



DART2331 Data Aesthetics

Term T3, 2020

Course Information

Units of Credit: 6

Course Overview

Course Description

Fully Online Delivery Term 3 2020

Some adjustments have been made to this course to allow for fully online delivery during the COVID-19 situation. Please refer to the Resources section at the back of this document for more information about materials and resources required to complete this course online.

This course examines contemporary theories and practices relating to data and information visualisation and data rendering, in various forms, as applied in relation to digital media, new media arts, art, design and processes and practices at the nexus of art and science. It shows how creative practices, pre- and post-digital, critically engage with data and information.

You will examine how data and information are pervasive and underwrite media, art and design practices, and how information and data are being manipulated in areas including computer generated imagery (CGI); visual, sonic and tactile renderings such as sound recording and 3D printing; and in digital cinema and photography. You will also explore how processes that involve working with data and information can inherit conventions from other disciplines that impact on creative outputs.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and describe data sets, types and formats within and across a range of disciplines and real world contexts
2. Locate and examine the different concepts, approaches and uses for data sets, types and formats in creative theories and practices
3. Analyse and critically evaluate data generation, visualisation and other forms of rendering data in art, design and broader visual culture
4. Apply strategies for working with data from creative theory and practice and reflectively analyse and critique their own decision processes in choosing data sets and prototyping data rendering

Teaching and Learning in this Course

This courses uses a variety of teaching approaches:

Blended/online

- Review – Assessment / Feedback Tool
- Collaborate Ultra in Moodle – Virtual Classroom
- Microsoft Teams - Teamwork Hub and Group Chat Platform
- Zoom - Video and Audio Conferencing, Chat, and Webinars
- The Box - Media Repository

- Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessment

	TITLE	WEIGHTING	ASSESSMENT TYPE
Assessment Task 1	Data practices and concepts	20%	Written Report
Assessment Task 2	Collaborative data rendering project.	30%	Project
Assessment Task 3	Critical and Comparative Review	50%	Extended Writing Task

Resources

Essential:

- a stable internet connection that will allow you to participate in live online discussions and activities
- up to 1GB storage space on your home computer (not everyone will need this - only one group member requires this in 3-4 person groups)

Needed but substitutes are fine:

- a range of craft materials including post-it notes
- squares of coloured paper
- string or wool
- scissors
- straws or match sticks
- access to household containers such as plastic takeaway containers or glass jars
- dried food stuffs such as rice or chickpeas.

All these items will be used in exercises for collecting, measuring and exploring 'data'. Your tutor will give you information each week about what is required. It is not expected that you have to purchase anything special - make do with what you have around you!

A detailed week-by-week schedule is available in the Moodle website.

Extra Readings

- Robert Seyfert and Jonathan Roberge, eds (2016) *Algorithmic Cultures: Essays on Meaning, Performance and New Technologies*, Routledge
- Gitelman, L. (Ed.). (2013). *"Raw data" is an oxymoron*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.
- Vesna, V. (Ed.). (2007). *Database aesthetics : art in the age of information overflow*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Geoffrey C. Bowker and Susan Leigh Star, 1999, *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*, MIT Press
- Burdick, A., Drucker, J., Lunenfeld, P., Presner, T. & Schnapp, J. (2012) *Digital Humanities* MIT Press https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/titles/content/9780262018470_Open_Access_Edition.pdf

Websites

- Rhizome.org
- Teemingvoid.blogspot.com.au
- Visualizing.org
- [The facts are sacred](http://www.theguardian.com/news/series/facts-are-sacred) <http://www.theguardian.com/news/series/facts-are-sacred>
- Eagereyes.org
- Botanical Sonification Toolkit: <http://www.ciaranframe.com/botsot>
- Machine learning for artists: <https://ml4a.github.io/>

- Data and Society <https://datasociety.net/>

Data

- <http://theodi.org>
- <http://data.gov.au/dataset>
- <http://data.gov.uk>
- <http://imos.aodn.org.au/imos123/>
- <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/data?opendocument>
- <https://d3js.org/>