Media Design in the Digital Age (MDDA) assignments:**

This course is almost entirely made up of lecture and discussion of assigned readings. Staying on top of the reading assignments is essential in order to be informed and make contributions during in-class discussions. These readings will reference and introduce concepts and vocabulary that may at times be unfamiliar and so require students to do independent research. This will be expected.

20% of the grade will be based on engagement and consistent attendance. The balance of the grade will be determined by four quizzes, one research paper and a final exam over the 15 week course.

Assignment	Type	Date	Graded Points
Quiz	In class	Q1	10
Quiz	In class	Q2	10
Quiz	In class	Q3	10
Quiz	In class	Q4	10
Paper	Take-home	RP1	20
Final Exam	In class	E1	20
<b>Total</b>			80

**Notes on the grading criteria:**

Work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Understanding and interpretation of readings
- Research and Analysis of related issues
- Contribution to in-class discussion

**The MDDA assignments:**

What follows are brief descriptions of the MDDA assignments students will be doing over the course of the term. Detailed instructions will be provided in-class. Without a physician's or counselor's note, late assignments will not be accepted and so will receive a grade of 0.

**Quiz 1**

On all readings and lectures to date

**Quiz 2**

On all readings and lectures since quiz 1

**Quiz 3**

On all readings and lectures since quiz 2

**Quiz 4**

On all readings and lectures since quiz 3

## **The MDDA assignments (continued):**

### **Research Paper**

Research and analyze information regarding a New Media artist or designer. How does this person's work represent new media? What are their inspirations and precedents? What does their work mean to you?  
The final deliverable should be 4-6 pages in length excluding cover page and endnotes.

### **Final Exam**

On all readings and lectures to date

### **Participation:**

A student's participation grade is based primarily on their attendance and participation in class. Every student begins the term with 20 participation points. Attendance is mandatory for every single scheduled class. For each class missed, 6 participation points will be deducted. Tardy students will have 2 participation points deducted. More than three absences amounts to a failure, as a student may not earn less than 0 participation points.

### **Academic policies (from Catalogue):**

Hostos Community College believes that developing student's abilities to think through issues and problems by themselves is central to the educational process. Since the Hostos College degree signifies that the student knows the material s/he has studied, and the practice of academic dishonesty results in grades or scores that do not reflect how much or how well the student has learned, understood, or mastered the material, the College will investigate any form of academic dishonesty brought to its attention. If the charge of academic dishonesty is proved, the College will impose sanctions. The three most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating, plagiarism, and bribery.

### **Cheating (from Catalogue):**

In the collegiate setting, cheating is defined as the purposeful misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. Faculty and students alike are responsible for upholding the integrity of this institution by not participating either directly or indirectly in act of cheating and by discouraging others from doing so.

### **Plagiarism (from Catalogue):**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which occurs when persons, even if unintentionally, fail to acknowledge appropriately the sources for the ideas, language, concepts, inventions, etc. referred to in their own work. Thus, any attempt to claim another's intellectual or artistic work as one's own constitutes an act of plagiarism.

### **Bribery (from Catalogue):**

In the collegiate setting, bribery involves the offering, promising, or giving of items of value, such as money or gifts, to a person in a position of authority, such as a teacher, administrator, or staff member, so as to influence his/her judgment or conduct in favor of the student. The offering of sexual favors in exchange for a grade, test score, or other academic favor, shall be considered attempted bribery. The matter of sexual favors, either requested or offered, in exchange for a grade, test score or other academic favor, shall also be handled as per the Sexual Harassment procedures of the College.

### **College attendance policy (from Catalogue):**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings in the courses for which they are registered. Classes begin at the times indicated in the official schedule of classes. Arrival in class after the scheduled starting time constitutes lateness.

The maximum number of absences is limited to 15% of the number of scheduled class hours per semester and a student absent more than the indicated 15% is deemed excessively absent. Attendance is monitored from the first official day of classes. In the case of excessive absences or lateness, the instructor has the right to lower the grade, assign a failing grade, or assign additional written work or readings.

Absences due to late registration, change of program, or extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the instructor. Each department and program may specify in writing a different attendance policy. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance and inform each class of the College's or department attendance policy.

NOTE:

- Any work missed during any period of absence must be made up by the student.
- To meet financial aid criteria, a student must attend class at least once in the first three weeks and once in either the fourth or fifth week of class.

**Course schedule:**

Readings must be completed for each class. Not all assigned texts will be discussed in class or covered in the class lectures.

CLASS	MDDA Project Due	ROOM	TOPIC	READ FOR TODAY
1		TBA	Discussion: Class Introduction Considerations of digital media	No reading
2		TBA	Discussion: Computers & art	Spalter's - <b><i>The Computer in the Visual Arts</i></b> Computers & Computer Art: A Brief History Pp2-23
3	Q1	TBA	Discussion: Computers & art  Quiz	Spalter's - <b><i>The Computer in the Visual Arts</i></b> Computers & Computer Art: A Brief History Pp24-36
4		TBA	Discussion: The Computer	White's - <b><i>How Computers Work</i></b> Part 1: The Boot-Up Process Pp2-33
5		TBA	Discussion: The Components	White's - <b><i>How Computers Work</i></b> Part 3: Microchips Pp92-119
6	Q2	TBA	Discussion: The Internet is born Quiz	Spalter's - <b><i>The Computer in the Visual Arts</i></b> The World Wide Web Pp413-438
7		TBA	Discussion: Internet technology	White's - <b><i>How Computers Work</i></b> Part 7: How the Internet Works Pp294-331

8		TBA	Discussion: Defining New Media	Manovich's - <b><i>The Language of New Media</i></b> What is New Media? & How Media Became New Pp18-26
9		TBA	Discussion: Elements of New Media	Manovich's - <b><i>The Language of New Media</i></b> Principles of New Media Pp27-48
10	Q3	TBA	Discussion: New Media in Context Quiz	Manovich's - <b><i>The Language of New Media</i></b> What New Media is Not Pp49-61
11		TBA	Discussion: 2D Digital Design Research Paper Explained	Spalter's - <b><i>The Computer in the Visual Arts</i></b> Digital Design & Layout – 2D Geometric Graphics Pp117-158
12		TBA	Discussion: 3D Digital Design	Spalter's - <b><i>The Computer in the Visual Arts</i></b> Building 3D Worlds – 3D Geometric Graphics I Pp211-256
13	Q4	TBA	Discussion: Dreaming of the Future Quiz	Murray's – <b><i>Hamlet on the Holodeck</i></b> Lord Burleigh's Kiss Pp13-26
14	RP1	TBA	Discussion: Realizing the Future  Paper due	Murray's – <b><i>Hamlet on the Holodeck</i></b> Harbingers of the Holodeck Pp27-64
15	E1	TBA	Final Exam	No reading

COURSE ID	-
PASSWORD	-