Topics
HCI, electronics, serial, parallel, microcontrollers, soldering, programming, Arduino, memory, variables, hex, decimal, binary, virtual, analog, performance and responsive objects, interactivity as dynamic, socially engaged, and collaborative process that may or may not involve machines, aesthetics of digital interactive artifacts with respect to discourses in the visual arts, communications and performance, representation, visual language, link, rhizome, multiplicity, network, documentation, storage, performance, schematics, meters, components, input, output, memory, variables, serial communication, motors
(in no particular order and this list is subject to change)

Course Description
Physical computing/HCI (Human Computer Interaction) explores how devices respond to and interact with human physical action. In this 3 credit class, students will create artwork that explores physical interfaces beyond mouse/keyboard/screen interactions through the use of microcontrollers and sensors. This course introduces students to basic electronics, microcontrollers and sensors. We will examine what works in terms of the conceptual content as well as how it works technically. Through readings, discussions, practical exercises, individual and collaborative projects, students will develop an articulate, theoretical basis for conceptualizing and discussing works presented in class as well as their own creative projects. Emphasis will be placed on the ways that the technology and interactivity relate to the content of the work. Physical computing takes a hands-on approach, which means that you spend a lot of time building circuits, soldering, writing programs, building structures to hold sensors and controls, and figuring out how best to make all of these things relate to a person’s expression.

Objectives
Students will demonstrate understanding of the following principles and techniques through studio assignments:
• Explore recent and current trends in digital arts and experimental media research
• Learn techniques of basic electronics
• Create art work that that explores interactions between humans and processes such as motion, mapping, sound, position, gesture recognition
• Learn to solder and wire
• Demonstrate skills in basic programming with Arduino and Processing to facilitate the interface between humans, objects, and sensors
• Integrate tools and concepts from science & technology into art making
• Articulate theoretical perspectives relevant to cultural experimentation with embodiment, physical computing, motion detection, gesture recognition, activated objects and alternative interfaces.

Course Structure
• WEEKS 1-5  introduction to electronics, microcontrollers, digital input and output, serial output, memory and variables, analog input, analog output, a little sound
• WEEKS 6-11  digital output, motors, coding
• WEEKS 12-16 project development and critique

Materials
required texts
Beginning Arduino by Michael McRoberts 2010 ISBN-1430232404 This book is also can be accessed as an e-
Grades and Evaluation

The purpose of grading is to clearly and accurately pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of your progress. You will receive grades on all assignments and receive a progress report and meet with me individually at midterm. This report will evaluate progress, note strengths and areas for improvement. Your overall grade will be based on your understanding of the information and ideas discussed, and your formal, technical, and conceptual progress as demonstrated in projects and exercises, and professionalism during the course.

Students will be evaluated through exercises, participation, research, presentations, and technical proficiency with the various software applications, their aesthetic application, and problem solving.

Distribution of Grades

Projects Total 60% = Midterm group project 30% + Final Project 30%
40% class participation (attendance, participation in class discussions, reading responses, asking/answering questions, teamwork, coming to class with all materials, general preparation, and proper classroom etiquette), in-class experiments, assignments, homework, quizzes, and exercises

Grading Scale

A 100–94: superior work, all criteria have been surpassed in a distinguished manner
A- 93–90: superior work, all criteria have been surpassed
B+ 87–89: very good work, all criteria have been surpassed
B 83–86: above average work
B- 80–82: slightly above average work
C+ 77–79: adequate, average work
C 73–76, less than adequate work
C- 70–72, than adequate work
D+ 67–69: barely meeting criteria
D 63–66 barely meeting criteria
D- 60–62 barely meeting criteria
E 59–0: failure to meet criteria

What constitutes participation?

Attendance + Participation

This class is very experiential and experimental in nature. We will do a lot of in class activities for which you will get credit. Many of these activities can not be “made up” outside of class. You will miss out on a great deal if you do not come. There is a correlation in studio classes between attendance and final grades. You have a better chance of doing well if you come to class. Only three (3) unexcused absences will be allowed. Every unexcused absence beyond this will lower your grade by a letter grade. A total of seven absences, excused or unexcused, will result in a grade of “E” for the class. Excused absences include religious holidays, a verifiable death in the immediate family or with a doctor’s note.

Recommended texts

Getting Started in Electronics by Forrest Mims 2003 ISBN:0-945053282


Access to software

Arduino, Processing

equipment and supplies

Many of these items are supplied as part of your lab fees in the form of a “kit”. This class has two types of kits.

