New Media

Overview

The Berkeley Center for New Media (BCNM) is a UC Berkeley initiative that supports research and teaching collaborations to better understand innovations in media. Our mission is to critically analyze and help shape innovations in new media from cross-disciplinary and global perspectives that emphasize the humanities and public interests.

Since such innovations have technical, social, political, and aesthetic qualities, a full understanding of their transformative powers requires collaborative analyses.

Led by a highly interdisciplinary community of 120 affiliated faculty, advisers, and scholars from 35 UC Berkeley departments, BCNM offers courses, degrees, certificates, research, and public programs about media that bring together inquiries based in Architecture, Philosophy, Film Studies, Art History, Art Practice, Performance Studies, Music, Engineering, Information, Journalism, and Law. A collaboration hub for both textual and material discourse, BCNM connects students and faculty with projects at the Berkeley Art Museum, the University Library, and many off-campus venues.

All media (Latin for middle) facilitate transformation: by definition, media are transformative. From the stone tablet to the printing press to the Internet, media have become increasingly reconfigurable. The value of a medium is often related to its capacity for reconfiguration. To claim a medium as “new” is to posit a meaningful improvement over prior media. Thus, new media are highly reconfigurable and doubly transformative: they achieve a transformation of prior modes of transformation.

New media often produce new experiences, new behaviors, and new insights; yet new media remain deeply rooted in powerful aesthetic, cultural, and political forces. As media transform, they often distort. Sophocles observed, “Nothing vast enters the life of mortals without a curse.” BCNM actively engages scholars who critically examine the opportunities and risks associated with new media and who consider how new media can constructively benefit education, political engagement, privacy, and aesthetic experience.

BCNM catalyzes research, educates future leaders, and facilitates public discourse through courses, lectures, symposia, and special events. BCNM has established cross-disciplinary faculty positions and a special program for PhD students. BCNM expands traditional academic modes of scholarship with support for unorthodox artworks, analysis, designs, and experiments.

Undergraduate Program

The Berkeley Center for New Media offers a certificate program for undergraduate students at UC Berkeley. The certificate does not appear on a student’s transcript but reflects the expertise in new media innovation that a student acquires in addition to their core major. The program includes courses on innovation, a service learning program, and a research program, in which students work together with graduate students and faculty on joint inquiries ranging from hardware design to human impact.

Graduate Programs

New Media (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/new-media): Designated Emphasis (DE), Graduate Certificate

New Media

Expand all course descriptions [+ ]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

NWMEDIA R1B New Media Reading and Composition 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2019 8 Week Session, Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session
How do media shape our perception of our environment? What is at stake when we adopt or create new media? This seminar provides continued training in expository and argumentative writing, with an emphasis on new media. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.
New Media Reading and Composition: Read More [+]

 Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 10 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 8 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.
New Media Reading and Composition: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 39A Freshman Seminar in New Media 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Prior to 2007
This freshman seminar offers lower division students the opportunity to explore new media with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting.
Freshman Seminar in New Media: Read More [+]

 Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 2-8 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 2-7 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.
Freshman Seminar in New Media: Read Less [-]
NWMEDIA 90 Introduction to New Media 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2016 10 Week Session, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session
See Schedule of Classes for current section offerings. Topics introduce new media and related issues.
Introduction to New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week
Summer:
3 weeks - 5-15 hours of seminar per week
6 weeks - 3-10 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 2-8 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.
Introduction to New Media: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 104 Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation 4 Units
Terms offered: Not yet offered
Critical Practices is a hands-on studio design course where students work at the intersection of technological innovation and socially engaged art. Students will integrate a suite of digital fabrication tools with social design methods to create work that engages in cultural critique. Working with innovative technologies and radical, new art practices, this course will explore: hybrid art forms, critical design for community engagement, interventions in public spaces, tactical media, and disobedient objects. These new making strategies will reframe our notions of people, places and participation.
Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of studio per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 10 hours of studio per week
8 weeks - 7.5 hours of studio per week
10 weeks - 6 hours of studio per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.
Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 150AC New Media and American Cultures 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2014 10 Week Session, Summer 2014 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2013 First 6 Week Session
This course studies the influence of new media on various cultures in the U.S. and/or the influence of American cultures on new media. Topics vary by semester. Check current Schedule of Classes or Berkeley Center for New Media web site for current course offerings (bcnm.berkeley.edu).
New Media and American Cultures: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 7-9 hours of lecture per week
8 weeks - 5-7 hours of lecture per week
10 weeks - 4-6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
New Media and American Cultures: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 190 Special Topics in New Media 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
See Schedule of Classes for current section offerings. Topics deal with new media and related issues.
Special Topics in New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week
Summer:
3 weeks - 5-15 hours of lecture per week
6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of lecture per week
8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week
10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.
Special Topics in New Media: Read Less [-]
NWMEDIA 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 3 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring 2016
Course may be student-initiated or initiated by a faculty affiliate of the
Center for New Media. The subject matter will vary from semester to
semester. Student initiated courses will be taught by a student facilitator
under the supervision of the faculty sponsor, who must be a faculty
affiliate of the Berkeley Center for New Media.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Upper division standing
Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to
Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final
exam not required.
NWMEDIA 200 History and Theory of New Media 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2017, Spring 2017
This course provides a broad historical and theoretical background for
new media production and practice. The class will map out theoretical
approaches from different disciplines and allow graduate students to
discuss and apply them to their own research projects.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Required of
all students in the Designated Emphasis in New Media
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
NWMEDIA 201 Questioning New Media 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
Held in conjunction with the Art, Technology, and Culture Colloquium
which brings internationally-known speakers to campus to present their
work on advanced topics in new media: http://atc.berkeley.edu. Students
will enhance skills in questioning new media: how to think critically about
new media, how to use new media resources to research pioneering work
in new media, how to form incisive questions about new media, and how
to evaluate and create effective presentations on topics in new media.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Required of
all students in the Designated Emphasis in New Media
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture and 2 hours of
colloquium per week
NWMEDIA 202 New Media Methods 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2014
In this methods course we will study key languages of new media
innovation, ranging from flow charts to scripting languages and circuit
diagrams. Our study method involves the creation and application
of sensing devices in an urban context, and engages students in
establishing chains of references which connect ground truth to data,
data to information, information to people, people to actions, and actions
to policies. Taking into account technical, political, cultural and literacy
questions we seek to connect our data production work with information
needs of underserved communities in the Bay Area region.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Required of
all students in the Designated Emphasis in New Media
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Summer:
6 weeks - 9 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 5 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
**NWMEDIA C203 Critical Making 4 Units**  
**Terms offered:** Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017  
Critical Making will operationalize and critique the practice of “making” through both foundational literature and hands on studio culture. As hybrid practitioners, students will develop fluency in readily collaging and incorporating a variety of physical materials and protocols into their practice. Students will envision and create future computational experiences that critically explore social and culturally relevant technological themes. No previous technical knowledge is required to take this course. Class projects involve basic programming, electronic circuitry, and digital fabrication design. Tutorials and instruction will be provided, but students will be expected to develop basic skills in these areas to complete course projects.

