

an ACTLab New Media course - RTF331K unique# 07750 RTF880N unique# 08210

DREAM/DELIRIUM

<http://www.actlab.utexas.edu/dream>

Instructor: Sandy Stone (sandy@actlab.utexas.edu, phone: 302-9933 cell: 695-6732)

Office: The ACTLab. Office hours by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Joseph Lopez (ludwigvan968@actlab.utexas.edu) cell: 413-7832)

Class meets in the ACTLab Thursday 2:00-5:00pm

Course description: According to consciousness studies, the space between the waking and dream states is a continuum. Depending on mood, task, tiredness, and a host of other variables, we occupy different places in the continuum from moment to moment. Example: You are driving a familiar stretch of highway, you start to daydream about a fond experience or familiar song, and then suddenly notice that you are ten miles further down the road with no memory of the intervening distance.

In this course we examine the continuum between waking and dreaming as a source of creativity, a resource for narrative, a space of exploration, and a frontier of research. We'll discuss scientific discoveries based on dream (e.g., Kekulé's discovery of the benzene ring) and academic disciplines based on delirium (e.g., Surrealist Anthropology).

There are no written exams. Instead you will use the theories and tools you acquire during the semester to **make stuff** about some aspect of the space between waking and dreaming and/or the swerve into delirium. What you make can be in any form: sound, installation, video, computer animation, collage, sculpture, assemblage, performance. You will do this in stages, starting with simple projects and moving to more complex ones, using humor, irony, and unusual approaches and techniques. We encourage your own interpretation and voice.

Class is in studio and discussion format. This means that your active participation is a course requirement. During the semester I expect you to contribute your own ideas and arguments to the discussions, and to be willing to take the risks such contributions imply. In ACTLab courses we assume a high level of motivation on your part and your willingness to self-start, set your own goals, think independently, collaborate with others, seek help when you need it, and take risks. Let's make it an interesting semester!

Readings and Resources: All class readings are available on the Resource webpage, <http://www.actlab.utexas.edu/dream/resources.html>. Some of the resources are there for you to browse as you feel the urge. Also, remember your best resource is always your own curiosity, and Google or Dogpile or Clusty are your best tools. Experiment with keywords and see what happens. When you find something interesting, share it, either in person or via the mailing list dream@actlab.utexas.edu.

Other ACTLabbies are your greatest resource. A number of people in this class have taken ACTLab New Media classes before, and understand the way we do things. (We call them repeat offenders.) They can be your best resource for how to approach and complete your projects and documentation (see the documentation requirement below).

Critical information

The following six things are *required* for you to receive a grade:

1. Attendance at all classes.
2. Reading all assignments and coming to class prepared.
3. Participation in discussion.
4. Successful completion of two mini-projects and one final project.
5. Successful completion of documentation. See **documentation requirement** below.
6. Full cleanup of the ACTLab following final presentations. Leave it the way you found it -- no better, no worse.

Documentation requirement:

You must provide complete documentation of your work in the form of a web site. A web site consists of a home page that says something about you, and additional pages for each project as necessary.

Documentation means a description of each project, how it was made, its relationship to the readings and discussions (i.e., its theoretical grounding), your thoughts about the project, etc., together with sound recordings, video, and/or still photos of the work in progress and the completed project.

You will make the web site in four stages. Each stage consists of documentation of one of the three projects, plus a fourth stage consisting of the homepage with your bio, external links, and whatever additional information you think is relevant. Stages one and two are due in class the week following project presentations one and two. Stages three and four are due no later than 5:00 p.m. May 17.

Your web site and all its content must be on the actlab server, nowhere else. No links to your own content on other servers are allowed, although you may provide "for further information" links to other web sites. Absolutely no links to UT WebSpace are allowed, because WebSpace is ephemeral and will break your actlab site later.

All sound files, videos, links, etc., must work, and video and audio must stream. Videos should be in QuickTime format using Sorensen3 compression hinted for streaming.

We suggest you look at other actlab students' websites, such as <http://home.actlab.utexas.edu/~samanthap02> or <http://home.actlab.utexas.edu/~mckibben>, to see what they did.

