EMERGENT DIGITAL PRACTICES 2013–2014

The MA in Emergent Digital Practices combines the pursuit of advanced, investigatory technical media skill-sets with focused research agendas contextualized within a broad liberal arts and digital humanities framework. The MFA in Emergent Digital Practices emphasizes methods and production of creative scholarly research and works shaped by broader art historical and cultural contexts. Students in both of the graduate degree threads of the EDP program will share key critical, theoretical, and historical resources, will be expected to excel in areas of creative expression and hands-on media production, and will be asked to acquire specialized investigatory skills. Students will learn to work together by utilizing advanced technical platforms and facilities combined with opportunities for heightened critical reflection and dialog.

EDP graduate students should strive to develop critical awareness, to articulate deep media literacies, to sustain new creative practices, and to foster outlooks engaged with the world around us. While invested in participatory forms of creation, performance, and interactivity, EDP graduate students are expected to engage in technical experimentation outside the realm of industry standards and creative as well as critical undertakings that surpass the limits of single disciplines. Students are also expected to be able to articulate the critical underpinnings of the things they devise and create through writing and speaking.

Advanced study in EDP will add scholarly and professional depth to the multiple artistic and cultural practices—both mainstream and alternative—that have developed alongside the powerful, networked, and mobile computing technologies of the 21st century. Advanced research in EDP will provide students with an awareness of broad contexts as well as definitive, professional-level focus and in-depth knowledge of the strategies and collaborative processes for complex, interdisciplinary cultural engagement.
Master of Arts in Emergent Digital Practices
The EDP MA degree at the University of Denver is unique in that it asks the student to balance the technical and the critical, the practical and the aesthetic. The MA degree is structured to build upon the body of knowledge each student already possesses from his/her undergraduate studies and expand and explore the consequence and possibilities that arise from the inclusion of technology into that field.

The MA student should be able to articulate and demonstrate advanced perspectives on emergent digital practices within interdisciplinary contexts. The MA student should also be able to synthesize knowledge of ideas and practices from across the spectrum of historical and contemporary contexts, focusing not just on making the new, but making the needed. And the MA student’s work should demonstrate accomplished means and mechanisms for critically evaluating the cultural dynamics of emergent digital practices.

The MA degree is designed around a 2-year structure with 2 courses being taken during each of the three regular quarters per year. It is not unusual for students to be able to have a part-time job (up to 20 hours/week) and still be successful on the program.

Degree Requirements
MA in Emergent Digital Practices (48 credits)
- 12 Graduate Foundations credits required
- 24 EDP Electives (at least one EDP Studio and at least one EDP Cultures)
- 4 Research Methods credits
- 4–8 MA Project credits

Project Requirement
The final form of the MA project is a balance between a digital creation and a written discourse about the ideas, inspiration, evolution, and critical analysis on the topics.

Masters of Fine Arts in Emergent Digital Practices
Envisioning artworks created with the latest technology fueled by critical content—that’s the EDP program.

While also demonstrating an understanding of emergent digital practices within interdisciplinary contexts, the MFA student should be able to articulate a deep understanding of the art historical and contemporary contexts of art making as shaped by technology and the sciences. The MFA student should be prepared for public engagement through knowledge of the significance of established cultural institutions and frameworks such as galleries, museums, festivals, and other public spaces.

The MFA Degree is structured as a 3-year program with students taking on average 3 courses during each of the three normal quarters per year. It is recommended that students pursuing the MFA degree are able to focus full time on their studies without simultaneous employment. The MFA degree is considered a “terminal degree” the same as a PhD, providing the necessary credentials to teach at an institute of higher education.

