LAB: Fashion and Technology   margarita benitez
Course: FASH 5331-001 1765   mbenit@saic.edu
Spring 2010   margaritabenitez.com
T 6-9 @ Sullivan 707

course website: **fashiontechlab.tumblr.com**

Course Description:
Technology and its potential for innovation are entwined with advanced structural production and process. This lab introduces a variety of current technological possibilities. Exploring scientific advancement, students are encouraged to propose technological interaction at various stages of art/garment design and making.

Course Requirements

Attendance:
Students are expected to attend and participate in each class period. This is a 3 hour studio course and students are expected to attend the full class time. If a student is late 2 times this is the equivalent of 1 absence. If a student has more than 3 absences they will not pass this course, on the fourth absence the student will receive a failing grade.

Participation:
Participation on the tumblr site, in the labs and demonstrations is essential. Students must become familiar with the technical processes to complete the assigned projects. Take advantage of using resources during class time as some areas, such as the SMD lab, will not be available outside of class time. Students are expected to complete all assignments, including readings and ning posts for discussion in class.

Materials:
Students are expected to obtain their own materials for this course. Each project will have different supply requirements. We will discuss how to obtain different materials and students will be given a list of suppliers. The ability to search for and obtain proper materials is essential to completing a soft computing project. The Electronics / Kinetics Shop can provide fasteners, simple electronic components. There are old devices and equipment on the shelves of the classroom that can be harvested for parts in projects.

Electronic kits will be checked out for the second half of the semester (April 6 – May 11).
Felt will be provided for laser cutting (for 2D – 3D assignment)

Issues addressed in this course:
• exploration of the intersection between the body, technology, and personal expression
• mediated personal and social experiences through expressive wearable technologies
• integration of technology in design process and artistic praxis

After completing the course the students will be expected to have:
• An understanding of the technologies available to integrate in fashion
• Basic electronics prototyping skills
• Strong research skills in technical and materials sectors
• Expanded view of technology as primarily aimed for functionality towards a tool for personal expression.

Books Recommended
Bowles, Melanie & Isaac, Ceri (2009) **Digital Textile Design.** Laurence King Publishing LTD
Seymour, Sabine. (2008) **Fashionable technology.** Springer Wien New York
Barnard, Malcolm. (2002) **Fashion As Communication.** UK: Taylor & Francis Ltd.
Lee, Suzanne. (2007) **Fashioning the future.** UK: Thames & Hudson Ltd.
Quinn, Bradley. (2002) **Techno fashion**. Berg Publishers Ltd.
Dunne, Anthony. (2001) **Design Noir**. Basel, Berlin, Boston: Birkhäuser.

Assignment Requirements:

Binder
  * Documentation of technology / process / technique researched during the semester
  * All assignments, handouts and classwork is to be placed in binder.

Material Report
(Material resources: Material Connexion database, transmaterial, fashion resource center, etc.)
  * Name of Material
  * Name & Contact Info of Manufacturer
  * Electrical & Physical Characteristics
  * Intended + Imagined Uses
  * Acquire sample material if possible from manufacturer

Project Presentations (final)
You will have 15 minutes total for your presentation - 10 minutes to present your work, 5 minutes for Q&A. Please come early to set up your projects and load presentation onto class computer.

  * Name/Title
  * Idea
  * Background Research
  * Circuit Diagram
  * The Interaction / Intended Scenario
  * Techniques
  * Materials
  * Why is it soft? Why did you build it the way you did?
  * Challenges + Successes
  * Possible Future Developments

Please be sure to post your final presentation in PDF form and send me the link.

Suggested Readings (will be posted on wearables.ning.com)
"Electronic Textiles: Wearable Computers, Reactive Fashion, and Soft Computation" by Joanna Berzowska
"E-Broidery: Design and fabrication of textile-based computing"
"Dress, Language and Communication" from *The Clothed Body*
Fabric PCBs, Electronic Sequins, and Socket Buttons: Techniques for E-textile Craft
Lilypad Arduino
The Fingerprint of the Second Skin;
Logical Spaces for Urban Nomads.
Lucy Orta Lecture;
Logical Spaces for Urban Nomads. ABC of Tactical Media
A Futureproofed Power Meter by Natalie Jeremijenko
Dunne + Raby Placebo Project / Design Noir (they are scheduled to give a talk in April via AIADO)

SAIC POLICIES

attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and on time. Any necessary absences should be explained to the instructor. Students who are ill should contact their faculty member or leave a message for the instructor in the department office the day they are absent. For an extended absence due to illness, contact Health Services. Notification is then sent to all instructors informing them of the student's absence. For other extenuating circumstances contact the Academic Advising office. Please note that the written notification does not excuse a student from classes. The instructor gives students officially enrolled in a course credit only if they have responded adequately to the standards and requirements set. If the instructor does not clarify their requirements and absence policy in the course syllabus, students should ask the instructor. Also note that if a student registers late for a class (during add/drop) the instructor counts the missed classes as absences and the student is responsible for assignments given during those missed days.

Accommodations for students with disabilities
SAIC is committed to equal opportunities for students with disabilities and full compliance with relevant disability laws. Students with disabilities in need of assistance or accommodations should contact SAIC's Disability and Learning Resource Center (DLRC). Staff at the DLRC will review the student's disability documentation and work with the student to determine reasonable accommodations. The DLRC will then provide the student with a letter outlining approved accommodations. This letter must be presented to the instructor to implement accommodations. Call 312-499-4278 or email dlrc@saic.edu as early in the semester as possible.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. One can plagiarize even if one does not intend to. The penalty for plagiarizing may range from failure on the specific plagiarized assignment to failure in the class. Repeat offenses can lead to disciplinary action, which could include suspension or expulsion from the School. The Faculty Senate Student Life Subcommittee has prepared a 28-page handbook entitled Plagiarism: How to Recognize It and Avoid It. The document is available online on at
http://www.saic.edu/webspaces/portal/library/plagiarism_packet.pdf.