CORE: ARTS, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (CADT-UH)

CADT-UH 1001 Manus et Machina (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This course explores how technology and machines have influenced human life across the ages. It further explores how technology has influenced the fields of arts and design and investigates this inspirational source for new technological developments. Lecture and discussion will be the breeding ground for concept development of new machines: Every student will realize a prototype of a machine executing a certain task. This hands-on project will be complemented by case studies, reading assignments, workshops, excursions, and one-on-one meetings with the professor. The course builds knowledge about futuristic developments and their use and influence from past to present, including questions concerning ethics and values. Students will leave the course with a completed project to be displayed in an exhibition and a personal philosophy of Arts, Design, and Technology.
Grading: Ugrad Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Visual Communication Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Mgt Research Methods Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media: Media Design Thinking Elective
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Design
• Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CADT-UH 1005 Creativity and Innovation (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Is creativity a gift or a skill? Can creativity be learned? Because creativity is deeply personal, this course will address these questions through individual and collective experiences. The heart of this course is the Personal Creativity Project - an opportunity for students to practice creativity by designing and executing a project of their choice. The project may be on any topic, from art and music to computer programs and business model development. The project will be complemented by reading assignments (completed prior to class), class discussions, and one-on-one meetings with the instructor. Students will leave the course with a completed project and a personal philosophy of creativity, based on the fusion of readings, study, discussion, and experience. The course provides a great deal of freedom for learning and does not provide step-by-step instructions. As a result, the successful completion of this course will require a significant amount of self-motivation.
Grading: Ugrad Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Visual Communication Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Design

CADT-UH 1008EQ Touch (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
It is easy to have an idea of the effects of significant loss of vision or hearing by closing our eyes or by wearing earplugs. What about a significant loss of the sense of touch? The answer might not come readily due in part to the subtle, effortless function of this sense. Far from being just an immediate skin sensation, touching is intimately blended into embodied experiences that are affectionate, expressive, personal, and interpersonal. The haptic modality is our fundamental mode of access to the physical world. This course provides a multidisciplinary, cross-cultural introduction to the dynamics and salience of the human sense of touch and traces a continuous thread through a number of fundamental questions and critical approaches related to human haptics. A variety of interpretations, disciplines, and experiences exploring the symbolic, cultural, ethical, social, and technical aspects of touch will be discussed. Topics include social and cultural development, memory, learning, digital design, tactile therapies, human computer interaction, multimodal interaction and sensory substitution, and privacy and security.
Grading: Ugrad Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Digital Arts Humanities Minor: Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Digital Arts Humanities

CADT-UH 1013EQ Language of Computers (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This course introduces students to the basics of how computers “think” and some of the inherent limitations of computers. How do programs (software applications) make computers behave intelligently and allow them to solve problems effectively for a wide range of applications and fields, from art and other media to education, medicine, and the core sciences? How do we use computer programs to process, structure, and manage information, create and manipulate digital media, and search and gather information relevant to any particular topic? How do computer programs operate virtually, creating the World Wide Web of the modern digital age, and how does all of this affect issues related to security and privacy in the wired world we live in today? Students are asked to create innovative programming solutions to a set of problems and develop applications focused on the social good for their final project. The programming language of choice is Python, a relatively easy programming language with powerful visual, text processing, and graphics capabilities. No prior programming experience is required.
Grading: Ugrad Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Data Discovery
• Bulletin Categories: Digital Arts Humanities Minor: Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Data Discovery
• Crosslisted with: Digital Arts Humanities
CADT-UH 1014EJQ Heuristics (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term

Many problems in science, business, and politics require heuristics, problem solving techniques that often work well but give imperfect guarantees. This course teaches heuristics as they apply to the design of scientific experiments, the resolution of economic or political negotiations, and in the construction of engineering devices in hostile environments. Students will work in small teams that will solve puzzles, conduct cross-cultural experiments, and build protocols for a competitive auction game. Students will use and learn computational tools, but the course has no programming prerequisite. The intent is to make you better able to face complex problems in any field you choose.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1016 Utilitas, Venustas, Firmitas (4 Credits)

Typically offered occasionally

Design seems to be omnipresent, but what is it? This course (whose title is Latin for usage, beauty, and stability) explores how design influences our life and investigates the fundamentals of "good design." It takes a look at the status quo of the use of design in media, objects, and architecture, and observe its influence on art and technology from past to present. Design tools and processes will be highlighted. Based on the fusion of readings, study, discussion, and experiences, over the course of the semester students will develop an understanding of how mutually reinforcing and beneficiary a mix of Arts, Design, and Technology can be. Lecture and discussion will help develop the design of a bricolage: Every student will realize a product prototype to be displayed in an exhibition and a personal philosophy of about Arts, Design, and Technology.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Art History Elective for Visual Arts Track
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
- Crosslisted with: Art Art History
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Design
- Crosslisted with: Environment
- Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CADT-UH 1020 Wayfinding: Graphic Design in the Built Environment (4 Credits)

Typically offered Fall and Spring

In November 2014, Volvo Race's boat Vestas did not find her way to Abu Dhabi port and got stranded on a reef in the Indian Ocean instead. What went wrong? Is it still possible to get lost today, in the age of ubiquitous and democratized GPS? What does it mean to find one's way? How do different environments create unique problems, as well as provide solutions? How do we find those solutions ourselves, and how can we intervene in the design of our working and living environments, in the design of our navigational practices, in order to avoid getting lost? What tools do we have? How do they work? What can we learn from navigation before GPS? Informed by new technologies, the demand for sustainability, and the inputs from cognitive studies, "wayfinding" has grown to become a field of research in its own right, related to both architecture and design. It studies the ways in which people orient themselves via the organization of sensory cues from the external environment. The course explores visual design components and theoretical ramifications and will include workshops on campus signage systems, with a focus on accessible design.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Art History Elective for Visual Arts Track
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
- Crosslisted with: Art Art History
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Design
- Crosslisted with: Environment
- Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media
CADT-UH 1021 Art of Narrative Science (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Are art and science really in conflict with each other, as is often thought? Is science dispelling mystery and consigning us to a world of dreary reductionism? This course answers such questions with a resounding no. There is, in fact, neither conflict nor antagonism between the realms of art and science. Indeed, the two complement and complete one another in ways that only artful narrative can fully reveal. A poet, through metaphor, builds bridges from entangled inscapes of thought and emotion to a place of shared understanding. A good narrative science writer must do the equivalent with the often recondite minutia of modern scientific exploration. It has become ever more essential for writers to report back from these new and wild frontiers with clear, intelligible, and descriptive prose. Students in this course will develop their vocabularies of both science and writing, learning to seize upon the parallels between the writing process and sound scientific method: trial, error, repetition, and, perhaps most importantly, daring.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
• Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing

CADT-UH 1024 What Is Music? (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This course analyzes what we understand as "music." Drawing on music of different styles from all over the world, seminar members will explore what constitutes musical meaning, how it is produced, and how music expresses feelings. Taking advantage of the multicultural nature of NYU Abu Dhabi, students will explore the cultural and universal mechanisms at play when we listen to and understand music. A lab portion of the class guides students through basic musical elements such as notation systems, scales, and simple compositional techniques.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Music: Theory Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Music Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Music

CADT-UH 1025 Re-Design (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
Giorgio Vasari defined Mannerism in terms still used today in Art History. In the wake of the Renaissance masters, copying became the standard way to learn. But what do we really learn by copying? Would a contemporary mannerism fit in today's world, dominated by visual information? How then does creativity work? How does change happen? Why did we wait half a century before having personal computers in colors other than beige? Why do we seem oblivious to the manufactured filters mediating our observation of nature itself? What are the trade-offs when we delegate creative choices to Google's algorithms? What separates the artists of the past and the brand consultants of today? This course addresses the role and limits of copying as students explore many facets of graphic design, visual communication, and artistic value. The vibrant visual culture-in-the-making of Abu Dhabi and the UAE provide an ideal background for such explorations. Students will elaborate on the tension (real or perceived) among today's artists, designers, and scientists, while discussing why a multidisciplinary mind is fundamental for contemporary attempts to re-design the world around us.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Visual Communication Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Design

CADT-UH 1026 Human Value (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
What is the value of human life? How is human value socially constructed in particular political, economic, and cultural contexts? When one society honors athletes and movie stars more than factory laborers, does that mean people with fame, wealth, and beauty are inherently more valuable? How do individuals create value and meaning in their lives in different contexts? This class will deconstruct the historical definition of human value across a variety of cultures, from foragers to contemporary global capitalist society. We will examine human value in terms of such themes as worth, utility, beauty, status, wealth, and fulfillment, via close engagement with texts, visual arts, mass media, and advertising. A practical component of the class will challenge students to explore concepts surrounding human value through a variety of artistic media, from sketching to sound recording and photography. No previous background or training is required.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
CADT-UH 1027 Memoir and Anti-Memoir: Experiments in Text and Image (4 Credits)

Typically offered Spring
How does one attempt to write or portray the self? If we associate that practice with traditional memoir and self-portraiture forms, what happens when subjectivity is fundamentally unstable or under attack? Is the genre also simultaneously deconstructed? How is subjectivity literally made and remade through the exploration of new forms? In this course we will look at text and image projects across cultures, eras, locations, and across art forms that raise questions about the self and the collective, representation and memory, and about the remarkable as well as the everyday. Sometimes the doubt about attempts at portrayals is philosophical, but it may also be cultural-historical and context-dependent. To explore this question, and to develop skills in art, to experiment with the studio habits of artists, and to generate our own poetries of memoir/anti-memoir we will generate text and image experiments that both create and investigate an anti-memoir body of work.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
- Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing

CADT-UH 1029 Inspiration, Art, and the Examined Life (4 Credits)

Typically offered Fall
Has a book ever knocked you out? Has a story stuck with you for years? Has an image stopped you cold? Are you changed by these encounters? This course explores, examines, and activates the elusive and subjective motor for creative work. It begins with material that has directly impacted the professor’s life and work as a theater artist. Later, students will share igniting materials from their own experiences. The aim: to incite the imagination, culminating in an original work. Where do you turn for inspiration? Can you engage your fears in pursuit of your goals? How do you flip your script to make progress? Departure points include opposition and challenging views, create projects on foundational civic issues, and collaborate on a handbook to help empower other would-be citizen-writers.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1033 Bioinspiration (4 Credits)

Typically offered Fall
In the 3.8 billion years since life began on Earth, nature has evolved. Inspired by this process, humans have replicated key design features to develop novel materials, devices, and structures in fields such as the arts, design, engineering, and the social sciences by replicating key design principles and features. This course asks how biology has inspired human design and thinking across different cultures and fields. Students will examine various examples in engineering, art, architecture, music, and social science to discuss how the human capacity for analogical reasoning has enabled the transfer of properties, mechanisms, and ideas from biology to design principles such as shape, surface, structure, making, information-processing, and social behavior. Using bio-inspired products such as gecko tape, Velcro, self-cleaning surfaces, and neuromorphic chips for inspiration, students will develop their own designs to address some of the 21st century’s most pressing issues, such as energy, water, environment, food, and health.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1034J Citizen, Writer (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term
It’s said the pen is mightier than the sword; this course will introduce skills needed to make that true. In a world full of tangled problems, being able to write confidently, creatively, and persuasively can empower your participation as a citizen concerned with finding solutions towards equality, justice, human rights, and the civic discourse essential to the betterment of humanity. Drawing from a multidisciplinary perspective, focused on global issues, but rooted in the historical context of France, students in this J-term course at NYU Paris (pending feasible international travel conditions) will study and practice multiple formats, experience the value of formal debate, and think strategically and contextually to engage via traditional or social media. The effectivity of expression, and its opportunities and restrictions in varied societies, will be examined to form a nuanced understanding of its contemporary challenges. In addition to site visits and guest speakers, our class will draft personal manifestos, craft opinion pieces to help you understand opposing and challenging views, create projects on foundational civic issues, and collaborate on a handbook to help empower other would-be citizen-writers.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
- Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing
CADT-UH 1037X Machines in Islamic Civilization (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Is automation a science or a tool? Muslim contributions in automation, overlooked in the history of science, were long regarded as means for caliph and the rich to impress the masses. But Muslim engineers excelled in creating complex automated systems, using them as gifts to foreign leaders, as public attractions, or to augment religious ceremony such as daily calls to prayer. Mainly powered by kinetic energy, these automata drew on scholars’ deep knowledge of hydraulics and complex levers and included musical instruments, horologia, automated drinking fountains, and clocks that told time using complex audiovisual tools. This course draws on historical sources and foundational science to explore Muslim advancements in automation. What roles did translation play as Muslim scientists encountered and documented the work of previous scholars? What were the basic automatic systems they developed and how do they compare to current technologies? How did they draw on environmental resources to develop automated systems without the need for non-renewable energy? Students will address such questions as they explore implications for their own projects in design and engineering.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1038 Autonomous and Social Robots (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
How do we feel about robots? With technological developments in capability, performance, autonomy, ease of use, and cost-effectiveness, robots have arrived in everyday life. This course considers the history and ethics of human-robot interaction and explores unsolved hurdles we face as robots assume a ubiquitous presence in our lives. How are robots currently integrating into human-centered, civic industries such as education, heath, and smart cities? What roles might robots play in the future of these industries? What are the economic and labor implications associated with robotic integration? How will consumers respond to the increased use of robots in daily life? How have popular media representations over the last century influenced the way we experience these changes? Topics will also include the miniaturization of robots and their use in situations such as focused drug delivery within the human body, save-and-rescue missions, or military combat. Students will assemble and program several Lego Mindstorm robots capable of carrying prefabricated objects and will also assemble a small house.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Digital Arts Humanities Minor: Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Digital Arts Humanities