Degree Requirements
MFA in Emergent Digital Practices (92 credits)
- 12 Graduate Foundations credits required
- 24 Art History/Grad Seminar/Grad EDP Cultures (12 hours of ARTH maximum, Contemporary Art History required)
- 4 Research Methods credits
- 20 Grad Critique credits
- 20 4000-level EDP Studio/Make credits
- 12 MFA Exhibition credits

Exhibition
Additionally the MFA graduate student should be prepared for the development and organization of emerging venues for the exhibition of, and public engagement through, digital art works and new media. The final form of the MFA exhibition is the creation and public showcase of a significant body of work coupled with a written analysis of the past present and future of connected ideas, inspirations and critical theories.
FACULTY

Christopher Coleman
Associate Professor
MFA, State University of New York, Buffalo

William Depper
Lecturer
MFA, University of Iowa

Rafael Fajardo
Associate Professor
Undergraduate Director
MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Laleh Mehran
Associate Professor
Graduate Director
MFA, Carnegie-Mellon University

Conor McGarrigle
Assistant Professor
PhD, Dublin Institute of Technology

Trace Reddell
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Colorado, Boulder

Adrienne Russell
Associate Professor
PhD, Indiana University Bloomington

Timothy Weaver
Associate Professor
Director
MFA, University of Colorado at Boulder

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Lynn Schofield Clark
Associate Professor, Media Film and Journalism Studies
PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder

Scott Howard
Professor, English
PhD, University of Washington

James LaVita
Professor, Division of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
PhD in Applied Mathematics, New York University
PhD in Anthropology, University of Texas, Austin

Scott Leutenegger
Professor, Computer Science
PhD, University of Wisconsin
EDPX 3950 Collaboration and Production (4 qtr. hrs.)
In this collaborative capstone experience, students combine skills to create complex works that encourage the social collaboration of its audience or users. Students learn how to develop group working methods that take advantage of the skills of each member. This course requires full cooperation between team members in order to demonstrate synthesis of the principles of experience, emergence, and engagement taught throughout the program. Understanding and involving the audience as full participants in the final created experiences are also essential. Lab fee. At least junior standing required. Prerequisite: varies with topic.

EDPX 4000 Digital Design Concepts (4 qtr. hrs.)
An introductory course requiring conceptual, perceptual and manual skills to meet rigorous studio research into the history of mark-making, letter forms and layout designs as reflective of cultural, social, political and psychological contexts of interpretation. This class also emphasizes 2-D principles of design, including form, structure, conceptual understanding, visual aesthetics, semiotics, organizational systems, relationships of typography and imagery. Lab fee.

EDPX 4010 Emergent Digital Tools (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course serves as a primer on the tools essential to expression, sharing, and creation in digital mediums. This includes knowledge of web technologies, creative coding, video, audio, and the basic historical and theoretical contexts of each. Lab fee.

EDPX 4020 Emergent Digital Cultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course familiarizes students with current crucial approaches to understanding digital media and the impacts these media have in personal, community, cultural, social, institutional and international life. The course pays particular attention to cultural constructions of emergent digital media and practices. This course introduces graduate students to a variety of disciplinary lenses and conceptual practices, with readings and research ranging from media theory and studies, philosophy of technology, media archaeology and history, to science fiction studies as approaches to digital media and cultures.

EDPX 4100 Programming for Play (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course offers an introduction to the creation of games and playful interactive objects. Students explore the space of socially conscious and humane games as well as investigate the creation of compelling interfaces and interactive opportunities. Prerequisites: EDPX 4000 and EDPX 4010, or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4110 Rapid Game Design and Prototypes (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course is a rigorous investigation into games, rules, systems, interaction, and the iterative design methodology through the rapid creation of paper-based and physical game prototypes. The ambition is for each student to create one new game per week in response to varying material and conceptual constraints. Participants create and constructively critique games created by classmates. Participants are expected to become reflective in their play. Class time is devoted to play-testing and discussion. Lab fee.

