

Media Arts & Culture Department

FALL SEMESTER 2020 Supplemental Information

While our instruction for the fall will be almost exclusively remote, the high-touch personalized classroom experience that is the signature of an Occidental liberal arts education during the best of times will be delivered electronically through a rich array of online video conferencing technologies. In all of their courses, students can expect instruction that happens synchronously (in real-time) with the faculty member who is teaching the course. As always, our faculty will be teaching using a multitude of pedagogical approaches and methods, and students, whether they are taking science labs, practica, upper division seminars, introductory courses, courses that meet Core Program requirements, can expect in each of their courses a rigorous, personalized experience enhanced by close small-group or one-on-one experiences with the faculty member teaching the course.

Students will be expected to be available for their courses during scheduled class meeting times, and can expect opportunities for conferencing or tutorials in small groups with their faculty outside of the scheduled class meeting times for some of their courses. We recognize that some students, particularly those living in non-US time zones, may have difficulty attending all of the regularly scheduled class times synchronously. For every course we offer in the fall the expectations for synchronous class attendance, as well as any asynchronous learning opportunities, will be made clear in the syllabus, and all students living in non-US time zones will have opportunities for live small group or 1-1 experiences during standard working hours (8am-5pm Pacific Time), and will have opportunities to take exams at times that accommodate their home time zone.

The Media Arts & Culture Department is committed to delivering engaging and meaningful course experiences that enable you to pursue your intellectual and creative passions, and to learn from your fellow students, despite being remote.

Because many of our courses are technology dependent, we have put in place a system for providing the equipment and software you need to do your work. If you are enrolled in MAC 110, 210, 240, 242, 250, 270, 490, or 491, and you have not already done so, please complete the [MAC FALL 2020 TECHNOLOGY SURVEY](#).

Revisions to MAC Requirements, 2020-2021

In order to support students who may need to take time off or who choose to take courses elsewhere during the Fall, the following revisions to MAC major requirements will be in place for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Two gateways must still be completed by the end of sophomore year to declare the MAC major, but sophomores who are on leave in the Fall will be permitted to take two gateways in the Spring semester (note that doubling up is not a guarantee of admittance in our gateway courses. It is each student's responsibility to have their enrollment at Oxy reinstated and to reach out to gateway professors during pre-advising to ensure their admittance).
- Gateways, along with electives, may be completed via substitution with comparable courses from other institutions. Students will need to get pre-approval from their advisors and to petition for transfer credit.

Information for Seniors

Some of you have asked about the impact—in terms of the comps process and graduation timetable—of taking off a semester or a year from Oxy. While it is not possible to complete the comps process in a single semester (and for production students, it is not possible to complete the process off-cycle due to equipment and staffing limitations), there are some available options to consider. Please inquire with your comps instructor if you would like more information.

Supplemental Course Information

The information here is supplemental to that found in [Course Counts](#) and [the 2020-2021 Catalog](#).

Instruction Update: Prof. Amanda Tasse will be on maternity leave in Fall 2020. MAC 240 is now being taught by Brody Fox. MAC 146 is now being taught by [Viola Lasmana](#), and MAC 280 is now being taught by [Brian Cantrell](#).

Title: MAC 110 Introduction to Digital Design

Faculty: Diana Keeler

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. As this is a hands-on computer-based course, it translates quite well to remote learning. We will be working with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Dreamweaver, learning new skills each week and building to create a final project in each application. Media Arts & Culture is coordinating with the ITS department to ensure that each student will have access to a Adobe Creative Cloud subscription and a computer with adequate computing power to run the necessary programs for this course.

Information for students residing in different timezones: While the material of the course has remained unchanged from the in-person version, it has been restructured for the Fall to best utilize various methods of online learning, including

- Synchronous video meetings during our normally scheduled time
- Short tutorials you can watch on your own time
- Optional office hour group sessions (particularly useful for students in other timezones)
- Interactive online activities on our class platform (custom built by the Instructor)
- 1-1 screenshare meetings to go over your work

Attending the synchronous class meetings during our normally scheduled time is highly encouraged if possible; for students unable to attend, the sessions will be recorded (with student consent) and students will be able to engage both with the instructor and their peers in one or more of the above methods

Title: MAC 143 Introduction to Visual and Critical Studies**Faculty: Katarzyna Marciniak**

Class Information: Intro to Visual and Critical Studies translates well into an online format. As this is a conceptually demanding course, we will be meeting synchronously during our class time although students will be responsible for screening the assigned visual material independently. Lecture notes, readings, assignments, and links to films and other visualia will be available on Moodle. There is one textbook that students are required to purchase: *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader* (Anthony Easthope and Kate McGowan). I also encourage you to obtain *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory* (David Macey). This is a discussion-based course and we will be working collaboratively throughout the semester.

