Fall 2023 Session 1 - Multispecies Theory - Assignments

DM-GY 9201 C | Special Topics in Integrated Design & Media | Fall 2023

Fridays 11am-1:50pm, September 6th to October 20th, 2023

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, readings for each class should be completed before class. Each week, there will be one or more students designated as "discussants", who will lead the discussion of these readings. The discussant will present a brief overview of the readings as well as questions for the class to respond to the week before.

Assignment 1 - Week 1 (in class)

Take a 15 minute walk around the Navy Yard and document non-human living organisms you can see. Try to think very large and very small.

Deliverable: drop your images in our class slides for Week 1.

Assignment 2 - due Week 2

Go see the exhibit Cento @ The Whitney Museum . Take several screenshots of the AR exhibit on your phone. Design your own imaginary species and situate it in an everyday environment. Use whatever means you'd like - you can describe it in text, sketch it, model it, have an AI generate it ...

Deliverable: drop images of your creation in our class slides for Week 2.

Assignment 3 - due Week 3

Writing assignment: Pick a domesticated animal, and write a short description of their physiology. What are the senses they perceive the world with? What are their physical capacities? What are the climates and environments they adapted to?

Make a timeline of the human-animal relationship, with illustrations from your sources. Then, rewrite the timeline from the animal's perspective. How could their senses and physiology impact the perception of their environment?

Reference: Ciencia fricción: vida entre especies compañeras by Maria Ptqk "The Museum of the History of Cattle" p.98

Deliverable: Google doc / PDF with illustrated timelines with bibliography and written reflection - (500 words). Drop these in our class folder.

Assignment 4 - due Week 4

Generative AI assignment: use a generative AI tool (e.g. ChatGPT, Bard...) to write an 500 word essay about the future of environmentalism and the anthropocene. Have it write either from a utopic perspective or a dystopic perspective by prompting it to write with the voice of contemporary authors / pundits. What are the prompts you need to use to get each perspective? Who are the individuals who are most effective in influencing the outcomes?

Deliverable: Google doc with essay as well as prompts. Drop this in our class folder.

Assignment 5 - Week 5 in class

Bring materials to class for a rapid prototyping exercise. We will create an imaginary interface or organism and situate it in a worldbuilding exercise.

Assignment 6 - final assignment due Week 7

Create a media artifact (zine, podcast, newspaper ...) that responds to one or more topics presented in class.

Write a 500 word essay describing your topic, process and reflections.

If you are making an object, include documentation photographs.