EDPX 4115 Game Design: Paper to Digital (4 qtr. hrs.)
This rigorous game design and development course analytically considers formal game design elements through game design and simple 2D game creation exercises, game design text readings, the creation of paper-based game prototypes, digital game-mechanic prototypes, and the followed by the creation of a complete 2D digital game. Class time is devoted to reading discussions, design exercises, play-testing, and some work-shopping time. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4100 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4120 Making Critical Games (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course is a time intensive practicum offered once a year and may be available in Summer terms. Students are challenged to create games (board, physical, video, and hybrid games) that respond to social conditions in a critical manner while still maintaining an essential ludic quality. Public Good and Civic Engagement projects are welcomed. The course may be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor and when projects vary. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4100 and EDPX 4110 or permission of the instructor.
EDPX 4130 Making Educational Games (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course is a time intensive practicum offered once a year and may be available in summer terms. Students are challenged to create games (board, physical, video-, and hybrid games) that deliver K-12 educational content while still maintaining an essential ludic quality. Course may be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor and when projects vary. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4100 and EDPX 4110 or EDPX 4115, or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4200 Data Visualization (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course explores the creation of informational graphics for visual unpacking of relationships within and among data sets. Students learn to visualize large data sets as a means of revealing and exploring patterns of information. Creating interactive visualizations is also covered, allowing for deep and participatory engagement with information. The resulting mediums include print and web. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4000 and EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4210 Typographic Landscapes (4 qtr. hrs.)
This class is a rigorous investigation of the expressive potential of typography as a crucial element of visual expression and electronic media. This class presumes no background in typography. Students are guided through project-based explorations that range from hand-rendered inter-letter spatial relationships to the typesetting of modest sets of pages for paper and books. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4000 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4250 Making Networks (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course covers the use and development of content management systems for the creation of network spaces. Current web technologies and standards are covered, while also looking at user interfaces. Critical focus is on leveraging online networks for offline communities. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4270 Making Networked Art (4 qtr. hrs.)
The grounding conceptual framework of this course on net art includes an understanding of the psychological, social and cultural contexts of net art, net access and distribution, and net culture. Aesthetic and technical reinforcement of this conceptual base explore network architecture; user/audience interface/navigation design, development and experimentation; meta-data/multimedia content utilization; enhanced interactively; and venue evolution. Technologies used in the course include webpage authoring environments, digital imaging software and multimedia authoring tools. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 and EDPX 4250.

EDPX 4310 Tangible Interactivity (4 qtr. hrs.)
Explores methods and devices for human-computer interaction beyond the mouse and keyboard. Students learn to create and hack electronic input and output devices and explore multi-touch augmented reality, and other forms of sensor-based technologies. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4320 Interactive Art (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course expands the concepts, aesthetics, and techniques critical to the exploration and authoring of interactive art. It explores human computer interactions; user/audience interface design/development; interactive logic, author-audience dialogue; meta-data/multimedia asset acquisition and authoring environments. While utilizing students’ skills in numerous media forms, the class focuses on sensing, interactive scripting techniques, and emerging forms of digital narrative. Emphasis is on the development of interactive media deployment and distributions ranging from screen media to physical environments. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4310 or EDPX 4450.

EDPX 4340 Designing Social Good (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to artistic, scholarly and cultural methods for creating change in contemporary societal mindsets for a more sustainable and equitable future. Our objectives are to understand how current practices are reinforced and to then make experiences that encourage new ideas in the personal and global sphere. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4000 and EDPX 4010.
EDPX 4400 Video Art (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course continues the investigation of theories and practice of electronic media and expands into an exploration of video art, providing the basic principles of video technology and independent video production through a cooperative, hands-on approach utilizing small format video. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4410 Advanced Video Art (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course continues the investigation of theories and practices of electronic media and expands into an individual exploration of video art focusing on “off-screen” time-based media through conceptual and technological experimentation. Projects explore creating digital video for projection into spaces, onto buildings, and in the form of installations, to name a few formats. Projects are used as a platform for creative expression focusing on the critical skills necessary for the conception and completion of ideas. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4400 or permission of instructor.

EDPX 4430 2.5D Motion (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course provides students an opportunity to create multi-dimensionally active poetic orchestrations of text, video and audio using the post-production processing and animation tool, After Effects. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010.

EDPX 4440 Site-Specific Installation (4 qtr. hrs.)
This class produces projects investigating physical space, virtual space and site-specific public installations. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4000 and EDPX 4010.