CADT-UH 1039 Photo Album (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Photo albums are meaningful, unique creations. Infused with intangible memories, they tangibly show specific, select moments of the past - some mundane, others poignant. Highly personal, photo albums also reveal shared encounters and assert human universals. How and by what means do our personal photo albums thus compile collective identities and histories? What stories lie behind their making? What narratives arise - formulaic or unexpected - when related or disparate photographs are organized or randomly displayed in the unifying context of photo albums? This course employs art practice and theory to investigate the curation of vernacular photography in family photo albums. Looking at the global history and contemporary manifestations of these practices, and drawing on NYUAD’s Akkasah Center of Photography, it asks: What are the motivations, challenges, and implications of commissioning or taking, collecting, or curating photographs of one's family or oneself? How do we approach such collections as viewers? Who makes, owns, and passes down albums - to whom, for whom, and why? Students will also create photo albums as a generative means of understanding this practice.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1040 Ethics of the Image (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
From its invention in 1839, photography has been heralded as objective. Few doubt the veracity of a photo-finish, an endoscopic medical image, a traffic camera’s violation report, or a surveillance shot of a crime scene. Photographs bear witness to the Mai Lai massacre, the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, the Sahel famine of the 1980s, and refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war. Though most readily embrace such visual testimony, we might also cede Susan Sontag’s point that photos are a “species of rhetoric” that “simplify” and “create the illusion of consensus.” In what ways do a photographer’s choices of what to include and exclude suggest self-conscious framing from a specific vantage point? What ethical questions emerge from this tension between the medium’s supposed objectivity and the photographer’s admitted subjectivity? Students will explore ethical scenarios in photojournalism, travel photography, street photography, portraiture, and commercial photography as they confront questions about consent, privacy, representation, citizen responsibility, and propaganda. Coursework includes response papers, case study reports, photo-critiques, photography tasks, and photo essays.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
Antirequisites: WRIT-UH 1110.
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
CADT-UH 1044JX Sensory Ethnographic Methods in Kerala: Documenting Tradition, Documenting Change (4 Credits)  
Typically offered January term  
When societies invoke their past through art and religion, they often make profound statements about their present and potential futures. Thus the study of heritage can paradoxically track social change. Research in expressive culture invites ethnographic experiments in multisensory data collection (e.g. videography, soundscapes, recipes), polyvocal collaborations (e.g. with interlocutors, between disciplines), and multimodal presentation (e.g. images, interactive media, performance). Students conduct fieldwork in Kerala, India, where history and culture have long synthesized global influences. Our study engages: 1) architecture connecting Kerala to the UAE and beyond through longstanding religious and trade networks; 2) rites such as spectacular Theyyam ceremonies; and 3) the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, where artists confront complex sociopolitical challenges. Before and after fieldwork, students explore the politics of heritage and religion, the ethics of ethnographic representation, and practical technical training as we build our own exhibition. Whether as prospective artists, social scientists, policy designers, or coders, students will devise novel ways to share social research. NOTE: Pending feasible international travel conditions, this course will include a seminar India.  
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  
• Bulletin Categories: Anthropology Minor: Electives  
• Bulletin Categories: Arab Crossroads Studies: Society Politics  
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)  
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society  
• Bulletin Categories: Heritage Studies: Mgt Research Methods Electives  
• Bulletin Categories: SRPP: Society Culture  
• Crosslisted with: Anthropology  
• Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies Major: Required  
• Crosslisted with: Arab Crossroads Studies  
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)  
• Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society  
• Crosslisted with: Heritage Studies  
• Crosslisted with: SRPP: Major Soc Sci Required  
• Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy  

CADT-UH 1045 Plastic Fantastic (4 Credits)  
Typically offered Fall and Spring  
What would a world without plastic look like? How does the world look because of it? Plastic Fantastic looks critically at plastic’s ubiquity in global consumer cultures. Students will consider plastic’s predecessors and contemporary alternatives and engage with a range of topics, from the environmental politics of plastic debris in oceans, to the ethics and values of plastic surgery, to the proliferation of cheap plastic toys and fashion trends. Based on these discussions, and inspired by the original meaning of the Greek term plastikos (to grow, to form), the class will develop and create a product using recycled plastic waste in NYUAD’s Plastic Recycling Research Lab. In addition to the completed project, students will leave with a personal philosophy of Art, Design, and Technology as well as a sense of how mutually reinforcing and beneficiary a mix of these fields can be for future problem solving.  
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Electives  
• Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society  
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Crosslisted with: Design  
• Crosslisted with: Environment  
• Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies  

CADT-UH 1046J Make Art Here (4 Credits)  
Typically offered January term  
How does location provoke aesthetics? What about creative content? Regardless of where we are, do we continue to inhabit and take action from the behavioral residue of previously experienced locations? How might the sound of the wind impact your writing? Does the view out your window instigate how depth perception is represented in your work, or color palette? This course investigates and creates location-driven art using locations familiar and unfamiliar as departure points. Choosing their medium, students will create multiple works of art. We will actively consider artworks lifting from this period of hindered mobility during the pandemic, including our own habitually occupied landscapes and domestic spaces. The class will also study location-driven work across multiple mediums and meet with artists pursuing similar goals. Students document their investigations, generate and draw from archives of their process and inspiration, write reflection essays and share their completed works. Students leave the class empowered with a methodology for investigating, interpreting, and creating location driven work.  
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No  
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives  
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology  
• Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required  
• Crosslisted with: Theater
CADT-UH 1048  Reinventing the Wheel  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
The wheel's origins remain a mystery. Did it evolve in the Mesopotamian
city of Urk, humanity’s first urban society, around 3500-3375 BCE? Or
did a Boleraz copper miner in the Carpathian Mountains, around 4000
BCE, invent a pair of wheels connected by an axle in order to move a
heavy ore basket? Why, despite having the potter’s wheel and trade with
Mesopotamia, did the Nile valley not use wheels until the pharaohs
adopted war chariots around 1600 BCE? Why did the wheel, which came
into use in 3 BCE, disappear in the Middle East a few centuries later, even
though the arid climate kept roads clean for most of the year? Why was
wheeled transport absent in pre-Columbian America, considering that
ancient Mexicans had invented wheeled toys on axles? Did the wheel
spread across regions as an idea or a technology? What can its historical
evolution teach us about innovation and durability, about why some
technologies adapt and others fail or are lost? Students will tackle such
questions as they explore how the wheel’s applications were shaped by
religion, war, social hierarchies, gender bias, economic efficiency, and the
local terrain - all while developing projects of their own.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1049E  Material World  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
How has our relationship with building materials shaped human
civilization, and in return, how does our use of materials actively reshape
the planet we live on? Materials have played a major role throughout
human history, from providing basic clothing and shelter in prehistoric
times, to fueling the industrial revolution, and enabling today’s global
consumer culture. In the process, material use and discovery have
given rise to many branches of science and commerce, resulting in even
greater demand for more material. The consequences on society and the
environment haven’t always been positive. This course explores
our relationship with material as engineers, scientists, consumers, and
traders. Basic laboratory sessions on material characterization will
explore material processing techniques ranging from simple resin casting
to advanced 3D printing.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Environment
  • Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies

