UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY
ART 421.2 Advanced Topics in Digital Arts – AI in Digital Arts
Winter 2024

Course Delivery Format:	*In person synchronous*
Instructor: Phone: Email: Office Hours:	*Rob Furr* *403-629-8837* *rsfurr@ucalgary.ca* *Wed, 11:30 am – 1:30 or by appointment*
Day(s), time(s):	*Mo 2:00-4:45/We 2:00-4:45*
Course description:	*Advanced studio inquiry into digital art forms developing students' technical and conceptual skills. Advanced exploration of digital media topics such as 2D graphics, 3D graphics, animation, motion capture, and modelling will enable research creation directed toward self-generated practice.*
Prerequisites and/or co-requisites:	*15 units of courses labelled Art at the 300 level including 3 units from Art 313, 331, 319, 323, 334.*
Course Objectives:	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Develop and discuss their position on the ethics of AI art. 2. Use common AI art generators effectively. 3. Discuss AI art in the context of contemporary artistic practice.
Required Textbooks of Readings:	*Readings will be disseminated via D2L*
Course Schedule:	Week of Jan 8: Introduction to class, orientation to image generators. Week of Jan 15: Introduction to IP law. Weekly assignment due. Week of Jan 21: IP Law continued. Weekly assignment due. Week of Jan 29: Ethical considerations, impact on artistic practice. Weekly assignment due. Week of Feb 5: Ethical considerations, impact on artistic practice. Weekly assignment due. Week of Feb 12: Generative (non-AI) art. Weekly assignment due. Week of Feb 26: Contemporary AI artists. Weekly assignment due. Week of Mar 4: Contemporary AI artists . Weekly assignment due. Week of Mar 11: Developing an ethical artistic statement. Weekly assignment due. Week of Mar 18: Developing a body of work. Weekly assignment due. Essay on contemporary AI artist due. Week of Mar 25: Developing a body of work. Rough body of work due. Week of Apr 3: Exhibition and gallery . Exhibition statement due. Week of Apr 8: Final exhibition. Body of work due.

Assignments & Evaluation

Assignment	Description	Due Date	Worth (%)
Weekly assignments	Weekly AI art projects	Throughout	45% (5% each.)
Essay on contemporary AI artist	Essay describing the work of a contemporary artist using AI in their practice, their artistic intent and inspiration, and any justification for using AI in their art.	Mar 18	15%
Rough body of work	Ten images of possible works (or equivalent) that might be used in an exhibition.	Mar 25	10%
Exhibition statement	Statement of meaning, inspiration, purpose, and justification for using AI.	Apr 3	10%
Body of work	Complete exhibition package, including 10 AI images (or comparable content.)	Apr 8	20%

Assessment expectations:	Guidelines for Submitting Assignments: Assignments will be submitted to class folder on Microsoft OneDrive, or, if that is unavailable. the IAML server: if the latter is necessary, as a result of university security measures, students will have to be on-campus or use the campus VPN to submit files. Missed or Late Assignments: Assignments not submitted by the start of class on the due date will receive a mark of zero, unless prior arrangements are made. Expectations for Writing: Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.
Additional Costs and Information:	Students will be expected to have access to an image editor and an AI art generator; these have varying costs, from free to $20 a month.
Portfolios and Assignments:	The Dept of Art and Art History will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading.
Studio Procedures:	All studio participants are required to follow the guidelines in the DAAH Studio Usage Regulations and the mandatory Safety Orientation. After reviewing the orientation, participants must complete and return a Safety Questionnaire to the department technicians within one week of the start of classes. Participants who have already completed the orientation within the past year are exempt. The Usage Regulations, Safety Orientation and Safety Questionnaire can be found on the course D2L page and at the following link: https://arts.ucalgary.ca/art-art-history/current-students/undergraduate/standard-operating-procedures-studios-and-classrooms/safety-documents Please view current updates from RISK and the Covidsafe page links to information on rapid testing, masking rules, vaccination regulations and documentation as well as a FAQs page, which must all be followed while in Studios. https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus

Other Important Dates

For more information on term dates, add/drop/swap/withdraw dates from course deadlines and refund/payment deadlines, please see: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html

Grading Method and Grading Scale

Undergraduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html
- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.

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

Graduate: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html
- All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

Learning Technologies and Requirements:	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (d2L.ucalgary.ca). To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology: • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates • A current and updated web browser • Webcam (built-in or external) • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled • Broadband internet connection
Academic Standing:	For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html
Academic Accommodation:	It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is

	available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.
	Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
Academic integrity, plagiarism:	Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar. For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html or http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity
Internet and electronic communication device:	The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf
Deferral of Term work and exams	For more information about deferring a final exam go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams For more information about deferral of term work go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferred_termwork-feb-2020_revised.pdf
Intellectual Property & Copyright:	All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including presentations, textbooks, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:	Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary. For more information go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy
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/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html or https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb
Student Support:	Please visit this link for important information on: • Wellness and Mental health resources • Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points • Student Success and more.... https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@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.
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/