Information for students residing in different timezones: US students are expected to attend our synchronous sessions while international students residing in prohibitive time zones are encouraged to email Prof. Marciniak directly. I will organize individual or small group tutorials to ensure your full access to the course materials and my guidance.

Title: MAC 146 Aesthetics of Cinema**Faculty: [Viola Lasmana](#)**

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. This 100-level gateway course translates well into an online format. Readings, assignments, and links to films will be available on Moodle. The most significant difference will be that film screenings will be online and students will be responsible for viewing material independently.

Information for students residing in different timezones: US students are expected to attend our synchronous sessions while international students residing in prohibitive time zones are encouraged to email Prof. Lasmana directly.

Title: MAC 210 Introduction to Motion Design**Faculty: Diana Keeler**

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. As this is a hands-on computer-based course, it translates quite well to remote learning. We will be

working primarily with Adobe After Effects, with a bit of Character Animator and Adobe Animate, creating weekly projects to explore concepts and build technical skills, culminating in a final project. Media Arts & Culture is coordinating with the ITS department to ensure that each student will have access to a Adobe Creative Cloud subscription and a computer with adequate computing power to run the necessary programs for this course.

Information for students residing in different timezones: While the material of the course has remained unchanged from the in-person version, it has been restructured for the Fall to best utilize various methods of online learning, including

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- Optional office hour group sessions (particularly useful for students in other timezones)
- Interactive online activities on our class platform (custom built by the Instructor)
- 1-1 screenshare meetings to go over your work

Attending the synchronous class meetings during our normally scheduled time is highly encouraged if possible; for students unable to attend, the sessions will be recorded (with student consent) and students will be able to engage both with the instructor and their peers in one or more of the above methods.

Title: MAC 220 Narrative Practices

Faculty: Aleem Hossain

Class Information: A screenwriting seminar/workshop translates quite well to an online setting. In the first half of the semester students will do a series of screenwriting exercises and read their peers' work on their own time before coming together in a live Zoom session to critique/discuss. In the second half of the semester will work in rotating small groups - also live on Zoom - to workshop the creation of short film scripts.

Information for students residing in different timezones: In lieu of participating in the live critiques and workshopping, students who have extreme time zone differences will be able to submit comments/suggestions asynchronously on their peers' work and will be able to watch a recording of the live sessions to see what the class had to say.

Title: MAC 240 Introduction to Media Practices**Faculty: Broderick Fox**

Class Information: This is a required course for students pursuing the Media Production Track in the major. Please see the College catalog for the full course description. As this is a media production-centered course, FA 20 students in this remote version of the class will be provided with access to requisite software and an equipment package. We will also work with students to ensure they have the appropriate computing power to run software. Though remote, the class will still offer all the same technical, conceptual, and creative training that is typically covered in this course.

Information for students residing in different timezones: The class will engage a combination of synchronous and asynchronous approaches, and we will develop a collaborative and engaged classroom community. Plan on committing to the full listed course times, as we will use this dedicated time in a mix of synchronous class, small-group, and one-on-one meetings, plus asynchronous activities. Students in the US will be expected to participate fully in synchronous components, but Prof. Fox will work with international students living in a prohibitively different time zone to ensure their ability to participate in the class and complete coursework.

Title: MAC 241 The Politics and Poetics of Documentary**Faculty: Broderick Fox**

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description, which remains unchanged.

Information for students residing in different timezones: The class will engage a combination of synchronous and asynchronous approaches, and we will develop a collaborative and engaged classroom community. Plan on committing to the full listed course times, as we will use this dedicated time in a mix of synchronous class, small-group, and one-on-one meetings, plus asynchronous activities. Students in the US will be expected to participate fully in synchronous components, but Prof. Fox will work with international students living in a prohibitively different time zone to ensure their ability to participate in the class and complete coursework

Title: MAC 242 Projects in Documentary**Faculty: Broderick Fox**

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. This is a media production-centered course. In FA 20, the remote version of course will be taught around mobile media production practices: a growing professional movement of documentarians, journalists, and artists adopting smartphone-based production workflows. Students will need to have a smartphone (Android or iOS) with a min of 10 GB of storage (we will work with students if needed to ensure suitable phone access). Students will be provided with access to requisite software and a supplemental equipment package.

Information for students residing in different timezones: The class will engage a combination of synchronous and asynchronous approaches, and we will develop a collaborative and engaged classroom community. Plan on committing to the full listed course times, as we will use this dedicated time in a mix of synchronous class, small-group, and one-on-one meetings, plus asynchronous activities. Students in the US will be expected to participate fully in synchronous components, but Prof. Fox will work with international students living in a prohibitively different time zone to ensure their ability to participate in the class and complete coursework.