CADT-UH 1051  Performing Online  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
How can artistic online collaboration and performance be used to close
gaps in space, time, and in physical and cultural distance? How can the
internet be an effective medium for multidisciplinary intercultural artistic
expression? The current pandemic has created a strong reemergence
of online performances. The recent explosion of freely-available content
in social media platforms (literally) from around the world has created
an unprecedented opportunity to (re)evaluate online performance as
a medium and as a means for intercultural artistic collaboration. In
this course we will address live online performance and will explore its
possibilities for intercultural artistic collaboration. This will be achieved
by creating a series of live online performances, by viewing similar
work by other artists, through seminal readings in the field, and talks by
selected guests.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Digital Arts Humanities Minor: Electives
  • Bulletin Categories: Music: Theory Electives
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Digital Arts Humanities
  • Crosslisted with: Music Major: Required
  • Crosslisted with: Music

CADT-UH 1052  Silence  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
How does “silence” help to define our sense of being and existence?
Across different cultures, various philosophies of art, science, and
society have viewed and thought about silence differently. This course
invites students to think about and experience silence by asking three
fundamental questions: 1) What does it mean to be silent? (Literally and
metaphorically); 2) Does silence shape our lives? And if so, how? 3) Can
we have an active relationship and recognition with silence just as we
do with sound or action? Drawing on multi-disciplinary sources from
around the world to explore the philosophical frameworks and thought
systems that have engaged in the study and observation of silence, the
syllabus will include works of art, literature, theater, films, architecture,
and music, which students will engage via a mix of seminar, lecture, and
studio methods of teaching, to enable the creations of their own artistic
responses to their experience of silence and the material presented in
class.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Film New Media: Practice Electives
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Film New Media Major: Required
  • Crosslisted with: Film New Media
CDAT-UH 1052 Designing Health (4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
What constitutes innovation in medical technology? Is it always necessary? How is its value determined? How would we know if innovation has peaked, or reached a point of diminishing returns? What do global perspectives reveal about medical devices and healthcare in general? In what ways are cultural contexts important to consider? How can the med-tech innovation process address issues of diversity, inclusion, and accessibility? This course takes up the above questions through several case studies and examples, including bioprinting and COVID-19 vaccines -- two topics with current relevance -- as well as two of the most important historical med-tech innovations that have gone wrong in the past: The Malaria Project and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. How can current design and innovation avoid repeating past mistakes? Working in cross-disciplinary teams, students will engage in design projects that will apply what we have learned from this course and address some of the paradoxes present in our ongoing quest to design healthier bodies and societies.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CDAT-UH 1054J How to Build a City: From Manhattan to Dubai (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
What makes a city special? What gives it energy, economic dynamism, cultural appeal and a particular feel or buzz? Is it top-down planning by civic leaders and architects, a mix of peoples and cultures, or some combination of strategies, peoples, and happenstance? Today as more of the global population resides in cities the question of how to create community in urban contexts has gained urgency for policymakers, urban designers and everyday people. More than ever neighborhoods are becoming tethered with geographies beyond their city borders, prompting some to ask if there is emerging global commons. This course will explore the dynamism of Dubai through the emerging framework of placemaking -- collaborative efforts to shape the places we inhabit in order to foster the conditions for community. Placemaking can vary in scope and scale from a small local park to a major tourist destination. This class examines placemaking in Dubai, from the larger urban setting to local public spaces. We address the challenges of sustainable development and of creating a commons in an era of climate change. Students will engage in the critical study of Dubai culminating in a placemaking proposal.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization Courses
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization Courses
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization

CDAT-UH 1055J What is Autofiction? (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
What is Autofiction?: As a disputed term, full of (rich with?) ambiguities, is it more about narrative's responsibility toward veracity or the possible shortfalls of our expectations toward narrative forms and their relation to truth? What stories already inhabit and influence the words we use? What stories are difficult to contain and convey in those words? What of transcultural, translilingual and exophonic modes? In this class, students will explore these and related questions through writing a series of creative pieces that explore their own voices (and languages), and how writing can shape the place and the position one may inhabit. This highly interactive course will play out in three movements: 1. Language play, confronting words as a medium. Short spurts of action writing focus on "self" in specific local contexts. What is "I" in this place or for this story? What other vehicles, besides words, transmit meaning?; 2. Voice (point of view). Empathy, advocacy, ethics. Who am I in/for this story that is of others? Explore translanguaging; 3. Story. The arc of plot, the text's economy. Translation as an orchestration of diverse resources. A final portfolio showcases individual creative production.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
- Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing

CDAT-UH 1057J Can Art Save Lives? The Health Benefits of the Arts and Arts Therapies (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
Can art save lives? Although the therapeutic effects of the arts have been recognized for many centuries, it is only in recent years that there have been systematic and controlled studies of these effects. Drawing on expertise in the UAE and globally, this course will examine when, where, how, and with whom the arts and arts therapies have been used to improve mental, physical, social, and public health. The course provides a dynamic and interdisciplinary overview of diverse practices and methodologies in the delivery of the arts and arts therapies in healthcare, cultural, rehabilitation, school, and other community settings. Students will engage in individual and group creative practice to gain direct experience with and critically reflect on the arts as a vital resource to support health, care, and wellbeing.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Theater: History, Theory, Criticism Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Theater
CADT-UH 1058J  How to Write from Life (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term

This course covers life writing in the broadest sense. It shows how personal biography informs the study of history and society, and addresses the question: Do lives emerge from the societies in which they happen, or can individuals guide or articulate a broader cultural moment? Starting with the traditional idea of life writing using archival sources, it moves to ‘pen portraits’ or mini-biographies, and representations from life. It is a ‘doing’ course that teaches techniques such as archiving the present, decoding images, autofictive characterization, elucidating information through interviews, discovering human stories ‘hiding in plain sight’, and the writing of creative nonfiction. Students will first learn methods for finding a narrative, and study representations of figures such as Barack Obama, Doris Lessing and Mohandas Gandhi. Students will then engage in groundwork to locate stories of the past and present in the UAE, and learn how a sense of place may inform the context of biography. ‘How To Write From Life’ results in narrative nonfiction writing and a creative piece centered on text and images.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Literature: Topics Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
• Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing

CADT-UH 1059J  Learning from the Living Room: Architecture, Art, and Social Justice (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term

What role does the domestic sphere play in how life is lived in the public sphere? What can we learn from the power relations of the domestic sphere to propose more inclusive public spaces? Who is entitled to be a host, and who must remain a guest within public spaces? Can design, art, and space-making be used to subvert the power dynamic between hosts and guests? What role does storytelling play in the constructions of our ideas of home and place? How has the role of the home as a space of belonging shifted during the pandemic? This course will provide students with a participatory, communal learning environment (a living room) to explore these questions and challenge their understanding of hospitality, guest and host, public and private, displacement and belonging. The course will explore forms of care and learning both in formal pedagogical spaces at NYU Abu Dhabi’s Saadiyat Island campus and at the artistic led learning environments in Dubai in the framework of the Tree school, an experimental pedagogical project at Alserkal Arts Foundation. Students will reflect on the key course themes in their own lived experiences as primary sources of knowledge and points of reference. The course will culminate in a collectively curated public event.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1060J  Theory of the Digital (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term

