

Interdisciplinary Academic Requirements

Integrated Media

The Center for Integrated Media Requirements

The Center for Integrated Media (CIM) is an interdisciplinary, peer-to-peer, project-based learning environment for qualified graduate students wanting to explore and critique: multimedia performance, electronics, interactive systems, immersion, non-linear narrative and the Internet as part of their creative practice. The Center is a supplemental concentration of events; social interactions and workshops designed for students whose work has reached an advanced degree of development and who possess the media literacy to integrate multiple forms of media into new modes of expression. The Center for Integrated Media is taken in addition to the student's métier requirements.

The goal of the Center for Integrated Media is to promote creative experimentation and risk taking through the production of an interdisciplinary media based project, produced in the Studio and Critique classes. The Studio and Critique classes are open and supportive studio environments,. They are a place for connecting with colleagues from the various schools within CalArts, enabling the development of a common creative vocabulary that moves beyond the established boundaries of one's discipline. The Studio and Critique classes are required of all students enrolled in the concentration.

The Center for Integrated Media invites visiting artists to the Center through the seminar series "Conversations on Technology, Culture and Practice" and through the Integrated Media Artist-in-Residency. MFA1 CIM students are required to attend the "Conversations on Technology, Culture and Practice."

The students are also encouraged to take additional elective courses offered by the CIM faculty through the various schools. At least one CIM elective is required per year.

Members of the faculty are available to the students on an individual basis for independent study, critiquing work, giving feedback from a wide spectrum of experience and helping facilitate the production and planning of their Studio and Critique project.

Workshops are also offered by the Center to address the constant stream of new hybrid production methods and digital technologies. Topics include but are not limited to: gaming, interactivity, performance, narrativity, circuit bending, programming basics, digital sound and video production and new Internet applications.

Applications to the Center are processed through the student's metier. The entire Integrated Media core faculty reviews the applications and portfolios of each applicant during the admission process of the metier. Each student is also required to provide an Artist Statement that explains the basis of their work, details their experience working with new forms of media and expresses their interest in the Center for Integrated Media at CalArts.

IM Learning Goals

Over their course of study, Center for Integrated Media students will learn to:

- Actualize the complex dialectic between an interdisciplinary creative process and multiple forms of experimental media;
- Produce an individual or collaborative project that incorporates research as a working method and component for actualization;
- Present their projects and articulate the results of their research through an exchange of dialogue with their peers;
- Conceptualize, plan and execute sophisticated projects that articulate a distinct vision using a broad range of media, technology and interactive skills;
- Think critically and communicate persuasively about the larger social, political and aesthetic possibilities inherent in

media and culture.

Digital Arts Minor

Digital Arts Minor Requirements

The Digital Arts Minor is designed to help undergraduate students grasp the knowledge to build, engineer and design innovative custom systems to impact our understanding of how technology can be used in the arts. A student who completes the Digital Arts Minor has demonstrated aptitude in computer programming, web design, video editing, digital fabrication, digital sound production, and knowledge of the historical context of digital arts. This interdisciplinary program mobilizes expertise from every program in the Institute, combining skills from music, theater, dance, film, art and critical studies for students.

Digital Arts Minor Learning Goals

By graduation, students should have developed the following competencies, as demonstrated by the successful completion of a capstone digital portfolio:

- A conceptual and practical knowledge of basic programming and interactive design.
- The ability to adapt digital technology to the development and promotion of their art-making practice.
- A conceptual and practical knowledge to build a digital web portfolio including images, sound, and video.
- A conceptual knowledge of the historical contexts of digital media and art forms.

Pre-Requisites for Enrollment and Continuation in the Minor

Students are not required to have specialized knowledge to declare a Digital Arts Minor. Students officially declare a Digital Arts Minor by registering with the Registrar's Office.

However, students on "Métier Warning" are suspended from taking courses that apply to the Digital Arts Minor. Good standing in the major program is required for continued enrollment. Students may be permanently removed from the minor after more than one semester on Métier Warning, at the recommendation of their Dean and the Provost.

Technology Requirements

Students are expected to have a high-functioning laptop computer, preferably an apple laptop.

Digital Arts Minor Curriculum Requirements

Students are required to complete 18 units in classes approved for credit towards the minor, including 11 units of core, foundation requirements:

REQUIRED COURSES

- [CS313A Introduction to Programming](#) - 2 units
- [CS217 Digital Media and Web Development](#) - 2 units
- [CS315 Introduction to Digital Fabrication](#) - 2 units
- [CS268 Introduction to Sound Production](#) - 2 units
- [CSCR319 Theorizing Digital Media and the Web](#) - 2 units
- IDDA499, IDDA800, IDDA900 Digital Portfolio - 1 unit
- Electives - 7 units