**Hours & Format**  
**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of studio per week  
**Summer:**  
6 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 8 hours of studio per week  
8 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 4 hours of studio per week  
10 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of studio per week

**Additional Details**  
**Subject/Course Level:** New Media/Graduate  
**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Formerly known as:** New Media 203  
**Also listed as:** MEC ENG C205  
Critical Making: Read Less [-]

**NWMEDIA 204 Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation 4 Units**  
**Terms offered:** Not yet offered  
Critical Practices is a hands-on studio design course where students work at the intersection of technological innovation and socially engaged art. Students will integrate a suite of digital fabrication tools with social design methods to create work that engages in cultural critique. Working with innovative technologies and radical, new art practices, this course will explore: hybrid art forms, critical design for community engagement, interventions in public spaces, tactical media, and disobedient objects. These new making strategies will reframe our notions of people, places and participation.

**Hours & Format**  
**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 4 hours of studio per week  
**Summer:**  
6 weeks - 10 hours of studio per week  
8 weeks - 7.5 hours of studio per week  
10 weeks - 6 hours of studio per week

**Additional Details**  
**Subject/Course Level:** New Media/Graduate  
**Grading:** Letter grade.

Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation: Read Less [-]

**NWMEDIA C262 Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces 4 Units**  
**Terms offered:** Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016  
This course explores the theory and practice of Tangible User Interfaces, a new approach to Human Computer Interaction that focuses on the physical interaction with computational media. The topics covered in the course include theoretical framework, design examples, enabling technologies, and evaluation of Tangible User Interfaces. Students will design and develop experimental Tangible User Interfaces using physical computing prototyping tools and write a final project report.

**Hours & Format**  
**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of laboratory per week

**Additional Details**  
**Subject/Course Level:** New Media/Graduate  
**Grading:** Letter grade.  
**Instructor:** Ryokai  
**Also listed as:** INFO C262  
Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces: Read Less [-]
**NWMEDIA C263 Technologies for Creativity and Learning 3 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014
How does the design of new educational technology change the way people learn and think? How do we design systems that reflect our understanding of how we learn? This course explores issues on designing and evaluating technologies that support creativity and learning. The class will cover theories of creativity and learning, implications for design, as well as a survey of new educational technologies such as works in computer supported collaborative learning, digital manipulatives, and immersive learning environments. Technologies for Creativity and Learning: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

**Additional Details**
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Ryokai
Also listed as: INFO C263
Technologies for Creativity and Learning: Read Less [-]

**NWMEDIA C265 Interface Aesthetics 3 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
This course will cover new interface metaphors beyond desktops (e.g., for mobile devices, computationally enhanced environments, tangible user interfaces) but will also cover visual design basics (e.g., color, layout, typography, iconography) so that we have systematic and critical understanding of aesthetically engaging interfaces. Students will get a hands-on learning experience on these topics through course projects, design critiques, and discussions, in addition to lectures and readings. Interface Aesthetics: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Ryokai
Also listed as: INFO C265
Interface Aesthetics: Read Less [-]

**NWMEDIA 290 Special Topics in New Media 1 - 4 Units**
Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
See Schedule of Classes for current section offerings. Topics deal with new media and related issues. Special Topics in New Media: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week
Summer:
3 weeks - 5-15 hours of lecture per week
8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week
10 weeks - 1.5-4.5 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Special Topics in New Media: Read Less [-]

**NWMEDIA 299 Individual Study or Research 1 - 4 Units**
Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Individual study or research with Center for New Media- affiliated faculty. This course provides the opportunity to search out and study in detail subjects unavailable in the ordinary course offerings. Unit credit will reflect comparable work per unit as regular courses, and will include both meetings with faculty sponsor and independent work. Individual Study or Research: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week
Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**
Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Individual Study or Research: Read Less [-]