What is the nature of the digital technology that surrounds us today? What are the philosophical and cultural stakes of ubiquitous computation and data processing? This course introduces students to the digital in a hands-on manner meant to show that the digital was philosophical and cultural from the beginning. The course centers on three digital concepts and their consequences: information, the computer, and the neural network. This trajectory allows us to trace the rise of digital technologies from tools for science to a vast global infrastructure. Hands-on lab work will make the theoretical material concrete, bringing direct insight. The course has the goal of bringing technical and cultural awareness into sync for the digital citizen today. What is the nature of the digital technology that surrounds us today? What are the philosophical and cultural stakes of ubiquitous computation and data processing? This course introduces students to the digital in a hands-on manner meant to show that the digital was philosophical and cultural from the beginning. The course centers on three digital concepts and their consequences: information, the computer, and the neural network. This trajectory allows us to trace the rise of digital technologies from tools for science to a vast global infrastructure. Hands-on lab work will make the theoretical material concrete, bringing direct insight. The course has the goal of bringing technical and cultural awareness into sync for the digital citizen today.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
• Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media: Media Design Thinking Elective
• Bulletin Categories: Pre-Professional Media, Culture Communication
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media
• Crosslisted with: Pre-Professional Media, Culture Communication
CADT-UH 1061J  The Body Archive (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term

What does it mean for the body to be a source of knowledge? How do we come to know the world from a situated perspective that connects us to the accrual of past history and the shifting landscapes of future trajectories? Is 'knowing thyself' through the body a necessary condition for decolonization? What sense of 'attunement' emerges from remembering the body as more than itself? This course offers an investigation into these questions by unpacking the idea of the body archive using critical pedagogy and a combination of social science and art approaches. By drawing on interdisciplinary academic texts from sociology, critical theory, feminist and gender studies, cultural studies, as well as, artistic practices of archiving, the course offers different possibilities for thinking through, constructing, and critiquing the idea of the body archive. Drawing on the network of Haraka Experimental Lab for Arab Art and Social Thought under al Mawrid Arab Center for the Study of Art at NYUAD, students will engage in situated discussions with academics, artists, and archivists during field trips to Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
  • Bulletin Categories: SRPP Society Culture
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Cultural Exploration Analysis
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society
  • Crosslisted with: SRPP Major Soc Sci Required
  • Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

CADT-UH 1062  Contextual Innovation in Society (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring

What is innovation? Can such a concept be meaningful without understanding the contexts in which it arises? Certain innovations, such as cars, have shaped social development and the evolution of human cultures. Others are more discrete. Why is a plastic bottle's diameter standardized to a specific value? What is the ideal height for a door handle, or a stair? Such micro-innovations hide in plain sight yet are instrumental in our lives. This course will help students define and explore "contextual innovation," especially in science and technology. Undertaking practical fieldwork in Abu Dhabi, students will leverage the city's unique cultures to generate empathetic, culturally-competent, and context-specific innovations across industries and fields. Readings will include theoretical approaches from design and engineering, sociology, and anthropology. Case studies will include historical examples such as cars and electricity, as well as contemporary examples from global corporations such as Apple and Uber. By semester's end students will have co-developed a framework for empathetic, contextual innovation translatable to other projects in their careers.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
CADT-UH 1064J  Scent and the City  (4 Credits)
*Typically offered Summer and January terms*
Can we imagine a world without scent or our sense of smell? Can the presence or absence of smells alter our perception, experience and memories of a place? How might scent signify class, wealth, and power? In 2021, the world’s first digital fragrance was created and encoded as an NFT. What does this process of disembodiment mean for the future of olfaction? How did the pandemic change attitudes towards scent? How might we design a future for scent? Scent constitutes an important component of tangible and intangible heritage. Scents have a long history as important commodities, ritual items, and consumer objects. This course will explore scent as an element of design, urbanism, and placemaking. We will study the history of smell in human society, and the role of design and technology in creating, containing, and diffusing scents. Finally, we will imagine speculative futures of scent and olfaction. Students will research the scent landscape of London by engaging in practical smellwalks as they map their experiences and develop their olfactory language and imagination of possible scent futures. The course will conclude with a final collective design project and exhibition.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization Courses
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization Courses
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization

CADT-UH 1066J  Sound, Technology, and Emotions  (4 Credits)
*Typically offered Summer and January terms*
How do we connect with sound? What roles can sound play in cognition and emotion? How can sound affect our moods? How does technology impact our experience of music? How can recording technologies enhance the impact of sound on the brain in the production of affect? One goal of the entertainment industry is to connect emotionally with audiences, and the medium most used to strengthen this connection is sound. Knowledge of music, acoustics, computer science, and psychology allows music technologists to create effective soundscapes in various contexts. This course focuses on the role of sound as a narrative medium to evoke emotional responses in cinema. Students will engage with research in psychology, neuroscience, acoustics, and other fields, while acquiring skills in field recording, multitrack sound editing, post-production, and musical acoustics. Using their phones and free downloadable software, students will create an immersive sonic storytelling of the city of Los Angeles based on their field recordings from multiple locations in the city.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Music: Technology Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Sound Music Computing Minor: Music Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Music Major: Required
- Crosslisted with: Music
- Crosslisted with: Sound Music Computing

CADT-UH 1067J  Photography and Witnessing  (4 Credits)
*Typically offered Summer and January terms*
What does it take to be a witness? What are the ethical, political, cultural, legal and personal stakes in witnessing? Can photography and other media turn us into witnesses, or do we have to witness events personally for our testimony to be valid? What is the difference between documenting and witnessing an event? What is the difference between rendering an account and giving testimony? What role has photography played in the formation of our contemporary understanding of witnessing, and how does contemporary photography bear witness? Witnessing is a critical concept in religion, law and science that has received renewed attention in recent years in the fields of art, photography, literature and cultural studies. The course will examine foundational texts on the notion of witnessing to arrive at a working definition that distinguishes witnessing from documentation. A parallel focus will be on photography’s particular function as witness, and on the changing nature of both the medium and the needs for historical witnessing in our time.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1068J  How to Build a City: From Dubai to Manhattan  (4 Credits)
*Typically offered January term*
What makes a city special? What makes a place attractive, gives it energy, economic dynamism, cultural appeal, and a particular feel or even buzz? Is it top-down planning by civic leaders and architects? Is it the mix of peoples and cultures mobilizing at the grassroots? Or is it some combination of strategies, peoples, and happenstance? Today as more and more of the global population resides in cities, the question of how to create community in the context of urban living has gained urgency for policymakers, urban designers, and everyday people. This course will explore the dynamism of Manhattan through the emerging framework of “placemaking.” Placemaking refers to collaborative efforts to shape the places we inhabit in order to foster the conditions for community. Placemaking can vary in scope and scale from a small local park to a major tourist destination. This class, in tandem with a sister class on Dubai, will examine placemaking through key concepts, starting with the bigger city and ending with the local public spaces. Students will engage in the critical and comparative study of Manhattan and Dubai through field-based research projects culminating in a placemaking proposal for Manhattan.