One that has tools which will be inventoried and collected back at the end of the semester and another that includes the following consumables: arduino microprocessor, 5V voltage regulator, 3.3V voltage regulator, LEDs, solderless breadboard, resistors, potentiometer, trimmer potentiometers, momentary switches, toggle switches, ceramic capacitors, electrolytic capacitors, thermistor, photocell, 1N4001 diodes, zener diodes, transistors, DC power jack, photocell, AA battery holder, 3Vbattery snap, servo motor, dc motor, gearbox kit, Hi, bridge, reed relay, screw terminals. You may want to purchase a box or a case to haul your components to and from class.

Another item helpful for this class is the camera attached to your phone. The best way to record that you did a practice assignment is to take a picture of it and post on blog.

There are also components that you are welcome to use are located in the Electronics Studio next to Jack Stenner's office. Depending on what you make, you may need to purchase a few extra components for your projects or if you let me know soon enough, I can look into purchasing if there are available funds.

If you create a project which uses other types of sensors, you can to purchase them from the vendors listed on the resource page.

Giving Credit—Many of the ideas and resources for this class came from Rob Faludi and Tom Igoe's Physical Computing Class at NYU's ITP program http://itp.nyu.edu/physcomp/ and Fernando Orella's cached version of Physical Computing class at Union College.
Respect

I want this class to be fun and meaningful with everybody feeling comfortable to contribute to the dialogue. This is how we learn. Effective learning/teaching is a creative and co-constructed experience with give and take between teacher and student and between student and student. Key to facilitating an environment for learning is respect. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior make for stressful atmosphere which is not conducive to learning. Please observe the following class policies.

- Be professional; be on time. Walking in late or not being prepared is disruptive to others.
- You are expected to stay for the entire class.
- Cell phones need and pagers to be turned off before class starts.
- In group projects, you are expected to do your share of the work and communicate effectively with others in your group ie. giving correct contact information to the rest of the group, responding to emails and phone calls regarding the group project, attending meetings to work out assignments and schedules.
- Most of my communications outside of class with individuals as well as the class are done via email, please check your UF account regularly for updates and additional course information.
- Address me and your fellow students respectfully both in person and in e-mail.
- Pay attention during class, no surfing that is not relevant to the topic at hand, AIMing, reading newspapers, doing work for other classes.
- Address me and your fellow students respectfully both in person and in e-mail.
- Listening to other students and myself while they are talking and not carrying on conversations or interrupting while others have the floor.
- Students will conduct themselves with personal integrity and honesty. See UF policies below.
- Common courtesy--treat others as you would like to be treated.

What you can expect from me

- End class on time or within two minutes of scheduled ending time
- Answer students’ email with in 24 hours or less (usually less) unless I am out of the country or in a place where there is not email. My office phone is NOT the best way to reach me as I am often in the lab teaching or in my studio working. Face to face communication in class or email are the preferred methods of communication.
- Return assignments in a timely manner
- Be available during my office hours. If I am not in town, I will let you know in advance if I am not able to attend office hours.
- Listen to student concerns and questions.
- Explain and answer questions regarding the topics of the class
- Try and answer students’ questions either with a solution or a reference to a relevant resource within 48 hours.
- Abide by the grading scale above and not change dates for turning in assignments unless the class as a whole has agreed upon the change.
- Inform students of their progress in the class at the midterm
- Try and answer students’ questions either with a solution or a reference to a relevant resource within 48 hours.
- Most of my communications outside of class with individuals as well as the class are done via email, please check your UF account regularly for updates and additional course information.
- Address me and your fellow students respectfully both in person and in e-mail.
- Pay attention during class, no surfing that is not relevant to the topic at hand, AIMing, reading newspapers, doing work for other classes.
- Address me and your fellow students respectfully both in person and in e-mail.
- Listening to other students and myself while they are talking and not carrying on conversations or interrupting while others have the floor.
- Students will conduct themselves with personal integrity and honesty. See UF policies below.
- Common courtesy--treat others as you would like to be treated.

general university policies and services

This resource covers most policies and procedures important to students - http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/

accommodations for students with disabilities

I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office -- http://www.dso.ufl.edu/OSD

contacts for university counseling services

Includes personal, academic, crisis, and career services. Dial 392-1575. Contacts for university counseling services provide documentation requesting accommodation. Disability Office -- http://www.dso.ufl.edu/OSD

computer lab informations

When this class is held in the lab, there is no food and drink. For lab hours, equipment checkout information, access http://plaza.ufl.edu/mchristo/
Committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. These can include: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, or fabrication.