EDPX 4450 Visual Programming (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course introduces intuitive visual “programming” that allows rapid building of personalized tools for data, video, image, and sound manipulation. These tools can be used in real-time editing or performance, complex effects processing, or to bridge between multiple pieces of software. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4460 Visual Programming II (4 qtr. hrs.)
This class uses advanced visual programming concepts (as provided by Max/MSP and Jitter) to explore visualization and sonification techniques in an artistic context. Areas of exploration include OpenGL modeling and animation, virtual physics emulation, audio synthesis techniques, and external data manipulation. Students use these concepts to create art installation and performance projects. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4450.

EDPX 4490 Expanded Cinema (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course introduces several forms of expanded cinema, such as video remixes and mashups; live cinema and audiovisual performance; Vjing; sonic visualization; visual music; and ambient video. The class extends the student’s multitrack video and audio mixing skills to an emphasis on both performance and generative approaches to audiovisual media. It introduces software and hardware sets including VJ tools and visual programming for generating as well as manipulating video files and real-time source streams. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4500 Sonic Arts (4 qtr. hrs.)
This class introduces the tools and techniques of the sonic arts, including field recording; sampling and synthesis; sound editing and effects processing; and mixing. Students survey a variety of sonic arts, historical and contemporary, to understand techniques and strategies for developing and distributing sonic artifacts. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4010 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4510 Sonic Arts II (4 qtr. hrs.)
This class extends and applies the techniques and theories of the sonic arts to include loopased composition, generative creation and modular processing. Students learn to add richness and complexity to audio work based on a combination of modern and classic techniques for audio production and the sonic arts. Class assignments include creation of audio for video and games, live performance and installations. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4500 or permission of the instructor.
EDPX 4520 Voice and Sonic Environments (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course covers environmental sound design with an emphasis on the human voice and acoustic ecologies. Studying and exploring a range of documentary, narrative and experimental approaches to sound design and the spoken word, students write and produce several short audio pieces. The final consists of a podcast, voice-oriented performance and/or sonic installation. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4500 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4600 3D Modeling (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course serves as an introduction to 3D modeling, texturing, and lighting on the computer. Students complete a series of projects in which the processes of preparing and producing a 3D piece are explored. Various strategies and techniques for creating detailed models to be used in animation and games are examined. Additional attention is spent on virtual camera techniques as well as the use of composting in creating final pieces. Current trends in the field are address through the analysis and discussion of current and historical examples. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4000 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4610 3D Animation (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course examines animation within virtual 3D environments. Starting with basic concepts, the course develops timing and spacing principles in animation to support good mechanics. They also serve as the basis for the more advanced principles in character animation as the class progresses. Lab fee. Prerequisite: EDPX 4600.

EDPX 4620 3D Spaces (4 qtr. hrs.)
An exploration of 3D digital space and the possibilities found in games, narratives and visualizations in these spaces. A real-time engine is used by students to examine the opportunities of virtual 3D worlds. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4010 and EDPX 4600 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4700 Topics in Digital Cultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course provides an in-depth exploration of the emergent digital practices of a particular culture and unique area of advanced study (for example, art and science studies; activism; youth culture; critical game studies; the philosophy of technology; or social networking). Students learn the social/historical context of the particular culture and observe and document the interplay between cultural practices and particular technologies. Prerequisite varies with topic.

EDPX 4701 Topics in Emergent Digital Practices (1 to 4 qtr. hrs.)

EDPX 4725 Activist Media (4 qtr. hrs.)
Today’s alternative cultures use Internet and mobile technologies to access and circulate mainstream information, but also to rapidly exchange information that exists outside mainstream media channels. Activist movements today with access to digital tools and networks are no longer dependent on newspapers and broadcast networks to represent them and to disseminate their messages. We are, however, just beginning to see how the proliferation of alternative networks of communication, and the content, practices, and identities they facilitate, interact with traditional political and business organizations, as well as with traditional media products and practices. This course focuses on media activism over the past half-century tied to various social movements with an emphasis on contemporary protest movements and their use of new and old media tools and strategies.

