West Virginia Wesleyan College // School of Fine Arts & Humanities
Department of Art
Spring Term 2015 // Intermedia Topics I: Memories & Microcontrollers // ART255
Classroom: McCuskey Room 112
Mon/Wed 3-5:30pm
Professor: Ellen Mueller // Office: McCuskey Room 105
Office Hours: Mon/Wed, 12-2:30pm & by appointment
Email: mueller_e@wvwc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will be introduced to Arduino, an open-source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software. It is intended for anyone making interactive projects. We will also study contemporary art that deals with memories. Students will experiment with electronics to create, represent, respond to, and reflect on memories as the subject and/or content of their work.

We will read, watch, and discuss perspectives on art dealing with memories, as well as art created with microcontrollers. These perspectives will be written/created by artists, curators, art historians, and critics. Using this information as a springboard, we will create our own electronic works. Experimentation is always a virtue to have as an artist. Simultaneously keep deadlines, craft, and context in mind. Be ambitious.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will practice utilizing microcontrollers and coding, both as a practical tool and as an artistic medium, through the execution of various exercises and experiments.

- Students will think about/discuss art and design processes associated with microcontrollers and memories through reading, discussion assignments, and short answer quizzes.

- By brainstorming, researching and presenting, students will identify their own artistic sources and influences.

- Students will practice identifying and utilizing the elements and principles of design by creating and critiquing art works. This process will also enhance written and oral fluency in artistic language.

- Students will practice brainstorming to strengthen their ability to form creative conceptual ideas.

- Students will demonstrate the professional activities of an artist in terms of documenting their work and self-discipline to complete all work in a timely fashion. Students will practice documenting their work, turning in a disk or jump drive of all their work at the end of the semester.

NOTES ON PERSEVERANCE:

We will encounter frustrations as we deal with unexpected road-blocks, and create workarounds that fit within our timeline. These are important skills to practice, as you will do the same when you leave school and enter the world of professional

artistic practice. Our weekly discipline will include a variety of activities which may include, but are not limited to, discussion, active installation creation/viewing, sketchbook entries, and scheduled readings/writings. It is important to know you do not have to be a trained artist to participate in this course. However you must be willing to explore how this medium allows you to develop and refine your artistic practice, regardless of your preferred artistic medium. Please note that an instructor cannot force the effort required to practice art. It must come from a desire and aptitude for struggle. Dedication and willingness to create will ensure your success in this class.

NOTES ON COURSE CONTENT:

We're about to experience some content that can be, and has in the past been, considered provocative. People in this course have been offended by what we're about to see, so even if you think this is harmless or funny, keep in mind that this can also offend. Have respect for how other people in the room feel. That said: provocative art might not be directly offensive, but can remind you of difficult experiences, and it can work on you emotionally before your thinking mind has a chance to catch up. This means it can surprise you, and that's ok, and this room is a safe place to talk about offendedness and problematic art, and you can also communicate with me via email or office visit. I'll also try to contextualize this art by putting it in its historical moment where it will hopefully make better sense.

NOTES ON RESPECT:

The work created in the course may be of a personal and/or controversial nature. Please respect your colleagues and give their work your best attention. If you disagree with a work or its content, remember that when engaging with others' work you must be a responsible and professional critic, and as such must work to make your criticism constructive and descriptive.

BLACKBOARD You must check your WVWC e-mail and Blackboard to take this course. **Assignments will be dispersed via email/Blackboard.** **EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE** Visit **this link** for guidelines on email correspondence. **ATTENDANCE POLICY** Visit **this link** for complete attendance policy.	**Textbook & Supplies** **LATE WORK POLICY** I do not accept late work. See **this link** for complete details. **GRADING POLICY** Visit **this link** for complete grading policy. **CLASS SCHEDULE - Available online**

ACCOMMODATIONS:
West Virginia Wesleyan College ensures that no qualified person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied access to, excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of any program or activity operated by the College or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities. The College shall make reasonable accommodations to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student with a disability to

enable the qualified student with the disability to have equal access to educational opportunities, programs and activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 [29 U.S.C. 794(a)] and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) [42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.].

I concur with the College's commitment to social justice and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements, according to our Student Handbook http://www.wvwc.edu/Students/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf with the Director
 of the Learning Center (473-8499).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
"Academic Dishonesty" is defined as "any form of cheating which results in students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise or receiving credit for work that is not their own."
Plagiarism is defined as "literary theft" and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text. On written papers for which the student information gathered from books, articles, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public-at-large, must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure. Citations may be made in footnotes or within the body of the text. Plagiarism also consists of passing off as one's own, segments or the total of another person's work.

Punishment for academic dishonesty will depend on the seriousness of the offense and may include a receipt of an "F" with a numerical value of zero on the item submitted, and the "F" shall be used to determine the final course grade. If the offense is repeated, the student will fail the course.

Detection of Plagiarism:
I use an automated plagiarism detection service to check student assignments for plagiarism.