Last revised 2/1/2015
Spring 2015 - Tuesdays, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
721 Broadway, room 652 (except as otherwise noted in schedule)

Instructor: Ben Fino-Radin
bfr2@nyu.edu;

**GOALS:** This seminar will increase students' knowledge of primary issues and emerging strategies for the preservation of artworks and other forms of cultural heritage that are in some way or another functionally reliant on computers and software. An emphasis will be placed on installation-based artworks, and the context of museum conservation. Students will gain practical hands-on skills with identification and risk assessment for works as a whole and their component parts, particularly in the areas of audio and visual media and digital, interactive media projects stored on aging tangible media carriers, presented as installations, and/or existing in networks. Students will be trained in the principles and practices of time-based media conservation, and evaluate methodologies currently practiced in the field.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Each student will complete three assignments in groups of varying sizes. Attendance at all classes is expected unless excused; our work together will be intensive. Notify the instructor prior to class of any absences; absences for classes where work is due or presentations are scheduled will require a doctor’s note if due to illness or injury. Deadlines for assignments are firm and any extensions on written work due to unavoidable circumstances will require prior approval. Grades will be primarily based on assignments: Project #1 (30%); Project #2 (30%); and Project #3 (40%). Your level of class preparedness and participation will also impact the grade, as well as any unexcused absences or unexcused late work.

- **Project #1:** Students will be tasked with designing a workstation, and procedural documentation for the acquisition, appraisal, and curation of born-digital materials according to present day archival best practices. Students will be provided with a profile of a hypothetical collecting institution. Due date: March 3rd.

- **Project #2:** Artist interviews. In small groups, students will collaboratively research for, construct, plan, and conduct an artist interview with an artist about a specific artwork. List of artists TBA. Due date: April 7th.

- **Project #3:** Comprehensive case study of a time-based media installation artwork from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. The work will be
researched and analyzed through individual and group work, over the course of several weeks – including direct observation and analysis of the work on-site at MoMA's storage facility. Students will be responsible for a section of resulting reports and/or will serve as editor. Due date: April 28th. After review by instructor, minor revisions may be needed by May 12.

Please note that as needed all written work must utilize proper citations, including proper web citations. APA style is preferred but not required. Works that do not include complete citations will be returned for revision and considered late. Please see the plagiarism policy here and do not hesitate to seek advice where needed: http://www.nyu.edu/tisch/preservation/handbook.html

**MIAP Digital Archive:** In addition to submitting assignments in print form, all course papers/projects will be submitted in electronic form via NYU Classes. The materials will be made part of the MIAP digital archive in a private space for faculty use, and on the MIAP web site, unless there is a legitimate reason for it to be restricted.

Standard file naming convention: 15s_1805_smith_a1.doc  
Restricted file naming convention: 15s_1805_smith_a1_x.doc  
Where:  
15s = spring 2015  
1805 = class number  
smith = author’s last name  
a1 = assignment number 1  
x = restricted work designation

**LOGISTICS AND ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

This course will have a web presence on NYU Classes – Please log-on at least once a week.

**Access to Labs:** Please see http://www.nyu.edu/its/labs/ for locations and descriptions of NYU’s computer labs if needed for your research. In addition, access will be provided to the ‘Old Media Lab’, 721 Broadway, room 644B.

**Cell phones:** Refrain from using your phone during class.
### Schedule at a glance

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<td>Don Mennerich</td>
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**Class 1: Tuesday, January 27**

*Snow day!*

**Class 2: Tuesday, February 3**

**Topics/activities:**
- Syllabus review / introduction to course / charting the semester
- Discussion of the present state of the field, areas of practice, various prominent practitioners in specific fields
- Introduction to the old media lab
- Technical and material foundation
- Disk imaging part 1 of 2
- Introduction to Project #1

**Reading due this class:**

**Class 3: Tuesday, February 10**

Topics/activities:
- Disk imaging part 2 of 2
- Bagging / checksumming
- Intro to emulation

Reading due this class:

**Class 4: Tuesday, February 17**

Guest Speaker: Don Mennerich, Digital Archivist, NYU Digital Libraries

Topics/activities:
- Devising a plan for archival processing of tangible media
- Disk imaging at NYU Digital Library
- Techniques for post-imaging analysis and arrangement / description

Reading due this class:
- The Forensic Curator: Digital Forensics as a Solution to Addressing the Curatorial Challenges Posed by Personal Digital Archives http://www.ijdc.net/index.php/ijdc/article/view/218/287

**Class 5: Tuesday, February 24**

Topics/activities:
- Modes of access and analysis: emulation, reconstruction, normalization
- Check-in on project #1

Reading due this class:
Class 6: Tuesday, March 3rd
Topics/activities:
- Introduction to conservation issues
- History and evolution of media conservation in museums

Reading due this class:
- http://www.si.edu/tbma/about

Viewing due this class:
- Conservation at the Whitney Museum: http://whitney.org/WhitneyStories/CarolMancusiUngaro
- Pip Laurenson http://vimeo.com/14632365

Class 7: Tuesday, March 10th
Guest Speaker: Glenn Wharton, Clinical Associate Professor, NYU Museum Studies
Topics/activities:
- The artist interview
- Discussion of readings and key concepts of identity, authenticity and variability.
Reading due this class:
- Peruse The Artist Documentation Project website http://adp.menil.org/

Viewing due this class
- Glenn Wharton http://vimeo.com/14632474

NO CLASS Tuesday March 17th – SPRING BREAK

Class 8: Tuesday, March 24th
**class meets at MoMA**

Topics/activities:
- Walk-through of MoMA exhibitions
- Media conservation in practice
- Conservation of installation based art

Reading due this class:

Class 9: Tuesday, March 31st
**class meets at MoMA QNS**

Topics/activities:
- Conservation of installation based art
- Direct observation and study of installation for Project #3

Reading due this class:
● http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/collections/conservation/time-based-media/media-art-documentation

Class 10: Tuesday, April 7th
Project #2 Due this class – Class meets at MoMA QNS
Topics/activities:
● Direct observation and study of installation for Project #3
● conservation of installation based art

Reading due this class:

Class 11: Tuesday, April 14th
Guest Speaker: Pam Kramlich, private collector Kramlich Collection & New Art Trust
Due this class:
● Watch: http://vimeo.com/45475116
● Watch: http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4564
● Further readings may be assigned as needed

Class 12: Tuesday, April 21st
Class meets at MoMA QNS
Topics/activities:
● Last session for hands-on lab work / direct observation and study of installation based artwork for project #3

Reading due this class:
● Readings may be assigned as needed

Class 13: Tuesday, April 28th
Project #3 Due this class
Topics/activities:
● Present final report for the project #3
● Discussion about potential areas of further investigation by the museum.

Reading due this class:
● Readings may be assigned as needed

Class 14: Tuesday, May 5th
Topics/activities:
● Semester wrap-up – informal discussion and review of concepts and methodologies, areas of practice, and professional opportunities.