

SCULPTING WITH SOUNDS, IMAGES, AND WORDS

<https://ccrma.stanford.edu/courses/32n/>

Monday and Wednesday 1:30-3:20,
CCRMA Seminar Room

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Description:

Throughout history and from East to West, cultures abound in multimedia forms. Whether in Coldplay's Music Video or Fantasia, Pepsi TV ads or Wagner's opera, Miyazaki anime or traditional Noh Theater of Japan, the three modes of expression—sounds, images, and words—are interwoven in meaningful but distinctive ways. What are their individual and combined powers? How can one harness them in an online context? Can Web be a stage for multimedia theater? What is unique about the poetry of intermodal metaphor? The course will be an opportunity to face these questions in creative web-based projects as well as through in-class viewing of multimedia works, analysis and debates, readings, and student presentations. The seminar will be taught at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics where students will have access to new media technologies. Prior experience in music, literature, art practice or computer programming is welcome but not required.

Process:

The class will present multimedia material gradually. After being introduced to wide range of examples from different genres and traditions involving idioms of words, sounds and images individually, students will study and explore different media combinations. Each student will work on 4 assignments, a final project and give an analytical presentation in class. The presentation and the final project will involve all three media. Students will be able to develop projects using free downloadable tools and other software on cluster computers across campus. Numerous technical resources and assistance are available at Stanford one-stop-shop for technology needs – [The Hub](#). All students' creative work will be viewable on the web.

Evaluation:

4 Assignments 40%

Abstract + Presentation 20%

Final Project 20%

Readings/Class Participation 20%

- Late assignments lose 5% per day.
- After due date, the Final Project will not be accepted.
- Students are required to read all readings and attend all classes.
- Absences beyond 2 diminish the final grade by 5% each time.
- Coming late to class counts as half of an absence.
- Final Project Presentations will take place on Dec 14th during the regular exam time assigned to the course, 3:30-6:30PM. No exceptions will be granted so please plan your holiday travel accordingly.

Provost's Statement concerning Students with Disabilities

Students who have a disability which may necessitate an academic accommodation or the use of auxiliary aids and services in a class must initiate the request with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend appropriate accommodations, and prepare a verification letter dated in the current academic term in which the request is being made. Please contact the DRC as soon as possible; timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations (phone 723-1066; TDD 725-1067).

COURSE OUTLINE

Mon, Sep 26

Introductions
CCRMA tour and logistics
Syllabus
What is Intermedia?

Reading 1 (Due by class-time on Wed, Sep 28)

Sounds + Images + WORDS

Wed, Sep 28

Metaphor. Analysis of Anne Carson's "Essay on What I Think About Most"
Also: Gertrude Stein, Matsuo Basho's selected haikus.

Assignment 1 (Due on Sunday, Oct 2, by midnight)
Reading 2 (Due by class-time on Monday, Oct 3)

Sounds + IMAGES + Words

Mon, Oct 3

Tools for visual analysis. Rudolf Arnheim "Visual Thinking". Representation and abstraction. Picture, symbol, sign. Visual composition examples from Tōhaku Hasegawa, Faith Ringgold, Frida Kahlo, Helen Frankenthaler, Hilma af Klimt, Kara Walker, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Utagawa Hiroshige, Paul Klee, Vassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian, Cy Twombly, Yayoi Kusama and Stan Brakhage

Sounds + IMAGES + WORDS

Wed, Oct 5

How many words is a picture worth? Figure and ground in intermedia. Medieval illuminated manuscripts, Islamic and Chinese calligraphy, Japanese haiga. manga, RSA Animation and video art of Gary Hill.

Assignment 2 (Due on Sunday, Oct 9 by midnight)

Reading 3 (Due by class-time on Monday Oct 10)

SOUNDS + Images + Words

Mon, Oct 10

The sound of music, the music of sounds. John Cage, Luc Ferrari, Nyokabi Karyuki, Jana Rush, DJ Screw, Iannis Xenakis, Janet Cardiff and Japanoise. Assignment 2 critiques.

SOUNDS + Images + WORDS

Wed, Oct 12

Michel Chion's causal, semantic and reduced listening. Examples by Hildegard Westerkamp, Annea Lockwood, Kristina Kubisch, Diana Deutsch, Text setting in Steve Reich, Pamela Z, J.S. Bach, and Ice Cube.

Assignment 3 (Due on Sunday, Oct 16 by midnight)

Reading 4 (Due by class-time on Monday, Oct 17)

SOUNDS + IMAGES + Words

Mon, Oct 17

Synaesthesia., intersensory equivalences intermedia gestalts and metaphors. Michel Chion "Audiovision". Examples from Georgia O'Keefe, Paul Klee, Vassily Kandinsky. Hidegard von Bingen and Matana Roberts.

Assignment 4 (Due on Sunday, Oct 30 by midnight)

Reading 5 (Due by class-time on Wednesday, Oct 19)

Wed, Oct 19

Video examples by Thomas Köner, Joseph Hyde and Chikashi Miyama. Game design by Kiyoshi Furukawa, Wolfgang Muench and Masaki Fujihata.

Mon, Oct 24

Animation examples by Norman McLaren, Kapuscinski, Ryioichi Kurokawa and Bret Battey.

SOUNDS + IMAGES + WORDS

Wed, Oct 26

Japanese Anime. Guest Lecturer: Prof. François Rose

Mon, Oct 31

Assignment 3 critiques.

Wed, Nov 2

Analysis of music video

Abstract/presentation assigned (Choice of video due Fri, Nov 4. Abstract due on Tue Nov 8 by midnight)

Mon, Nov 7

Screening and analysis: Stanley Kubrick/Georgy Ligeti *2001: A Space Odyssey*

Wed, Nov 9

Experimental Theater and Performance Art.

Screening and discussion of Grotowski, Kantor, The Wooster Group, Dumb Type, Forced Entertainment and Jerome Bel.

Final project assigned (Due on Tue, Dec 13, by midnight)

Mon, Nov 14

Student Presentations

Wed, Nov 16

Student Presentations

Mon, Nov 28

Student 5-min Presentations about Final Projects

Wed, Nov 30

Student 5-min Presentations about Final Projects

Mon, Dec 5

Work Sessions (Office Hours)

Wed, Dec 7

Work Sessions (Office Hours)

FINAL PROJECT DUE

Tue, Dec 13, by midnight

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Wed, Dec 14, 3:30-6:30 PM