**Grading:** Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization Courses
- Bulletin Categories: Urbanization
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization Courses
- Crosslisted with: Urbanization
CADT-UH 1070J Arts for Transformation: The Case of the Mekong Region (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
You've probably had personal experiences where art has changed something inside of you. What power do arts and culture have to transform on a larger scale? This course looks at the ways that arts and culture are being employed by artists, cultural workers and communities in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, to contribute to transformation of the Mekong Region. This region is rich in natural resources, comprised of low and middle income countries with growing economies, and has an important geopolitical position within Asia, including ASEAN and in relation to China. The region is currently experiencing conflict, urgent environmental issues and growing social inequality. It has a rich and diverse cultural makeup that has been shaped by empires, colonialism and globalization. By meeting artists and exploring the socially-driven, culturally-specific approach to grassroots leadership among creatives in the Mekong Region, you will consider the role of networks and the concept of region in creating alliances across borders. Through a creative process of group and individual work, you will connect these reflections to your own context. Note: Pending feasible international travel conditions, this course may include a seminar in Thailand.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Peace Studies Minor: Electives
- Bulletin Categories: SRPP Institutions Public Policy
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Peace Studies
- Crosslisted with: SRPP Major Soc Sci Required
- Crosslisted with: Social Research Public Policy

CADT-UH 1072J Reporting (on) Migration (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
How does media coverage shape migrant experience, representation, and policy development? What are the ethics of reporting on displaced populations? What critical frameworks shape our understanding of how populations in host countries understand the influx of migrants? What roles are played by media and social media in influencing policies and acceptance or rejection of migrant populations? This course on migration reporting takes as central case studies the refugee crisis of Syrians in 2015 and compares it with the Ukrainian migration crisis of 2022 while looking at the ways media discourse may have impacted the way populations fleeing wars were viewed and responded to. Students will learn techniques of feature writing and journalism ethics. Note: Pending feasible international travel conditions, this class includes a seminar in Greece, in collaboration with the class International Peace-building and Education to meet with displaced populations and work in partnership with Refocus Media Lab, an organization that specializes in training refugees in migration reporting. Students will produce a podcast or a written story while in Greece in addition to several other writing assignments. This class will include a regional academic seminar to Greece.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Structures of Thought Society
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society (New)
- Crosslisted with: Core: Structures of Thought Society
CADT-UH 1073J User Experience Design: Identifying and Solving for Human Needs (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term

User Experience Design is a process through which the needs and expectations of the intended audience are met in the creation of products, applications and experiences. Students in this class are exposed to the UX design process starting with problem discovery and definition and ending with designing and testing solutions. Questions that the students will address in the class include: How do I identify a problem worth solving? How do I ensure the end user’s needs and expectations will be met? What are my ethical responsibilities as a product designer and how do I address them? What does it mean to design an inclusive product or experience? How do I ensure the products I create will be wanted and used? These questions will be addressed through discussion, research, examination of case studies and hands-on design exercises aimed to provide students with the critical thinking and practical skills for identifying problems worth solving and creating solutions that are compelling and effective. Topics covered in the course include design research, behavior and perception science, visual design and testing strategies.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatability for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Art History Elective for Visual Arts Track
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media: Media Design Thinking Elective
  - Crosslisted with: Art History
  - Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  - Crosslisted with: Design
  - Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
  - Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CADT-UH 1074J Creative Robotics and Tech (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term

What will the future of human and robot interaction look like? How can new technology and robots inspire human creativity and help us grow artistically? How can we use the intersection of art and tech to pursue research? Einstein said, “Play is the highest form of research.” By exploring technology through art and movement, how can we further research? This course provides students the tools and knowledge to integrate robotics into their creative practice as artists and researchers (no prior experience required). Students will design and create a final project exploring the intersection between art and robotics in various forms. Depending on the scale of the project, students will work together as one big group or smaller groups. The final project can be a performance presented at Dubai Shopping Festival, a short film, art that students have programmed the robot to create, a fictional story together as one big group or smaller groups. The final project can be a performance presented at Dubai Shopping Festival, a short film, art that students have programmed the robot to create, a fictional story involving robots, a research paper investigating the future of human machine interaction, music composed with the robot, robot dance, creative programming, etc.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatability for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media: Media Design Thinking Elective
  - Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  - Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
  - Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CADT-UH 1075J Documenting the Climate Crisis from the Inside Out (4 Credits)

Typically offered January term

Climate change impacts are both affected by and worsen the many inequalities in Indian society. A combination of extreme heat and rapid cycles of drought and flooding is devastating the livelihoods and futures of millions of small and marginal farmers in rural India, who bear the heaviest burden of global warming while being least responsible for it. Can farmers with deep knowledge of traditional agricultural practices and little access to global research on climate change be documentary filmmakers and climate activists? How can the stories they tell of their lives not only sharpen awareness of the crisis but contribute to solutions for sustainable living applicable locally and globally? What happens when communities tell stories from the inside? How are their stories about the environmental crisis and its impact on their lives distinctive from those generated by Big Media? This course will historicize the formation and impact of community video collectives in India and globally. This will be followed by three site visits in different parts of India. Students in this practice-based course will observe the production and distribution of community film and media in these three sites. Note: Pending feasible international travel conditions, this course will include a seminar in India.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatability for additional credit: No

- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society
- Bulletin Categories: Film New Media: Practice Electives
  - Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  - Crosslisted with: Environment
  - Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies
  - Crosslisted with: Film New Media: Practice
CZAD-1H 1076J Creating (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
What is creativity? How does it manifest? How does it make us feel, both when we are creative as well as when we encounter others’ creativity? Creating delves into these topics through a multi-faceted, hands-on exploration in the city of Berlin. Students will visit with various interactive media artists, studios, and musicians to learn firsthand how various practitioners think of, and engage with, creativity. Students will also explore daily exercises in lateral thinking, imaginative play, mindfulness, flow states, opening to experience, and more. Through discussion, readings, and research, students will focus on the emotions of creativity and will identify works that move them, exploring why. Students will also be tasked to incorporate all they're learning into their own creations by making things daily. This making isn't limited to one paradigm or medium, but several audio/visual platforms will be introduced to provide some tools for students to use. Students will be encouraged to explore various mediums through, and even be inventive in their choice of medium! The course will culminate in a mini-symposium, surveying what students explored and made during the class.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Art History Elective for Visual Arts Track
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
- Crosslisted with: Art Art History
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
- Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CZAD-1H 1077 Site Specificity (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
This course explores what it means to be situated in a particular Site. Do places have a spirit and identity? What causes an artist to respond to a place in a particular way? Light, landscape, sound, climate, all inform the artifacts created by the ‘makers’ in different cultures and time periods. Powerpoint presentations, readings, site and museum visits will help students explore fundamental questions about the impact of Site on artists, objects, architecture, and performance. Students will be presented with a series of challenges, or problems, where they are asked to respond to a specific site. We will read texts written by visionary thinkers and artists such as Rosalind Krauss, Nancy Holt, Robert Smithson. We will also delve deeply into site specific artworks produced by artists in the last 100 years, with a focus on Land Art, Performance and Urban interactions.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
- Crosslisted with: Theater: Arts Practice Electives

