

VIDEO INSTALLATION SYLLABUS Fall, 2003

Katherine Behar, Instructor
kbehar@artic.edu

Bob Major, Teaching Assistant
specimen281@yahoo.com

Class website
<http://katherinebehar.com/edu/vidinstF03/html/>

Classroom
112 Michigan, Room 311

Summary

This syllabus is subject to changes and may be amended over the course of the semester. You will be notified of all changes in class. All changes to the syllabus will also be reflected on the class website.

Video Installation is a combined studio critique and seminar class which looks at how installational art practices can be used to convey meaning, and focuses on the use of video as a sculptural material in installational contexts.

Beginning with a broad definition of "INSTALLATION ART" as "ART INCLUSIVE OF ITS CONTEXT", we will explore the ways that video simultaneously receives and produces meaning, both through formal configuration, and through the various cultural matrices in which it is embedded. Fundamental to our discussions will be a conception of "SITE", understood for the purposes of this class to include the location (spatial position) of an art object along with its "site" at its unique historical moment.

This is an intermediate to advanced level course. Students will develop and install THREE COMPLETED WORKS over the course of the semester, culminating in a site-specific project to be located off-campus and accompanied by a typed artist's statement. (In special cases, exceptions for the off-campus requirement may be granted by the instructor's permission.) In addition, each student will research and present the work of a video installation artist to the class. Students are responsible for timely completion of additional homework assignments throughout the semester including written responses to readings and homework projects. Students preparing BFA and MFA thesis works for the spring 2004 shows are encouraged to use this class as a laboratory in the development of their projects. *All students are encouraged to develop their own work and pursue their own interests from the perspective of class assignments.* Most individual research, studio and production work and editing time will take place **outside of class time**. Students are responsible for planning their projects accordingly.

STUDIO PRODUCTION/CRITIQUE

The studio production component of this class focuses on installational practice. Home work and in-class projects, major critique assignments and class critiques, and individual meetings develop on a primary conception of "INSTALLATION" as "ART INCLUSIVE OF ITS CONTEXT" by exploring video's meanings as a culturally informed sculptural material; environmental uses of video at gallery and non-gallery sites; the "historical site" of video art; and audience, interpretation, and phenomenological response in relation to temporally based media.

The class assumes a thorough basic knowledge of video production practices and post-production editing techniques. Basic video production and editing will NOT BE COVERED in this class. If you have never worked with nonlinear digital editing software before, sign up for the basic Final Cut Pro tutorial at the Media Center ASAP. The sign up sheet will be available IMMEDIATELY following Add/Drop period. Check with the Media Center to confirm lab hours for the semester.

SEMINAR/READINGS/SCREENINGS/DISCUSSIONS

The seminar component of this class revolves around weekly readings, each student's research assignment presentation of a video installation artist's work to the class, in-class screenings, and class discussions of all of the above. A range of readings will supplement issues developed in students' studio practice and will introduce pertinent theoretical discourses. Screenings, students' Artist Presentations, and slide lectures throughout the semester will provide an art historical context for student work.

In lieu of a text book, readings will be collected in a course packet available for purchase at Utrecht. Should you miss a class or misplace your course packet, you are still responsible for keeping up with reading assignments and for being prepared to participate in discussions. **A course packet including all hard copy readings will be placed on reserve at the Flaxman Library** (Sharp Building, 6th Floor). Several **websites** are assigned in addition to hard copy readings. Refer to your syllabus for URLs.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Dedicated FVNM departmental equipment is managed by the SAIC Media Center (112 Michigan Building, 8th floor). As in previous years, authorizations for departmental equipment and editing suites are obtained through the department, however **equipment reservations be made at the Media Center** (For information, policies, forms, etc. see <http://www.artic.edu/saic/programs/resources/mediacntr/index.html>). **Departmental editing facilities (room 807) will be authorized through the department but reserved through the Media Center.** As this is an advanced undergraduate video class, departmental resources will be available after in-class authorizations.

Bear in mind that the department's equipment resources are limited so, to develop your projects most fully, you should plan on taking advantage of the Media Center to get access to additional projectors, decks, digital cameras, and Final Cut Pro labs. **The Media Center requires separate authorizations for the equipment and labs it manages;** contact the Media Center for specific information (See the Media Center's Equipment List: <http://www.artic.edu/saic/programs/resources/mediacntr/studentfact.pdf>).

