

CMNS3490: Experimental Media

Newcastle City Precinct

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

Experimental media provides an opportunity to explore new tools and techniques to enhance your existing creative practice and explore new possibilities of creative expression. This is a hands on course that takes the form of a studio lab. It promotes collaboration with others across disciplines and also with a variety of new or repurposed technologies. In the last 50 years, interactions between technology and humans have profoundly changed culture and society, producing new ways of story telling. This has also inspired completely new mediums and environments for creative expression such as immersive caves, extended reality, drone light shows and interactive installations. This course will establish a theoretical framework for understanding key critical debates and concepts in experimental media making, examining case studies of seminal innovations, before proceeding to teach best practice techniques and processes to explore your own ideas. The sky is not the limit.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

If you have successfully completed CMNS2080 you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Newcastle City Precinct Lectorial

Face to Face On Campus

1 hour(s) per week(s) for 6 week(s) starting Week 1

Tutorial

Face to Face On Campus

2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Newcastle City Precinct Dr Kristefan Minski Kristefan.Minski@newcastle.edu.au (02) 49138535 Consultation: By appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New and repurposed (hacked) technology for creative expression and storytelling;2. Examination of contemporary experimental media practice;3. Virtual production, Data visualisation and real-time content generation;4. Prototyping tools and techniques;5. Social and cultural significance of experimental media practice;6. Aspects of theory concerning innovation, experimental and media labs.
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analyse and critique contemporary examples of experimental media practice;2. Demonstrate experimental media making through developing a creative outcome;3. Self-reflection and evaluation of experimental process from idea to prototype

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to Experimental Media: Intro to course. Historical roots of Experimental Media with a focus on the impact of digital technologies.	Facility Tour / Group discussion: Introduction to tools and resources that are available for this course. Group discussion on Experimental Media.	
2	4 Mar	Experimental Media Thinking / Provotype vs Prototype: The lecture introduces students to the Experimental process that derives from a world leading Experimental Media Art platform.	"Analogue" Play: Experimental and playful techniques are introduced to extract the creative experiments.	
3	11 Mar	The Art of the Hack: Introduces innovative examples of repurposing old technology in a completely new way.	Studio Lab Experimentation	
4	18 Mar	Audience: Interaction, immersion and invention.	Presentations: Assessment presentations and Peer Review	Presentation in class Wednesday 20 Mar and Thursday 21 Mar Slides due Friday 22 March 11:59 pm
5	25 Mar	Virtual Worlds: Examples, techniques and possibilities of virtual production	Studio Lab Workshop	
6	1 Apr	Future Screen / Future Pixel: Drone light shows, holograms, projection and lasers.	Studio Lab Workshop	
7	8 Apr		Studio Lab Workshop	
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr		Studio Lab Workshop	
9	6 May		Studio Lab Workshop	Planning and Prototypes Friday 10 May 11:59pm
10	13 May		Studio Lab Workshop	
11	20 May		Studio Lab Workshop	Integration In class demonstrations Written response – Fri 24 May 11:59pm
12	27 May		Studio Lab Workshop	
13	3 Jun		Studio Lab Workshop	
Examination Period				Final Project In class demonstration Written response – Fri 14 June 11:59pm
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Critical Analysis of Experimental Media	Week 4. Presentation in tutorials (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Presentation slides to be uploaded in Canvas by Friday 22 March 11:59pm	Individual	20%	1, 2
2	Planning and Prototyping	Week 9: Uploaded in Canvas by Friday 10 May 11:59pm	Individual	20%	2, 3
3	Integration	Week 11: Demonstrations in tutorials (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Presentation slides to be uploaded in Canvas by Friday 24 May 11:59pm	Individual	20%	2, 3
4	Final Project	Week 14: Presentation and demonstration in tutorial time slots (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Support material to be uploaded in canvas by Friday 14 June 11:59pm	Combination	40%	1, 2, 3

Late Submissions The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Critical Analysis of Experimental Media

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	Presentation
Description	Individuals will briefly present a concept for an experimental media work which shows relevance to the course work presented so far. The student should frame the work in a way that highlights their existing creative practice and how they plan to experiment with the form. The presentation should focus on the process rather than the outcome. Examples of experimental media projects will be provided as the source of inspiration and to show the conceptual underpinnings. The slides will be uploaded afterwards with clear references to the literature or other media sources.
Weighting	20%
Length	3min and max 20 slides
Due Date	Week 4. Presentation in tutorials (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Presentation slides to be uploaded in Canvas by Friday 22 March 11:59pm
Submission Method	In Class Online
Assessment Criteria	Available on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 2 - Planning and Prototyping

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Purpose	Portfolio
Description	Students will undertake and then demonstrate playful and experimental prototypes over a series of tutorials and workshops. Students will evidence this prototyping process in an annotated folio of photo, video, graphical, or interactive examples. The examples will be brought together in a written response articulating the purpose and findings of each experiment, the student's contribution to a group (if applicable), and the plans for progressing the project into a whole integrated prototype.
Weighting	20%
Length	1000 Words

Due Date	Week 9: Uploaded in Canvas by Friday 10 May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Available on canvas
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 3 - Integration

Assessment Type	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
Purpose	Practical Demonstration
Description	Students will refine their experimentation by demonstrating key areas of core functionality and integration required for the realisation of an experimental media project. The demonstration will not need to show a completed functional prototype, but it will serve as a proof-of-concept for the final project. Students will reflect on their process in a short written response to be uploaded to Canvas. Responses will discuss the successes and failures with reference to the next steps and final target.
Weighting	20%
Length	5min per student 1000 Words
Due Date	Week 11: Demonstrations in tutorials (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Presentation slides to be uploaded in Canvas by Friday 24 May 11:59pm
Submission Method	In Class Online
Assessment Criteria	Available on canvas
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 4 - Final Project

Assessment Type	Project
Purpose	Project
Description	The final output for this project will take the form of a presentation and demonstration of an experimental media project in the form of a fully functional prototype. The prototype should reflect both theoretical and practical skills learnt through the semester. The students will be able to discuss the successes and failures in the work, their individual process or contribution to a group effort.
Weighting	40%
Length	10min per student
Due Date	Week 14: Presentation and demonstration in tutorial time slots (Wednesday 12-2 Thursday 10-12). Support material to be uploaded in canvas by Friday 14 June 11:59pm
Submission Method	In Class Online
Assessment Criteria	Available on Canvas
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>
Important Policy Information	<p>The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.</p>

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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