EDPX 4740 Performance Cultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course explores the history and current state of technology and performance. Topics covered include expanded cinema, live cinema, VJing, performance art, and the intersections of audiovisual media and technologies with dance, theater, and more. This course incorporates reading and discussion of critical texts and documentation of theory, process and practices, and the class includes screening and discussion of examples of both historical and emerging forms of media-enriched performance. Students produce written media on a variety of performance-related issues, artifacts, and practitioners, culminating in a written document or interactive publication. Lab Fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4010 and EDPX 4020 or permission of the instructor.
EDPX 4750 Sound Cultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course explores some of the cultures of artists, producers, and listeners that have formed around sound technologies. The class combines reading of critical texts and guided listening to study several genres of music, sound art and noise, ranging from post-WWII electronic music, field recordings and sound art, to hip-hop, dub, techno, jam bands, and more. Interdisciplinary in critical approach, this class encourages students to listen to these sonic forms as intersections of technological, social, ideological and imaginative forces. Students produce written media on a variety of sound-related issues, artifacts, and practitioners, culminating in a podcast or interactive publication. Lab fee. Prerequisites: EDPX 4010 and EDPX 4020.

EDPX 4770 Cybercultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course encompasses a variety of lenses through which to view, evaluate and critique ideas of ‘community’ and communities in cyberspace (cyber culture). The course covers such issues as: identity and race in cyberspace (including ‘identity and racial tourism’); communication technologies and social control; digital censorship; and utopian and dystopian representations of digital technology. The course also engages with social theories involving issues of technological determinism and the popular representation of technology. It explores the views of a diverse set of critics to ask whether digital things are ‘good’ for you and your communities. Prerequisite: EDPX 4020.

EDPX 4780 Speculative Cultures (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course explores the intersections of emergent digital practices and cultures with the extrapolative thought experiments, technical speculations, and social criticisms of science fiction. Students read, discuss, write and otherwise respond to primary texts by the likes of William Gibson, Bruce Sterling, Cory Doctorow, Philip K. Dick, and Hiroshi Yamamoto. Science fiction studies may also include sub-genres ( steampunk, hard science fiction, ecological) and regional categories (Japanese sci-fi), as well as consider science fiction in other media formats ( sound recordings, film, games). Students produce written materials in a variety of formats, culminating in a formal essay or interactive publication. Prerequisite: EDPX 4020 or permission of the instructor.

EDPX 4800 Topics in Digital Making (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course provides an in-depth explorations of the emergent digital practices of a technology or method for making (for example, wearables; interactive projections; augmented reality; immersive multi-channel soundscapes). Students learn the social/historical context of the particular method and consider the role and function their creations serve when it becomes public. Lab Fee. Prerequisite varies with topic.

EDPX 4980 Internship (1 to 8 qtr. hrs.)
EDPX 4991 Independent Study (1 to 8 qtr. hrs.)
EDPX 4992 Directed Study (1 to 4 qtr. hrs.)
EDPX 4995 Independent Research (1 to 10 qtr. hrs.)
EDPX 5000 Graduate Seminar (4 qtr. hrs.)
Topics vary. Reading and discussion of critical theory. May include project(s) related to the topic. Course may be repeated up to six times.

EDPX 5100 Graduate Critique (4 qtr. hrs.)
The course focuses on student’s creative production. Critiques are moderated by a different faculty member each quarter. Conceptual, methodological and theoretical concerns are stressed. Critiques are designed to assist in the experimentation, preparation and construction of individual art projects. Time is also spent on preparing students for a professional practice in the Arts. Course may be repeated up to six times.

EDPX 5700 Research & Theoretical Methods (4 qtr. hrs.)
This course provides graduate students with the strategies and techniques of research in the area of digital media studies.

EDPX 5850 M.A. Project (4 to 8 qtr. hrs.)
Independent work toward completion of the MA Project. May only be taken with the permission of the Graduate Director. May be taken for up to 8 credit hours.
EDPX 5900 M.F.A. Exhibition (4 to 8 qtr. hrs.)
Independent work toward completion of the MFA Exhibition. May only be taken with the permission of the Graduate Director. May be taken for up to 8 credit hours.

For More Information

A complete description of the program’s official offerings and requirements is available from the department at http://www.du.edu/ahss/edp.

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