Total 18 units

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Interdisciplinary

Course Code	Course Name	Semesters Offered
ID001-01	Fundamental English for Artists BFA	I, II
ID001-02	Fundamental English for Artists MFA	I, II
ID370	The People's Theory	Not planned for this academic year
ID415	Migration and Mapping, Contemporary Art and Islam	II
ID517	Art and Politics	II
ID520	Luminous Worlds: Art Pilots Project	I, II
ID530	Toward Interdisciplinary Critique: a Survey of Methodologies	Not planned for this academic year
ID550	Arts Pedagogy: Artists Preparing to Teach in the Community	I, II
ID555	Special Topics in Arts Pedagogy	I, II
IDDA499	Digital Arts Portfolio for Undergraduates	II
IDDA800	Undergraduate Independent Project: Digital Arts	I, II
IDDA900	Graduate Independent Project: Digital Arts	I, II

ID001-01: Fundamental English for Artists BFA

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course is designed to help undergraduate non-native English speakers develop general communicative competence and fluency in classroom discourse and improve grammar and vocabulary skills. Students will concentrate on speaking, listening, and comprehension skills, especially in regard to critique, so they can better integrate into the classroom dynamics at CalArts. Cultural adjustment and social integration issues, as well as communication issues with teachers and classmates will be addressed. Activities will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

This course is designed to serve as a prerequisite for CS005A&B Supplemental English for Artists.

Discipline(s): [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID001-02: Fundamental English for Artists MFA

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course is designed to help graduate non-native English speakers develop general communicative competence and fluency in classroom discourse and improve grammar and vocabulary skills. Students will concentrate on speaking, listening, and comprehension skills, especially in regard to critique, so they can better integrate into the classroom dynamics at CalArts. Cultural adjustment and social integration issues, as well as communication issues with teachers and classmates will be addressed. Activities will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

This course is designed to serve as a prerequisite for CS005A&B Supplemental English for Artists.

Discipline(s): [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID370: The People's Theory

2.0 units / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

An interdisciplinary reading and discussion group for art and music students. We will read articles with an aim to crack the codes of proprietary, critical languages in each discipline, to unearth mutual interests. In a critical setting which includes more than one discipline, how do we determine what is 'good'? Who owns the codes? How do 'specialists' in different disciplines come to talk to one another? Art students with an interest in music or sound are welcomed. Members of art bands are especially encouraged. Collaborations between artists and composers are hoped for.

- * Approved for Critical Studies credit.
- * Permission of instructor required.
- * Cross disciplinary class.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [School of Art](#), [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID415: Migration and Mapping, Contemporary Art and Islam

3.0 units / Semester: II

Conceived and constructed as the research phase for an exhibition planned for the LA Municipal Gallery to consider the question; 'Within the terms of contemporary art, how might we understand the term, 'Islamic'?' The course will consider the history, politics and culture of using terminology, specifically in the visual arts sphere, of Islam and the Middle East as a general organizing curatorial principal, and research the work of contemporary artists working within that sphere of influence and critical investigation. Events of the past decade have fueled an interest in this field of art production on a political level, and in the contemporary art world, the rapid development and boom of a Gulf art market and surge in acquisitions has put the region generally thought of as 'Islamic' on the map in regards to western or market-based arts and culture for perhaps the first time as a site of production of contemporary art (as opposed to antiquities, traditional crafts and textiles, or as a subject of work). However, the diversity of the Islamic world, and its dispersed location(s) translates into a multiplicity of worlds, productions, and markets.

Is it possible to understand the expanse of the term Islamic from the terrain that comprises contemporary art? We must ask what the work is that we are asking, or expecting, art from the Islamic world to do, and why an exhibition would even be organized along these lines. This course, and exhibition, will include an examination of the premise of this question through critical readings of an array of works that do not necessarily lay claim to a fixed mode of understanding, but that, taken as a whole, might provide a glimpse into the notion of an Islamic world as well as its constructs and how these constructs have been used both internally and externally over time. Also important will be the relationship between Los Angeles and the US as a place where content has been produced that has had a wide influence over how the notion of Islam, and the world that it comes from, has been imagined and circulated. Los Angeles will also be explored in consideration of its artists and populations that have strong relationships to both the regions and religion in question.

Discipline(s): [School of Art](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID517: Art and Politics

2.0 units / Semester: II

What does a political art practice mean? This seminar will be a search for possibilities and their contestations. Focus will be on contemporary conditions and current practices. Students will make presentations and propose arguments based on research. A wide range of cultural production can be engaged, music, performance, direct action, journalism, etc. Field trips to exhibitions and relevant events will be scheduled. Enrollment limited to upper level undergraduate and graduate students only, permission of instructor required.

