

ART 2691 Intro to Digital Media

CRN: 43493

T/T 11-1:30p

<http://jdsperry.people.yzu.edu>

Bliss 4047

DANA SPERRY<https://ysu.webex.com/meet/jdsperry>

M 11-1p, M/W 3:30-5p*

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*office hours: WebEx or Bliss 4047

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give students a technical and theoretical overview of digital media as a means of personal and cultural expression, strengthening visual literacy. Students will explore static and dynamic digital methods.

Prereq.: ART1503 or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION EXTRA

While this course will include demonstrations to build technological competency, students are expected to develop a sense of being self-guided and self-motivated. Emphasis will also be placed on developing content with passion and creativity and embracing failure as an integral part of the creative process to foster growth and inspire innovation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to create collage imagery in Photoshop
- Students will be able to create a basic animation/video
- Students will be able to create interactive sketches using p5.js
- Students will have a broader understanding of the digital medium in relation to artistic and cultural production
- Students will have greater insight into their own creative passions and desires

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Computer with internet access

access to Adobe (Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects)

Headphones

Media storage (portable hard drive, etc.)

Sketchbook/notebook

Discord Account

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Projects 90%

Thoughts, class participation 10%

ARTIST LECTURES

Watching lectures in the Department of Art Lecture Series, the Beecher Center Lecture Series or the McDonough Museum of Art will be necessary for 'Thoughts' assignment.

GRADING

Assignments will be graded using a combination of technical execution, aesthetic value and creative risk-taking in relation to the objectives/guidelines given. These guidelines will be given at the beginning of each assignment. Because creative process is an emergent process, the objectives of the assignment may start of as open-ended and gain clarity through the process of making, one-on-one conversations with the instructor as well as group critiques.

From the YSU Undergraduate Bulletin:

A represents exceptional work in which the student shows that he or she has firmly grasped and achieved the objectives of the course.

B indicates very good work and considerable grasp of the essentials of the course.

C indicates good work and a usable grasp of the essentials of the course.

D indicates a definite, but not necessarily coherent, knowledge of the course.

F indicates that the student has not achieved even a minimum grasp of the essentials of the course.

LOST WORK

Lost work is viewed as work not completed. Protect all work with great care.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance (watching demos, completing assignments on time, etc.) is mandatory due to the participatory structure of the course. Come with your supplies and ready to work.

If you are encountering problems meeting deadlines, contact the instructor as soon as possible to create a potential solution together, if possible. If you know you will need to miss class ahead of time, please let the instructor know beforehand to create a plan more any missed work.

[YSU Attendance Policy](#): addresses excused absences for participation in university-sponsored events, government-related activities, religious observances, death of a family member, and documented personal illness. If you are in a situation that fits this, please get in touch with me via email immediately so we may start working together to devise a plan.

<https://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-policies-procedures/grading-system/>

More information about the YSU's policy on Religious Accommodations of Students can be found here:

<https://ysu.edu/sites/default/files/users/elhungerman/3356-8-09%20Religious%20accommodations%20of%20students.pdf>

MAKE UP POLICY

Students who miss a class must contact the instructor with 24-48 hours of missing the class. The instructor will work with the student to make a plan; however, all demonstrations and assignments will be recorded and posted.

Again, If the student knows they are going to miss ahead of time, the student should reach out to the instructor beforehand to make a plan.

CLASS CANCELLATION

If this class is being cancelled for any one day due to instructor illness, or other reasons, an e-mail will be sent to the student's YSU e-mail account as soon as possible, and a cancelled class notice will be put on the classroom door. University-wide class cancellation is a decision made by the President's Office, and officially announced via the YSU homepage and on WYSU (88.5 FM) radio. Students may also register at the YSU Portal to receive a text message about University-Wide closures via the Emergency Alert Notification System.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to add classes or change a grade option is **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**. The last day to withdraw from the class and receive a full refund is **Sunday, September 7, 2025**. The last day to withdraw from class (without a refund) is **Sunday, October 26, 2025**.

COMMUNICATION

YSU's e-mail system will be used for correspondence outside of class meetings. Students are required to obtain and use an official Youngstown State University email address.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

<https://ysu.edu/institute-teaching-and-learning/syllabus-university-policies>

[University policies](#) can be found online and provide you guidance on your rights as a student in this course. The links below take you directly to a specific policy. Should you have any questions about a policy, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information at the top of the syllabus.

- [Statement of Non-Discrimination from the University](#)
- [Academic Integrity/Honesty](#)
- [Student Accessibility](#)
- [Incomplete Grade Policy](#)
- [YSU Attendance Policy](#)

FACULTY EVALUATIONS

In an effort to constantly improve courses, faculty take the responses from students in the faculty evaluations seriously. Please fill them out.

HONORS CONTRACTS

Honors students may contract this course for honors credit. Notify your instructor of your interest to discuss options, complete required paperwork, and submit to instructor by the semester deadline.

CREATIVE INQUIRY and INDEPENDENT THINKING

This course is a space for exploration and creativity. Materials and discussions are designed to spark ideas, challenge assumptions, and encourage new ways of seeing. You are invited to experiment, question, and imagine freely. While multiple viewpoints will be introduced, you are not expected to adopt any single perspective. Instead, you are encouraged to think critically, engage respectfully, and develop your own creative and informed conclusions.

SCHEDULE

<http://jdsperry.people.ysu.edu/art2691.html>

NOTE TO STUDENT

By choosing to remain in this class, you agree to abide by the standards set forth in this syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to alter the office hours, schedule, grade distribution and assignments at any point during the semester.

BE INTERESTING