

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Art (ART) 317 - Lecture 01**  
**Electronics for Artists**  
**Winter 2015**  
**Lecture: M,W 14:00-15:15; AB 659**  
**Lab: M,W 15:15-16:30; AB 659**

**Instructor:** *Craig Fahner*  
**Office Location:** *AB 648*  
**Office Phone:** *T.B.A.*  
**E-Mail:** *craig.fahner@gmail.com*  
**Office Hours:** *M,W 12:30-14:00*

**Course Description**

Theoretical and practical applications of basic electronic principles and techniques involving the use of electronics in contemporary art practices. Will include applied experiences with hardware and visual programming environments.

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

One half course in Art or consent of the Department.

**Objectives of the Course**

The material in this course will enable students to:

- Understand emerging technological art practices such as interactive media and physical computing
- Develop electronic artworks conceptually and technically, with a focus on aesthetics, functionality, and meaning

Students will be expected to

- Present their research, progress and completed assignments to the class on a regular basis
- Maintain a record of their progress via the class website
- Participate in critiques of student work, identifying the strengths and potential improvements of each project
  - **technically:** Does the technical execution of the work serve the student's artistic intention?
  - **conceptually:** Does the work effectively communicate a clear concept? Does the work generate sufficient discussion around a particular idea or interpretation?

**Textbooks and Readings**

Suggested reading:

## Assignments and Evaluation

Unit assignments: Projects that encapsulate the technical skills covered in each unit. These assignments are graded based on the presentation of the project, as well as the documentation thereof. Unit assignments *must* be completed at the beginning of class on the date of the critique. Documentation may be posted to the class website no later than the following Monday class.

Midterm assignment: An expansion upon one of the unit assignments. Detailed information about the midterm will be distributed in the weeks leading up to the assignment.

Final project: Students will be required to propose their final and consult with the instructor prior to its execution. Grading of the final project will be based on proposal, presentation and documentation.

Website postings and unit research: Grades will be given for consistently maintained postings to the class D2L site. Weekly postings may include documentation of progress for projects, documentation of completed projects and research.

Participation: This grade is based on the student's engagement in the class, in terms of punctuality, participation in class discussions and critiques, and contribution to a supportive and collaborative class environment.

Unit assignments:	30%
• <i>Assignment 1: Switch</i>	10%
• <i>Assignment 2: Sensors/actuators</i>	10%
• <i>Assignment 3: Communication</i>	10%
Midterm assignment:	10%
Final project:	35%
Website postings and unit research:	15%
Participation	10%

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

## Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

### Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will *not* be accepted, as evaluations are dependent on the peer critique process. Extensions will only be granted under reasonable circumstances such as illness.

### Additional Information

Students will need to supply their own electronic materials for their work including an electronics kit. The ARDX Arduino Experimenter's Kit is available from the Art Department (Woodshop) for \$100. Further electronic material costs will be dependent on the scope of each student's final project.

## Approved mandatory supplementary fees

N.A.

## Course Activities

Note: these dates are tentative and subject to change, with notice

Week 1	January 12-16	Introduction to new media arts practices
Weeks 2+3	January 19-30	Intro to electrons (Unit 1)
Weeks 4+5	February 2-13	Light, sound and movement (Unit 2a)
Week 6	February 16-20	Reading week, no classes
Week 7+8	February 23-March 6	Sensors (Unit 2b)
Week 9	March 9-13	Midterm project development
Week 10	March 16-20	Midterm project presentation; Communication (Unit 3)
Week 11	March 23-27	Communication; Final project proposals assigned
Week 12-14	March 30-April 17	Individual research and final project development

## Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

## Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your class mates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

## Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Use of cell phones or other forms of social media are not permitted during lectures. Internet use is allowed during lab time so long as does not become a distraction to your peers.

## Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

## Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

### **Deferral of Exams/Term work**

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)

### **F.O.I.P.**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

### **Writing/Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### **Student Misconduct**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Student Union and Student Ombudsman**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **Lockers**

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the [Locker Rental Agreement](#).

**Lockers for all sessions** can be rented through [my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca). Once you're in the Student Centre, click on **Other Academic Services** and choose **Locker Reservation**.

**Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Models**

N.A.

## **Portfolios and Assignments**

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

**Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed.**

## **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

## **Campus Security/Safewalk**

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

## **Emergency Evacuation**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) or [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.