

Art Games Bootcamp

Syllabus - Winter 2024

Last updated 1/9/24

Week 1 – 1/9

In class

- Overview of class
- Lecture and Discussion on Readings for Next Week
- Homework
 - Readings due by next week: <https://artgamedev.com/resources.html>
 - Adopt an artistic framework from which to observe, be, and interact with the world. Begin gathering materials and manifesting experiences that activate and develop whatever artistic sensibilities are dormant in you or you would like to develop. Examples:
 - **Step 1:** Find a body of inspiration online that is unfamiliar to you. It could be a community or an AI of some kind. But find a thing or location or group who are very strange to you but fascinating to you in an artistic sense. These things could be attractive, repulsive, opaque or confusing to you. They might give you joy or frustration or a complex combination of experiences that are difficult to process. For example Duncan Trussell studies contemporary conspiracy theories and online communities which informs his creative process. It is evident in his animated series Midnight Gospel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kQWAqjFJS0>. Note that there is “slippage” between the body of interest (conspiracy theories in this case) and Duncan Trussell’s own views on the subject. He is not a propagator or a fan of conspiracy theories. His “critical distance” from that body can be very wide and it can still provide something revealing to him. Also note that the purpose of this is the opposite of “othering,” you are not above or below the body you’re engaging with. Or perhaps you are the “other.”
 - **Step 2:** explore hunches on some aspect of the nature of your budding sense of an artistic framework. For example, Jodorowski’s theories on the power of fantasy in the film Jodorowski’s Dune <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0cJNR8HEw0>. Your hunches don’t need to be profound or world-encompassing. They could be very specific to what you are experiencing in specific moments in time. Document these in some way. You can keep these notes private.

- **Optional:** Before starting this assignment, or perhaps halfway through, you might want to create social media account(s) using a very loosely conceived persona or alt personality through which you can feel things out. Intentionally crafted alt accounts might help you engage your body of interest or the world beyond more vigorously or the anonymity might help you feel more comfortable.
- **Optional:** Maybe begin gathering media and following people, things, artists, movements that seem to invigorate some new vital perspectives of your artistic framework. This could be a Google Drive folder or something fancier.
- **Optional:** Learn about the technologies, tools, or material structures that inform or make possible whatever artistic framework you are developing. These might be disruptive or emerging technologies such as AI, web3, blockchain tech, biotech, withered old technologies or anything else too.
- You have the option to keep all of the above to yourself. You can keep it entirely secret if you wish. That may help you be more engaged with it and more experimental. Take risks you deem appropriate for yourself. Try to awaken something in you that may have some strong artistic or aesthetic drives, hunches, and so on.

Week 2 – 1/16

In class

- Lecture and Discussion on Readings
- Overview of main class project students will develop in the course
- Homework
 - Students continue developing their artistic frameworks from Week 1. Examples are given in class to help students orient themselves to this task.

Week 3 – 1/23

In class

- Lecture and Discussion on Readings
- Optional: If they wish, students may share out some or all of what they have been working on in terms of developing some artist or aesthetic sensibilities.
- Class discussion on how students may begin working on their class projects based on whatever artistic framework they have been developing. Students may work independently or in teams.

Week 4 – 1/30

In class

- Lecture and Discussion on Readings
- Students and teams share out progress on their class projects and receive feedback and guidance from the class.

Week 5 and onward - 2/6

TBA based on previous developments....
