

FAQs derived from Gray Area Info Session - February 26, 2024

[Source document](#)

Q: Is the intention of the workshop to help folks get started with practical skills or is it just educational?

A: Yes the Praxis classes on weekends are more hands-on focused, and will provide you with new skills. Praxis Sessions are : March 10 – Apr 28, 2024 | Sundays, 10:00am – 1:00pm PT. You can see a full list of those sessions [here](#).

Q: I am minimally familiar with these technologies. I am neurodivergent. It has taken me some time to find an integrated and accessible way into my practice, do you think this course is for me?

A: Yes whether you learn better in lecture or in practice sessions, these classes are suitable for you. In addition our course materials are structured to help everyone find their best path for learning and retaining the information and skills transmitted during this course. Some of our instructors are also neurodivergent, so you won't be alone!

Q: Yes, but what if I'm not sure about the "intensive" part of this?

A: There will be ample breaks during sessions, and chances for questions. We'll make video recordings, so if you need to go back and review course material in smaller sections, it will be easy to do.

We believe in making this an learning adventure where you get to make choices.

Q: Where will I be able to exhibit a DWeb project?

A: There will be a showcase at the end of the intensive! Most likely in the early summer of this year, we will create a hybrid exhibit online and in our real life space to engage the public.

Q: What do you mean by “Choose Your Own Adventure” learning?

A: When you participate in DWeb for Creators you can stick to the Wednesday Knowledge Sessions or you can take the Sunday Praxis Sessions as well. You'll also become part of a communications channel, where you'll be able to talk with other students and educators, to help clarify topics. Other parts of the adventure include resource lists for taking deep dives into whatever DWeb rabbit hole appeals to you. Lastly, as the course goes on, so does the release of our open-source version of the course, which you'll have access to long after the live sessions are completed.

Q: What do you mean by “decentralization?”

A: You'll learn what decentralization means in technology but also what it means offline. You'll gain insight into decentralization as principles in everything from governance, to economics, as well as the arts. You'll leave this course with a thorough understanding of

the philosophical foundations and principles of decentralization pre and post internet.

Q: Does decentralization of the internet mean the end of gatekeeping?

A: We wish it did mean that but it doesn't. You'll learn in the course that nothing is perfect, not even DWeb. By becoming familiar with its tools, practices and already existing communities, you'll be able to make the next era of the internet better. We want you to help shape the future, starting now.

Q: Does decentralization technology make it easier to get rid of fake news? Does it enhance my privacy or make me safer?

A: Decentralization is not a panacea to all the cultural and technical ills of the current internet. However, knowledge is power, and through this course you will learn more about the ideals and practices that can improve the internet. You'll also learn the practical details regarding peer to peer networks and mesh networks, and other important architecture that can help build a better, safer, internet for you and your community.

Q: Does this course apply to VR and AR applications of technology, specifically to exhibiting those types of work or creating those types of experiences?"

A: No one currently will be discussing AR tools in great detail in the sessions BUT the spirit and practice of decentralization in those spaces definitely applies. Culturally, decentralizing power, access and funding at the institutional level will be part of our course discussion, and from that spirit any XR project IS relevant to the

class. When we get technical we will talk about how XR dev can engage with decentralized approaches at the layer of decentralized data storage.

Q: I want to make a DWeb project but I might need some assistance. Will there be project support?

A: Yes, there will be lots of assistance throughout DWeb for Creators. This course is all about empowering your practice. We are invested in helping you get comfortable. We can help you identify a project, and continue helping to make the project vision into a reality.

Q: I want to make a DWeb project but my art practice is more verbal than visual, is that OK?

A: Yes, this is an excellent course for writers, journalists, and even novelists or poets experimenting with form. In the case of a journalist who follows internet policy, such a person would get a taste for the landscape of DWeb technology. The knowledge provided would also be vital for art critics wanting to broaden their scope since it provides technical accuracy as well as historical significance.

Q: I am not an artist but I work for an arts institution. Is this course for me?

A: Yes, arts workers, cultural producers -- gallerists, archivists and everyone in between, this course is for you. Data organization, sharing and networking is part of this course, making it a useful tool in your work.

Q: Can I fail?

A: No, there is no grading in this course. We're doing this to get everyone started with understanding what decentralized technology is, and building skills to enable the use of these tools. We love beginners and designed these sessions, especially the hands-on Praxis for everyone.

Q: I'm a curator, are you sure this is right for me?

A: Yes, whether you are curating collections at a large institution or creating a leading-edge platform for the arts, this course will help you see into a whole new level of audience engagement. Online and offline in your real life spaces, the culture and technical skills of DWeb will enhance the possibility for viewers to radically engage with the artworks you love.

Q: If you're giving out scholarships, why isn't this free?

A: Gray Area is a non-profit organization, we are generously supported in this project by Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web, but there are costs to everything we do. If you can pay all or some portion of the tuition we ask that you do. We are in this art world together!