Title: MAC 244 The Female in Japanese Film and Media**Faculty: Vivian Lin**

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. For remote learning, the class will consist of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities. Lectures, assignments, and readings will be made available on the course Moodle page. The most significant difference will be that film screenings will be conducted online and students will be responsible to view material independently. In addition to individual assignments, students will be expected to engage in a team-based presentation where they will be required to meet as a group and also with Prof. Lin prior to their presentation.

Information for students residing in different time zones: Students in different time zones or those who have difficulty attending the synchronous sessions are encouraged to email Prof. Lin directly. We can arrange for alternative meeting times either individually or in small groups.

Title: MAC 248 _ 1 Transnational Cinemas: borders, walls, difference

Faculty: Katarzyna Marciniak

Class Information: The course offers a combination of screenings and theory readings and will thus translate well into an online format. We will engage in both synchronous and asynchronous activities through the semester. Students will be responsible for screening films independently while class discussion and theory explications will happen in a collective setting, synchronously, during our assigned class time. There are no textbooks to purchase; all our readings, lecture notes, assignments, and links to films will be available on Moodle. This is a discussion-based course and we will be working collaboratively throughout the semester.

Information for students residing in different timezones: US students are expected to attend our synchronous sessions while international students residing in prohibitive time zones are encouraged to email Prof. Marciniak directly. I will organize individual or small group tutorials to ensure your full access to the course materials and my guidance.

Title: MAC 248_2 Transpacific Social Justice

Faculty: Vivian Lin

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. For remote learning, the class will consist of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities. Lectures, assignments, and readings will be made available on the course Moodle. The most significant difference will be that film screenings will be conducted online and students will be responsible to view material independently. In addition to individual assignments, students will be expected to engage in a team-based presentation where they will be required to meet as a group and also with Prof. Lin prior to their presentation.

Information for students residing in different time zones: Students in different time zones or those who have difficulty attending the synchronous sessions are encouraged to email Prof. Lin directly. We can arrange for alternative meeting times either individually or in small groups.

Title: MAC 250 The Video Essay

Faculty: Allison de Fren

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. This is a media theory and practice course, which will be translated to an all-remote format via both synchronous and asynchronous discussions and activities. Independent student work will involve readings, editing tutorials, at-home screenings, and a series of hands-on assignments building towards a scholarly video essay. Media Arts & Culture is coordinating with the ITS department to ensure that each student will have access to a Adobe Creative Cloud subscription and a computer with adequate computing power to run the necessary programs for this course. All US students are required to attend synchronous class sessions.

Information for students residing in different timezones: Attending the synchronous class meetings during our normally scheduled time is highly encouraged. For students unable to attend, please contact Professor de Fren. Class sessions will be recorded (with student consent) and alternative crit sessions will be arranged.

Title: MAC 260 Women Making Moves - Women's Migration and Media

Faculty: Vivian Lin

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. For remote learning, the class will consist of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities. Lectures, assignments, and readings will be made available on the course Moodle. The most significant difference will be that film screenings will be conducted online and students will be responsible to view material independently. Students will be expected to engage in a visual research project that reflects on the course themes. Due to the

pandemic, this project can be conducted individually or as a collaborative effort with material being sourced online if necessary.

Information for students residing in different time zones: Students in different time zones or those who have difficulty attending the synchronous sessions are encouraged to email Prof. Lin directly. We can arrange for alternative meeting times either individually or in small groups.

Title: MAC 270 Worldbuilding Design

Faculty: [Brian Cantrell](#)

Class Information: Please see the College catalog for the full course description. This is a hybrid media production and theory course, which translates quite well to an all-remote format. Students will engage with reading, discussion, critical reflection, and critical making based on a series of written and media texts about worldbuilding. In addition, students will work both individually and in groups on worldbuilding related production exercises and projects using the Adobe Creative Cloud applications Photoshop and Illustrator, and optionally After Effects or Premiere. Students will also be introduced to additional software to help build and visualize their worlds, such as the free Game Engine, Unity. Media arts & Culture is working with the College to ensure that students in classes with a media production component, such as this one, have access to Adobe Creative Cloud Subscriptions, and computers with adequate computing power to run the necessary programs. The instruction itself will be conducted both synchronously and asynchronously. The synchronous content will include full class, small group, and individual meetings. The asynchronous content will include pre-recorded tutorials, lectures, and demos, media and written material, and a variety of exercises to engage with the material and topics of the class.

Information for students residing in different timezones: Prof. Cantrell will ensure that students in different time zones can access the synchronous content via class recordings, with student consent. He will also offer supplemental office hour meeting times that are more conducive to time zone variances. For group work, the instructor aims to team students up in groups that will allow them to work synchronously as needed. If this is not possible, then it is permissible for the students in different time zones to work more

asynchronously on their group work. The instructor will offer tools and processes to help facilitate remote group work for all students, regardless of time zone. All students will be able to participate in the asynchronous content at flexible times within the timeframe of different class modules.