CZAD-1H 1078 Voice (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
What does it mean to find one's voice; and how expansive is the voice beyond its use for everyday communication? How do we recognize our own voice amongst other voices that move around and through us? Both a tool for self-expression and a form of social activism, the voice is a multidimensional material that has an expansive meaning across different cultures, genres, social and political movements as well as within religious practices. Drawing on voice studies and practice-based research, this course will explore the voice as both a vehicle for individual self-expression and a vehicle for entities who might speak “through” us, such as supernatural beings, ancestors, collective movements, and others. We will consider discourses that seek to expand notions of the experience of ‘finding’ and surrendering one’s voice; look at glossolalia (“speaking in tongues”) and translation, and the ethics of speaking on another’s behalf and the ideologies of using one’s voice as a form of activism. Students will draw upon their own cultural heritage to produce autoethnographic reflections on the voice, examining theories on trance, babbling and non-verbal communication within interspecies relations.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Theater: History, Theory, Criticism Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Theater

CZAD-1H 1079 Have a Seat (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
The Chair is the most iconic piece in the history of furniture. Chairs have been in every aspect of our lives for thousands of years, we touch chairs with our entire bodies yet we’ve become so used to them that we hardly notice their presence. Chairs represent an effort to balance utility and beauty, comfort and status. Chairs offer us a link to the past and a glimpse into the future. This course will explore how the design and making of chairs have been affected by and reflect changes in technology, materials, manufacturing processes, aesthetics, ergonomics, and economic and social conditions over time. Why are some chairs considered iconic? What do different modes of sitting reveal about a society and its people? Are some forms of sitting superior to others? What do chairs tell us about human behavior and attitudes toward posture? This course will critically examine the principles of "good design" by studying chairs and their makers throughout history and envision the future of design practice. Students will practice the design process and learn analog and digital prototyping tools and apply those skills in hands-on and tangible design projects.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Visual Communication Electives
- Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
- Crosslisted with: Design
CADT-UH 1080J  Art and Climate Change: Can, Should, How?  (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
Art and Climate Change: Can, Should, How?: Climate change effects, economics, climate injustice, ecosystems, health, and food insecurity – this course examines ‘how’ and ‘can’ and ‘should’ the arts take on the difficult and complex subject of regional and global climate change through art-making. How does art provide an opening to difficult and complex subjects? How can one establish a meaningful dialogue with the viewer/public? Art has the capacity to inspire and provoke. It possesses the ability to establish an emotional bond and elicit a response from the viewer/public. Could you be seen as a storyteller, crafting a visual narrative? What about the role of art in evoking nostalgia and generating a sense of wonder? The utilization of formal tools such as scale, perspective, color, mixed media, and emerging technologies is pivotal. Do you work alone or collaborate? Students will not only be introduced to and instructed in conventional approaches to understanding art, but will also be encouraged to explore the interdisciplinary tools that surround them. The course fosters and supports a more holistic approach to art-making. Students will visit the NYUAD Gallery exhibition, Horizon, as well as off-campus museums and select regional sites to examine how visual narratives are created to tackle complex issues with art.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Art History Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Environmental Studies: Envr, Culture Society
• Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
• Crosslisted with: Art History
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Environment
• Crosslisted with: Environmental Studies
• Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Theater

CADT-UH 1081J  The Camera as a Tool for Drama  (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
What role does the movie camera play in the art of storytelling? The earliest prehistoric cave paintings portray events as a series of images, implicating space and time. The movie camera has the capacity to corral space and capture time. Is this the source of film’s disarming power as a medium for visual storytelling? What are specific attributes of the camera’s action that exploit this power? Why is one shot more dramatic than another? How does a choice of camera style inform the story’s pace? Students will explore these questions, and more, comparing the effects created by the variety of ways a camera corrals space into narrative meaning. For students interested in telling stories visually, the course will encourage more authority in their camera choices. At each stage of our exploration, students will be assigned exercises (1-3 min videos shot with a Smartphone) to provide the first-hand experience in creating some of the effects we explore in class. Our source material will include essays, interviews, podcasts, full-length feature films, and select film clips, past and present, from every region of the world.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Film New Media: Practice Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Film New Media Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Film New Media
• Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Theater
CADT-UH 1084J  Walking and Writing the African City: Accra (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
Much has been written about the relationship between cities and walking but less so in the context of African cities. This interdisciplinary course looks at urban theory about walking and everyday urbanism and applies it to Sub-Saharan African cities in general and Accra in particular. What makes African cities unique? How do legacies of colonialism affect them? How does walking in the city affect one’s experience and view of it? How do Accra residents experience their city? How is one’s experience of the city gendered? We will address these and other questions through theories of African urbanism, colonialism and globalization’s effect on urbanity and urban culture, and gendered access to public space. Through these materials – academic studies and theories, non-fiction essays, documentaries, films and short stories – we will acquire a critical vocabulary which we use to assess the various Accra locations we visit on field trips. The observations from walking in the city form the basis for the writing assignments in combination with the academic ideas and concepts and provide students a chance to enhance their non-fiction and academic essay writing skills.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: African Studies Minor: Arts Humanities Electives
  • Bulletin Categories: African Studies Minor: Social Science Electives
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
  • Crosslisted with: African Studies
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
  • Crosslisted with: Theater

CADT-UH 1085J  Hip-Hop, the Cosmos and Artificial Intelligence (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
Hip-Hop, the Cosmos and Artificial Intelligence: What is the relationship between scientific discovery and the creative process? Intended for students in both the humanities and sciences, the course explores the concepts and structure of modern physics with connections to music, focusing on jazz improvisation and hip-hop. Fundamental techniques from machine learning will be used to help students construct computational models capable of music generation in these genres, and understand how such models connect to current topics such as quantum mechanics, general relativity, particle physics, dark energy and big bang cosmology. Students will work through a series of Python notebooks that generate musical output while exploring the computational analogies to modern physics, leading to a final project that is complete recording of new music produced by the student. No prior coding experience is required.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Bulletin Categories: Music: Practice Electives
  • Bulletin Categories: Music: Studies Electives
  • Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
  • Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
  • Crosslisted with: Music Major: Required
  • Crosslisted with: Music
  • Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
  • Crosslisted with: Theater

CADT-UH 1086J  Ecopoetics: In the Land of the Tiger (4 Credits)
Typically offered January term
What is the relationship between self and nature? How do we make ourselves at home in the world when the idea of home is continually under threat? In this age of the Anthropocene, how can literature and art-making respond to the global challenges we face? This multidisciplinary course will explore the intersections between ecology, conservation, film, and literature. In an immersive experience in the Western Ghats of India, one of the most biogeographically unique places on the planet, and home to over 800 wild tigers, we will observe wildlife and understand the challenges of conservation in a country teeming with 1.4 billion people. Alongside trips to the Nagarhole and Bhadra Tiger Reserves in Karnataka and walks in ancient Shola forests, we will explore traditions of literature that offer a unique frame of humans in nature that go beyond mere pastoralism. The final part of the course will call for an eco-poetic reflection - an exploration of a topic (oral and written) that has elements of both the ecological and the lyric, emanating from an encounter of our time in the landscape of the Western Ghats. Pending international travel conditions this course will include a regional academic seminar to India.

Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
  • Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
CADT-UH 1087J Curation for Participation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
What is the essence of curation, both within and beyond the traditional museum setting? How can we curate with a focus on active audience participation in the age of Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC)? This course will introduce students to the core principles of participatory curation, enriched by insights derived from both research and practical applications. Students will work in pairs to redesign the main exhibition at the Shanghai Museum of Glass and document their collaborative efforts in a curatorial portfolio. Alongside this course project, students will engage in immersive field trips to local museums and cultural institutions, developing skills in ideation, conceptualization, prototyping, gathering user feedback, and integrating Artificial Intelligence Generated Content (AIGC) in curatorial projects.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Design Minor Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Interactive Media:Media Design Thinking Elective
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Design
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media Minor: Required
• Crosslisted with: Interactive Media

CADT-UH 1088J Place Writing (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
Place Writing: What is place writing? Why is it important in the context of the current ecological crisis? How does place writing engage with debates about climate change, sustainable cities, and the future of humanity? Can the literature of place reinvent the way we inhabit the world? This immersive and interdisciplinary course confronts students with the challenges and possibilities of place writing. We will explore the question of place through various literary genres that emphasize ways of writing built on the subjective experience of an urban landscape, including nature writing, geopoetics and psychogeography. Using Paris as a laboratory, students will experiment with literary devices related to these genres in various writing contexts, from letters and reports to poems, oral histories, blogs, and social media posts. We will review debates about the "spatial turn" in literature and in non-fiction writing, and reflect on our own gaze: how do we write about a place that has new social and cultural norms? That is at once local and global? The class culminates in a work of creative non-fiction that explores Paris in its multidimensionality.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Literature: Geographies Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: LITCW: Required
• Crosslisted with: Literature Creative Writing
• Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Theater

CADT-UH 1089J Paper Art: History & Practice (4 Credits)
Typically offered Summer and January terms
Paper Arts: A History and Practice: How does the production of a material influence the art forms developed from it? How does a material's accessibility determine who its artisans are? How does a material's affordability influence the traditions formed around it? This course addresses these questions through a practice-based focus on the materiality and production of paper and paper crafting as a global art form. Beginning with the invention of paper, the paper craft movement has traditions and roots on all continents that have been openly shared and handed down through generations. This course is divided into several subject areas: the history of paper and paper making, paper folding, paper cutting, paper engineering, paper automata, and the contemporary DIY electronics, fabrication, and paper craft movements. It will also include field trips to local artist studios and paper mills. Each subject area has associated readings, hands-on exercises, and a final creative work that addresses all the forms explored.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Art Art History: Visual Arts/Practice Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Art History Elective for Visual Arts Track
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Art Art History
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1090J Ethical Storytelling: Producing Narratives of Latino Migration and Mental Health (4 Credits)
How can we ethically produce migration stories that will respect the complexity and humanity of immigrants, while actively avoiding oversimplification? Can ethical storytelling create a measurable transformative impact in societies? In this course, students will explore the intersection of Latino migration and mental health, using ethical storytelling as a guiding principle. Through practical hands-on experiences, students will acquire essential skills in documentary production. They will learn techniques for conducting interviews, capturing compelling footage, and skillfully editing a short film. Students will craft a powerful visual narrative that will amplify the voices of marginalized migrants. In addition to conducting fieldwork, students will engage with subject matter experts, including community organizers, scholars, and media professionals. These experts will provide valuable guidance and expertise, enriching the student’s understanding of the complexities surrounding migrant communities. At the end of this course, students will discover how the power of storytelling can cultivate empathy, challenge stereotypes, and contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
• Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Bulletin Categories: Film New Media: Practice Electives
• Bulletin Categories: Theater: Arts Practice Electives
• Crosslisted with: Core: Arts, Design Technology
• Crosslisted with: Film New Media Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Film New Media
• Crosslisted with: Theater Major: Required
• Crosslisted with: Theater
CADT-UH 1091  The Photographic Essay: The Power of Visual Storytelling  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Photographs are endowed with a unique power to immerse us in other people's stories, engage us emotionally, inform us, raise public awareness, and serve as a catalyst for action. But what exactly is it about some photos—for instance, Nik Ut's Napalm Girl, Stuart Franklin's Tank Man, or Alberto Korda's portrait of Che Guevara—that makes them uniquely alluring and memorable? What can we learn from the iconic images of our times that can help us to construct compelling photo essays? What can the masters of photography teach us about making images that captivate us and inspire us to action? By analyzing examples of effective storytelling, students will learn to better understand the building blocks of a strong visual essay. The course will help students to discover their visual voice and develop their own visual language. They will also reflect on the ethical implications of their workflow. It will be taught through classroom discussions, photo critiques, field trips, editing sessions, and photo workshops. Students will be assessed on the completion of five short photography assignments and three photo essays. At the end of the course, they will present a portfolio of their coursework.
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology

CADT-UH 1093  Gamified Learning for Social Impact and Education  (4 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Embark on a transformative journey of inquiry and exploration in Gamified Learning. Can the art and science of video game creation today transcend digital boundaries to forge a better world and drive social impact? What connections exist between gaming, education, and societal change beyond the craft of game development? Challenge assumptions and engage in critical examination as we delve into foundational perspectives, exploring the intricate dynamics of game development and extending our focus to broader realms such as resilience, sustainability, health, and social justice. Throughout this interdisciplinary exploration, we ask: How do video games shape society, positively or negatively, and what larger lessons can be gleaned about human behavior and culture? Navigate the intersections of theory and practice, from game-based learning to the psychology of play, and consider the timely/timeless question: How can gamified learning experiences empower us to understand and impact the world around us? This course, featuring six modules and culminating in a collaborative video game project, not only builds practical skills but also encourages students to reflect on the profound impact of gamified learning on a global scale. Are you ready to grapple with these big questions and explore the transformative potential of gamified learning?
Grading: Ugrd Abu Dhabi Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
- Bulletin Categories: Core: Arts, Design Technology