

**MUS 270A/FA 270A/S&T 270A: Collaboration Across the Arts**  
**Fall Semester 2004 Monday & Wednesday 12:00-1:30**  
**Griffiths 43**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Watts, GR 30 Phone: 229-5138 email: cwatts@stlawu.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30, Tuesday and Thursday 10-11, or by appointment

**Course Overview:** The direction of this course will be determined largely by the unique combination of students who participate. At the beginning of the semester, students will form groups of two or three to work on a collaborative project of their own design reflecting their collective interests. For example, a pair of students may create a multimedia work with one student providing the image and another providing the sound. This is only one type of project, as students working in visual art, music, video, film, drama, rhetoric, writing, or any number of other disciplines may wish to participate. Class sessions will feature group critiques of works in progress, study of example works, discussions of relevant aesthetic issues, drawing connections across media, and strategies for collaborative work.

**Assignments:** A group project that brings together two or more media will be due at the end of the semester. Several mini-projects will be assigned to assist in developing the necessary technological skills (These will be determined by need.) There will be seven reading assignments over the course of the semester, and each student will turn in article summaries (approximately two pages in length) for any four of these. Article summaries are due at the beginning of class on the days the articles are to be discussed. Additionally, each student will turn in a self-critique of their group's progress twice during the semester. These critiques are to be completed individually, without consulting other group members. See the schedule below for the due dates of all assignments.

**Presentation:** At the end of the semester, we will present the projects to the campus community in an informal "concert." The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, at 8:00pm in Gilbert Recital Hall.

**Text:** No text is required.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Class Participation:	25%
Article Summaries:	25%
Critiques:	10%
Mini-projects:	10%
Group Project:	30%

All grades will be given on a 100-point scale. At the end of the semester, I will convert your grade to the 4-point scale in the following manner:

90-100% = 4.0	80-86% = 3.0	70-76% = 2.0
87-89% = 3.5	77-79% = 2.5	etc.

You may meet with me at any time during the semester to discuss your grade.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are permitted 3 unexcused absences during the quarter. Each additional unexcused absence will harm the student's class participation grade. Being tardy 3 times will be counted as one absence.

**Arts Technology Center Access Policy:** The Arts Technology Center is open to students Sunday – Thursday from 4-11pm. Do not change any software settings or hardware configuration without the permission of the instructor. Do not connect any of your own equipment to the lab equipment without the permission of the instructor. Lab monitors are available to help with minor problems; however, the lab monitors cannot be expected to know what we are doing in class and assist with assignments. Notify the lab monitors if there is a problem with the equipment. Please see me during office hours or make an appointment if you need help outside of class. Do not bring food or drink into the lab.

**Equipment Checkout:** MiniDisc audio recorders and a DV camcorder are available for check out to members of the class. Please keep these items out only as long as necessary so that others will have access. The MiniDisc recorders can be checked out from the student worker in the Arts Technology Lab. The DV camcorder can be checked out from Dr. Watts' office.

**Schedule** (subject to change):

Week 1

August 30: Introduction and review of course materials

September 1: Media and Mediation: *Strange Days*

Week 2

September 6: Discuss assigned readings:

Slayton, Joel A. "Collaboration as Media." *Leonardo* 35(3): 231-2.

and

Higgins, Richard. "Mediocracy." In *Modernism Since Postmodernism: Essays on Intermedia*. San Diego: San Diego University Press, 1997. 56-64.

September 8: Choose groups and begin project planning

Week 3

September 13: Discuss assigned reading:

Higgins, Richard. "Intermedia." In *Multimedia: from Wagner to Virtual Reality*, ed. by Randall Packer and Ken Jordan. New York: Norton, 2001. 27-32.

September 15: View and discuss example works: Fluxus

Week 4

September 20: Discuss assigned reading:

Pearce, Celia, Sara Diamond, and Mark Beam. "BRIDGES I: Interdisciplinary Collaboration as Practice." *Leonardo* 36(2): 123-8.

September 22: Guest lecturer: developing skills for collaboration

Week 5

September 27: Discuss works-in-progress

September 29: In-class work on projects

### Week 6

October 4: Critique works-in-progress; **FIRST SELF-CRITIQUE DUE**

October 6: Critique works-in-progress

**OCTOBER 8: REQUIRED CONCERT: Dan Koppelman, 8pm, Gilbert Recital Hall**

**OCTOBER 9: REQUIRED MASTERCLASS: Dan Koppelman, 11am, Gilbert Recital Hall**

### Week 7

October 11: View and discuss example works: Jøran Rudi

October 13: Individual meetings

### Week 8

October 18: In-class work on projects

October 20: Discuss assigned readings:

Paul, Christine. "Renderings of Digital Art." *Leonardo* 35(5): 471-84.

and

Ippolito, John: "Ten Myths of Internet Art." *Leonardo* 35(5): 485-98.

### Week 9

October 25: View and discuss example works: net art

October 27: Critique works-in-progress

### Week 10

November 1: Critique works-in-progress

November 3: In-class work time

### Week 11

November 8: Discuss assigned readings:

Cohen, Janet, Keith Frank, and Jon Ippolito. "Adversarial Collaborations." In *Net Condition: Art and Global Media*, Peter Weibel and Timothy Druckrey, eds. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001. 188-89.

and

Bolter, Jay David and Richard Grusin. "The Double Logic of Remediation." In *Remediation: Understanding New Media*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999. 3-15.

November 10: Critique works-in-progress; **SECOND SELF-CRITIQUE DUE**

### Week 12

November 15: Critique works-in-progress

November 17: In-class work time: finishing up!

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

### Week 13

November 29: **PROJECTS DUE: present to class**

December 1: Prepare for presentation

**DECEMBER 2: PRESENTATION 8:00pm GILBERT RECITAL HALL**

Week 14

December 6: Post-mortem on presentation; feedback on course

December 8: Discuss assigned reading:

Lovejoy, Margot. "Transaesthetics." In *Postmodern Currents: Art and Artists in the Age of Electronic Media*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Simon and Schuster, 1997. 247-85.

Exam Week

No Exam