* Cross disciplinary class.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [School of Art](#), [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID520: Luminous Worlds: Art Pilots Project

4.0 units / Semester: I, II

In this collaborative art school / CAP class, participants will gain experience and develop teaching abilities within an interactive social practice environment. This hands-on workshop, taught at a local elementary school, will be aligned with a seminar module where we will explore approaches to pedagogy, view artwork, and discuss readings. Designing projects that emphasize the importance of play and inventive thinking, we will activate drawing, color, sound, collage, writing, object making, and other experimental practices. The flow of this working process offers momentum for the CalArts students to mine the experience as an impetus to their personal work, regardless of individual disciplines. Works by artists using strategies of play and chance / order and chaos, including Helen Mirra's walking/printmaking practice, Eva Hesse's drawing process, and Allan Kaprow's performance work will provide a background for discussion. This dialogue will be further invigorated with readings from Hannah Higgins's *The Fluxus Experience*, Robert Nickas's *Theft Is Vision*, Rosemary Peterson's *Why Piaget?*, John Dewey's *Experience and Education*, Mignon Nixon's 'Child' Drawing on Eva Hesse, and Richard Shiff's writing on Richard Tuttle's drawing process and Katy Seigal's essay on Tuttle's use of language.

This is a cross-disciplinary class; students from all mTtiers are welcome. Prior teaching experience or visual art background is not necessary.

Session A: Art Pilots Workshop

Mondays 1:00-4:00

Session B: Seminar

Alternate Tuesdays 6-8, and first Mondays 1:00-4:00

* Cross disciplinary class.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [School of Art](#), [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID530: Toward Interdisciplinary Critique: a Survey of Methodologies

3.0 units / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

A three-hour seminar, open to graduate students and upper-level undergraduate students by permission of

instructors. Team-taught by Sara Roberts and Mona Heinze, in conjunction with 8 guests (5 from the Institute, 3 from outside CalArts). In some critiques there is a moderator; participants can say what they want as long as it is their turn. Other critiques stipulate the form of the contribution (it has to be phrased as a question) or circumscribe the content (name what you see without positives and negatives). There is critique that dispenses with words, using the body as the tool for communication; and there is the masked man who ridicules the work until the artist breaks down. There are as many critical modalities as kinds of fish. This class is not a critique, but a meta-critique, an exploration of forms, frameworks and ideas for the critical process. Each week, with a guest instructor, we will use a different critique. We will examine and critique the critical process, with the goal of a) fully engaging in critical conversation (whether as responder or creator), b) gaining a deeper understanding of how we function as critics-our values and prejudices, and c) developing a critical voice that is informed, expressive, and precise.

* Cross disciplinary class.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Herb Alpert School of Music at CalArts](#), [School of Theater](#), [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID550: Arts Pedagogy: Artists Preparing to Teach in the Community

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course is aimed at those students who wish to develop teaching skills within community contexts. The course will address topics such as the translation of content in specific art forms into culturally and gender inclusive curricula for adolescents, community and cultural issues, artistic, conceptual and social development of teens, learning styles, current pedagogical practice, collaboration, team teaching and ethical issues. There will be readings, discussions, guest speakers, panels, demonstrations and off-site observations.

* Open to all MFA students. BFA students who are CAP teaching assistants are also eligible.

* Approved for Critical Studies credit.

* Cross disciplinary class.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

ID555: Special Topics in Arts Pedagogy

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This follows Arts Pedagogy 550 to further examine and study important issues and concepts in teaching within a community arts context. This course will go more in-depth in many of the constructs that were introduced in Arts Pedagogy 550, such as the study of teaching diverse student populations, instructional planning, aligning state learning standards to arts instruction, and other topics. There will be focus on three (3) special topics, chosen from the following, and chosen by consensus-all according to the students' interests and needs in their respective metiers and teaching. Students will focus on the adolescent student population for which CAP provides in its arts education programs, and in which CalArts students are instructors. The following topics include:

Cultural Proficiency: Teaching Diverse Student Populations

Art as Activism, Teaching Towards Social Justice

Topics in Education

Thinkersin Education

Behavioral Issues in the Classroom

Instructional Planning and Alignment to California State Standards

- * Approved for Critical Studies credit.
- * Open to all MFA students and BFA students who are CAP Student Instructors.
- * Cross disciplinary class.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [School of Critical Studies](#), [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

IDDA499: Digital Arts Portfolio for Undergraduates

1.0 unit / Semester: II

This course is the final requirement for the Digital Arts Minor to be taken at as a BFA 4. This course requires you to assemble a digital portfolio webpage showcasing all your work from CalArts combining your creativity using technology. Online lectures will guide students on how to prepare their portfolios, along with group meetings from your peers. Portfolios will be assessed by the Digital Arts Minor committee.

- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

IDDA800: Undergraduate Independent Project: Digital Arts

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Under the direction of a specific faculty member, students complete projects defined in a contractual agreement made at the beginning of the semester.

- * Variable credit.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)

IDDA900: Graduate Independent Project: Digital Arts

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Under the direction of a specific faculty member, students complete projects defined in a contractual agreement made at the beginning of the semester.

- * Variable credit.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [Interdisciplinary](#), [Integrated Media](#)