

Semester Evaluation		
Study programme:	Art & Technology	3rd semester 2013
Semester Coordinator:	Lance Putnam	
Note-taker	Lance Putnam (approved by Andreas Jørgensen and Nicoline Lyhne)	

General Semester

Overall, the semester went well. The most common feedback was that the courses should occur earlier in the semester to allow more focused effort on group projects later in the semester.

Dynamic Art and Technology

Artistic and Academic Methodology III (Affective Design) was well received. The lectures and teaching were interesting and inspiring. The exercises were also found to be useful. The literature could be difficult to read as it was poorly translated.

Digital Representation II received a lot of "thumbs up" as major improvements to the course were made since last year. The content was found to be practical. The instructional videos were nice and the workshop aspects of the course appreciated. The vinyl cutter could not be used properly, even though it was taught. It was suggested to place the course in an earlier semester (like all the others!) so as to be closer to the time when introduced to the Utzon center facilities.

Programming II was in general good. The workload was sufficient and the topics (sensors/sound/graphics) were found to be relevant towards the group projects. The literature (PDF class notes and books) was good. Students would like to be able to "google" help on the AlloSystem code, even though it is documented inline. Also, more comments in the example code would be helpful.

Programming Interactive Systems

Programming III was found overall to be well taught and useful. Students were encouraged by sonic/graphical output as opposed to only terminal output in Programming I. The homework assignments were very practical and having deadlines and feedback was very helpful. The in-class coding exercises on paper were found to be effective. More information could be supplied on what is expected for the oral exam. This semester the course took up the entire first 3 weeks of the semester. Some found this good in order to focus on programming; others would have liked an art course interleaved for more variety.

Art and Technology Concept Design

Method/Concept Design and Analysis was found to be good overall. The content was interesting and it was nice to have the theoretical components. Some students were not sure what the difference between "method" and "concept" was as the teaching seemed to be the same. It would be nice to relate the theory more to group projects; esp. regarding the surveillance project.

Art in Context I: Art Theory

Theory of Art and Aesthetics was very good overall. Students mentioned it felt "academic". The exercises and workload were okay. The assigned readings had a nice variety and were challenging and relevant. Some did not like having courses run late into the evening.

Group Projects/Exhibition

The select-your-own-group-and-get-back-to-me instead of the lock-in-room-for-two-hours approach to the group formation process was appreciated and worked out smoothly in the end. However, the time to given to select a group could be shortened to one or two weeks to expedite work on the project.

The functional prototype session of group projects was found to be useful. It was good having all supervisors present and keeping the nature of the event more informal.

Overall, the all-semester exhibition of group projects was nice. It was good to have two days for the event, however, it was suggested that the first day be for internal visitation only (for testing, feedback, etc.) and the second day open to the public. The exhibition was said to have been too long and gone on too late (until 11pm) on each day and could've used more PR.

Communication Channels

The students found it difficult to navigate moodle. Firstly, this was due to the number and organization of categories. The modules, courses, and general semester information are all displayed in a flat hierarchy. Secondly, there was a lack of consistency on each category page due to different editing conventions of the lecturers and coordinator. The students also found the semester guide confusing, in general.

Physical Conditions

The group area (upstairs in Tolboden) was found to be nice, yet somewhat closed-in and acoustically distracting. Some preferred the more open nature of the first-year student space downstairs. It would be nice to have more space for building and storing old projects. It was suggested that select (operational) old projects could be showcased at the front entrance.

It was noted that the first year students are not cleaning their space well, notably the kitchen area. Also, some groups did not clean up their space after the exhibition. In general, the students would like to see some way to establish/maintain a culture of cleanliness in all group areas.

Social Conditions

The students would like to have more social events in addition to the Christmas dinner. Establishing a student bar and additional department events might be helpful in this regard.

Problems the Study Board Should Be Aware Of

The schedule shift in the first AAM course caused the fifth week to be absent of all courses. Many students complained about this.

One of the groups expressed a concern that their supervisor was not present at the exhibition. They would like it to be made more clear (for both the students and supervisors) what are the responsibilities of the supervisor in terms of both presence and duties. There was some repeating of course materials from earlier semesters.