*If you have a project that is going to require a special equipment request you will need to fill out a special request form (<http://www.artic.edu/saic/programs/resources/mediacntr/Special.pdf>) and return it to the Media Center. Contact Craig Downs, the Media Center Manager, for more information. **This applies to any long-term use of equipment including equipment used both on and off campus.** Please plan ahead, collaborate, and coordinate with other students.*

COMMUNICATION

Between weekly class meetings, all communication will be carried out over e-mail. At the beginning of the semester all students must provide an e-mail address at which they can be reached during the semester. It is imperative that students regularly check, read and respond to e-mails sent over the week. *The instructor DOES NOT maintain regular office hours on-campus.*

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK/COLLABORATIONS

This class welcomes students who work primarily in other media or disciplines (sculpture, photography, painting, drawing, language/text, performance, new media, design, sound, single-channel or screened video/film, etc.). All students are encouraged to develop ways of combining formal and personal languages from their existing practice with their work in this class. Always, collaborations among students are welcomed provided that all roles are clearly defined at the outset of a project. Students who wish to work collaboratively on a project should prepare a project plan (outline form is OK, but be specific and clearly indicate who will accomplish what) and inform the instructor ASAP. All collaborators will need to meet with the instructor and TA to discuss how the project will be approached.

HOMEWORK

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Individual short-term homework projects will be assigned throughout the semester. Focusing on skill building and problem solving, these projects will be evaluated on their effectiveness and directness as creative solutions to the assignment.

READINGS

Readings will be assigned weekly and must be accompanied by one- to two-sentence written responses. Responses are due at 9:00 a.m. on the day that the reading is due. **For each reading, write one to two**

sentences in which you identify the author's main point. Focus solely on what the author has stated. Be prepared to discuss your own opinions, but avoid introducing any of your thoughts as you summarize the author's.

GRADE POLICY

This class is evaluated on a "credit" / "no credit" basis. To receive credit for the class, you must maintain a grade average at the equivalent of a letter grade "C" (75%) or higher. Graduate Students must achieve an average letter grade equivalent of "B" (85%) or above. If you would like a letter grade for the class (for example, if you intend to apply to another school someday as a transfer or graduate student), please get the **Request of a Letter Grade Form** at the Registrar's office (Champlain 7th floor). Fill out the part of the form and turn it in to Katherine before the end of the semester **with a self-addressed stamped envelope.**

FINAL GRADES WILL BE ASSESSED AS FOLLOWS:

Assignment 1	Due 10.01.03	20%
Assignment 2	Due 11.12.03	20%
Assignment 3	Due 12.03.03	20%
(Final Project)		
Assignment 4	Due TBD	20%
(Artist Presentation)	(Scheduled throughout semester)	
Homework, Class Participation and Attendance*		20%

Assignments will be evaluated on the following points:

1. The energy and integrity of the effort
2. The quality and originality of the interpretation of the assignment
3. The conceptual and technical success of the work
4. The formal and conceptual coherence of the work

All assignments are due at 9:00 a.m., completely set up and tested, with tech issues resolved, and ready for critique, on the day specified on the syllabus. Projects that are not ready to go at 9:00 a.m. will be considered late. For further details and the due dates of all assignments, please refer to the class syllabus.

Assignments 1 – 3 are critique assignments. Students should be prepared to lead their own critiques in a proactive manner. We will discuss critique strategies in class prior to the first critique.

Generally speaking, it is unacceptable for assignments to be late. Assignments **1 week late** will be accepted but **penalized the equivalent of a full letter grade. After 1 week, no credit will be given for that project** although, time permitting, the project may be presented to the class for feedback.

For **HOMEWORK** expectations, see above.

*CLASS PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

CLASS PARTICIPATION includes preparation for and participation in class and, should they develop, e-mail discussions (of readings, screenings, class work, Artist Presentation Projects, etc.), critiques (student's own and others'), and group projects and other activities.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ARE REQUIRED. Class meetings are held **9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, with a one-hour lunch break at noon. Please be punctual both in the morning and after lunch! The following attendance policy will be strictly enforced. If you miss a class or are tardy, it is your responsibility to ask your classmates or our TA for the information you missed. Classes missed during Add/Drop period count as absences. *Coming in late or leaving early will count as a tardy!*

- **4 Absences = automatic "NO CREDIT"**
- **3 Tardies = 1 Absence**
- **15 minutes late (for either A.M. or P.M. session) = 1 Tardy**
- **2 Half-day Absences (i.e. miss A.M. or P.M. session) = 1 Absence**

All absences will automatically be counted as unexcused unless you contact Katherine either beforehand, or within 2 days following the missed class with a valid excuse. Excused absences will only be given in extreme situations like illness or unavoidable circumstances. A doctor's note may be required in cases of

illness. Contact Katherine by e-mail (kbehar@artic.edu) and save a copy of your out-going e-mail with the date.

A student whose grade is in jeopardy as of midterm will be informed by a written notice and by e-mail. Both student and instructor will sign and retain the hard copy.