Grading:

Participation in discussion	25%
First mini-project	5%
Second mini-project	20%
Final project	25%
Documentation (Web site)	25%
Total	100%

End of critical information

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Jan 16: First class day

Purpose of course & place in curriculum (show powerpoint chart), outline of the semester's work, journaling, schedule in-class reports on readings/films/guest lectures, tutorial schedule, explanation of grading, assigning accounts & passwords, readings.

Readings for Jan 25 class:

Wikipedia "Dream" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream>)

Wikipedia "Dream interpretation" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_interpretation)

Freud, Interpretation of Dreams, VI. The Dream-Work, 8 pages (<http://www.psywww.com/books/interp/chap06a.htm>)

Good summary of Freud and dreams, 9 pages (<http://www.freud.org.uk/Theory1.html>)

January 25: Discussion of readings: Freud and Wikipedia material

Film/video: La Jetée

February 1: In-class website building workshop (Joey & Sandy)

Criteria for grading webpages that will be due March 1

February 8: Guest Lecture: Dacia Saenz: "Love & Drunkenness"

Discussion of Saenz lecture

Discussion of first project presentations

February 15: First Project Presentations, Day One

February 22: First Project Presentations, Day Two

March 1: Website Stage One due by 12:00 noon

Schedule office hours to critique webpages and first project

Webpage discussion

Reading assignment for March 8 class:

Freud, Interpretation of Dreams, V. Material and sources of dreams, part 2, 13 pages (<http://www.psywww.com/books/interp/chap05b.htm>)

March 8: Discussion of reading

Film/Videos: Un Chien Andalou; Brothers Quay: Homage to Svankmayr

Reading assignment for March 22 class:

Nick Herbert, Metaphase Typewriter (<http://www2.cruzio.com/~quanta/meta.html>)

Andre Breton, Surrealist Manifesto 1924 (<http://www.tcf.ua.edu/Classes/Jbutler/T340/SurManifesto/ManifestoOfSurrealism.htm>)

Monday-Saturday, March 12-17: Spring Break

March 22: Discussion of Breton and Herbert

Discussion of second project presentations

Film/Video: Un Chien Andalou

March 29: Second Project Presentations

April 5: Second Project Presentations

April 12: Website Stage Two due by 12:00 noon

Discussion of website materials

Guest lecture (TBA)

(April 16: Start of Registration for Fall 2007)

April 19: Lecture: Magical Realism and its discontents: Castaneda and the vision quest; altered states

April 26: Lecture: Glossolalia and the lure of invented languages; neurological models of dreaming, lateralization; Quantum vs. Newtonian mechanics

May 3: Studio session; discussion; wrap up loose ends

Saturday, May 5, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.: Final Presentations

May 17, 5:00 PM: Completed Web Site due

Have a wonderful holiday break!

The Fine Print:

This syllabus is V.1.0. May be updated as necessary.

Regarding Scholastic Dishonesty: The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial services Web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>.

About services for students with disabilities: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

About the Undergraduate Writing Center: The Undergraduate Writing Center, located in the FAC 211, phone 471-6222, offers individualized assistance to students who want to improve their writing skills. There is no charge, and students may come in on a drop-in or appointment basis.

Warning: This class may contain explicit descriptions of, or may advocate simulations of, one or more of the following: Nudity, satanism, suicide, sodomy, incest, bestiality, sadomasochism, adultery, murder, morbid violence, paedophilia, bad grammar, deviate sexual conduct in a violent context, the use of illegal drugs or alcohol, or offensive behavior. But then again, it may not. Should your sensibilities be offended at any time, you are free to leave the classroom without penalty provided that you notify either the instructor or teaching assistant when you do so.

Fragile: Do not bend, fold, spindle or mutilate. May be hazardous to your health. Not recommended for children. Do not purchase if seal has been tampered with. Not responsible for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect, error or failure to perform. May be too intense for some viewers. Batteries not included. For recreational use. An equal opportunity employer. Some settling of contents may occur during shipping. Use only as directed. No other warranty expressed or implied. No postage necessary if mailed in the United States. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Slightly higher in California. Keep away from fire or flame. Any rebroadcast, reproduction, or other use of this game without the express written consent of Major League Baseball is prohibited. Please keep your hands and arms inside the car while ride is in motion. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. Contestants have been briefed before the show. Do not write below this line.