### Environmental Health and Safety

Each student must complete a H&S STUDENT WAIVER FORM (available next to the copier in the SAAH office) and on-line (see address above). Waivers must be turned into the SAAH Director of Operations before the end of the 2nd week of classes. Because we use some hazardous materials as part of the electronic components that become part of our projects, please pay particular attention to the guidelines below.

#### Appendix I: Area Specific Information: Digital Media

1. **Hazards of Materials**

   Batteries, old monitors, lamps from digital projectors if broken may release mercury. THERE ARE NO KNOWN HEALTH HAZARDS FROM EXPOSURE TO LAMPS THAT ARE INTACT.

2. **Best Practices**

   Though not much is generated, the Digital Media technician is certified for handling Hazardous Waste by the University of Florida. For installations or sculptural elements, please cross-reference with other area specific information as needed.

3. **Links**

   - contacts for student healthcare center
   - Dial 911 for urgent after-hours mental health assistance.
   - http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety
   - http://police.ufl.edu/
   - http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/

4. **Area Rules**

   All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

   - Follow all SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found at: www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety)
   - Follow the SA+AH Satellite Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted for your media.
   - In case of emergency, call campus police at 392-1111
   - File an incident report (forms may be found in the SAAH H&S handbook, the SAAH faculty handbook and in the main office.) Turn completed forms into the SAAH Director of Operations within 48 hours of the event.
   - Alcohol is forbidden in studio.
   - Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit.
   - No eating or drinking in computer the lab.
   - Do not use spray adhesive in the studios or in the building. There is a professional and safe paint spray booth in FAC-211A for your use.
   - Shoes must be worn at all times.
   - Protective equipment must be worn for hazardous work.
   - Do not block aisles, halls or doors with stored items or when working. This is a violation of fire codes.
   - Do not store anything on the floor. This impedes cleaning and creates a hazard.
   - Installations must be removed as soon as possible after critique.
   - Clean up spills immediately.
   - Take items which do not fit into the trash to the dumpster, follow dumpster guidelines.
   - Follow the SA+AH CONTAINER POLICY (see policy below)

   There are 2 types of labels used in the SA+AH - yellow and white. Both labels are found at the red MSDS box and are supplied by the SA+AH. Each is used for a different purpose.

   - Yellow:
     - Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
     - All containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice.
     - Note: Hazardous Waste labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%.
     - Labels should also include the Bldg and room number of the shop generating the waste along with the Waste Manager for your area, this is located on the SWMA sign posted at the sink or at the Waste Management Area.

   - White:
     - All new and or used product in containers (hazardous or what might be perceived as hazardous - i.e. watered down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents, etc…) must be labeled within the SA+AH to identify their contents. Labels can be found at the MSDS box in each studio and work area. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened. All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice.

#### White:

WHEN HAZARDOUS ITEMS ARE DESIGNATED AS WASTE:

**All containers** must have a yellow label identifying the contents that are designated as trash for weekly EHS pick up.

- Flammable solid containers (red flip top) must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- 5 gallon jugs must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside.
- Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- Each item in the blue bin must have a yellow hazardous waste label.

Note: Hazardous Waste labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%.

3. **Links**

   - University Police Department - http://police.ufl.edu/
   - Dial 911 for emergencies.
   - Dial 392-1111 otherwise.

#### Reading Days

The two days prior to the start of examinations in the fall and spring semesters, generally a Thursday and Friday, are designated reading days. No classes or exams are held on these days. Instead, students are encouraged to use these days for study and review.

#### Twelve-Day Rule

Students, upon prior notification of their instructions, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. A student who believes that he/she has been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

#### Honesty Policy

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student’s duty to report observed academic honesty violations. These can include: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, or fabrication.
computer use and acceptable use policy

All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

http://www.cio.ufl.edu/aupolicy.htm

disruptive behavior

Faculty, students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees [hereinafter referred to as “member(s)” of the University], who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. A detailed list of disruptive conduct may be found at http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/1008.htm

Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.

Critical Dates on the University Calendar

http://www.reg.ufl.edu/dates-critical.html

It is your responsibility to check the class website in a regular basis. Generally, I announce any changes to the syllabus in class.