CRITICAL MEDIA PRACTICES

Critical media practices addresses the changing landscape of electronic media making by developing student analytical and production skills across a wide range of platforms, practices and technologies. The department explores the creative potential of cross-platform media production, as well as time-based media arts practices, such as immersive media production, sound practices and performance media. Our convergent approach to media spans a variety of media tools including digital photography, audio/video editing and single camera video production, computational media, open source programming and emergent tools under development. Our students acquire the skills and perspective to critically understand and actively contribute to this new constellation of audio-visual media making possibilities. The Department of Critical Media practices aims to prepare students to pursue careers as media art creators and critical citizens for the 21st century.

Production coursework encourages the development of personal style as students explore the expressive potential of emergent media practices, with a particular emphasis on the documentary impulse and making the "invisible" visible. Our program explores media art from a critical perspective: its nature, its history and its place in the contemporary world. Students are required to analyze not only existing media but also their own work. In this way the program presents media art as a way of engaging and knowing the world. At the graduate level, our department features an MFA degree in Interdisciplinary Documentary Media Practices and a Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Documentary Media Practices. The department also offers a practice-led Ph.D. in Emergent Technologies and Media Art Practices. The Center for Documentary and Ethnographic Media is affiliated with our program. Our department collaborators include faculty and students from Anthropology, Art and Art History, Center for the American West, Center for Asian Studies, Dance, English, Film Studies, Geography, Music and programs within the College of Media Communication and Information.

Course code for this program is CMDP.

Bachelor's Degree

 Media Production - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (https:// catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/mediacommunication-information/programs-study/critical-mediapractices/media-production-bachelor-arts-ba/)

Minor

 Media Production - Minor (https://catalog.colorado.edu/ undergraduate/colleges-schools/media-communication-information/ programs-study/critical-media-practices/media-production-minor/)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member's home department.

Ambrose, Kirk T. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_115914/) Professor; PhD, University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Auguiste, Reece Luke (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_149596/)

Chair, Associate Professor, Faculty Director; PhD, University of Nottingham (England)

Biggs, Betsey (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_158344/) Assistant Professor; PhD, Princeton University

Boord, Daniel Olin (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_134649/) Professor Emeritus; MFA, University of California, San Diego

Clark, Patrick Ryan (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156499/) Assistant Professor, Associate Chair; MFA, San Diego State University

Coombs Esmail, Eric (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_158305/)

Assistant Professor, Faculty Director; MFA, State University of New York at Buffalo

Eggert, Katherine (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_103618/) Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Ellsworth, Michelle (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_112060/) Distinguished Professor; MFA, University of Colorado Boulder

Espelie, Erin Marie (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_148671/) Associate Professor; MFA, Duke University

Hammons, Christian Stanford (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_152915/)

Teaching Associate Professor, Associate Chair, Associate Faculty Director; PhD, University of Southern California

Kernan, Keely Teaching Assistant Professor; MFA, Emerson College

Knight, Tara (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_158318/)

Associate Professor; MFA, University of California, San Diego

Laurenzo, Tomas (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_168230/)

Associate Professor; PhD, Universidad De La Republica (Uruguay)

Limerick, Patricia N. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_105459/) Professor; PhD, Yale University

Oakes, Tim (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_109269/) Professor; PhD, University of Washington

Rivers, Ed (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_101652/) Professor; PhD, University of Oregon

Rueb, Teri Susan (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_163944/) Professor, Chair; PhD, Harvard University

Sanford, Jason Sidney (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_165067/) Instructor

Saxton, Richard W. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_144756/) Associate Professor; MFA, Indiana University Bloomington

Sylvester, Roshanna (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_164037/) Associate Professor; PhD, Yale University

Young, Andrew P. (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_153434/) Assistant Professor; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Courses

CMDP 1400 (4) Introduction to Contemporary Media Cultures

Prepares students for critical practices in contemporary media cultures in a global context. Explores the diversity of media practices, including narrative and non-narrative forms, emphasizing aesthetics and visual studies. In lectures and recitations students will explore video, sound, the internet and other multi-media platforms of expression.

CMDP 2010 (3) Information, Media and Technology

Surveys the intertwined histories of information, media, and technology production and use through exploration of a shared topic. Examines the political, social, economic, and cultural contexts that underlie the movement toward a digital society. Enhances students, abilities to do research, write for multiple audiences, and create publicly-facing digital projects.

CMDP 2100 (3) Approaches to Historical Media Practices

Investigate historical and cultural discourses in the formation of media practices. Examines practices such as performance media; cinematic media, media art, and their aesthetic alignment to cognate movements throughout history.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

CMDP 2500 (3) Introduction to Media Practices

Working in design groups, students will explore the expressive potential of media through the production of short projects, discussions, readings, formal analysis, and critique. Provide a basic introduction to media practices as an extension of "visual thinking" and through approaches to storytelling, and hybrid media forms.

Requisites: Requires a prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 2510 (1-3) Critical Media Practices Workshop I

Training in narrow topics of media practices.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 3.00 total credit hours.

CMDP 2820 (3) Exploring Culture and Gender Through Film

Explores the concepts of culture and gender from an anthropological perspective through media. By experiencing texts, images and sounds about other ways of life, students will learn the basic concepts of cultural anthropology and learn to think critically about documentary and ethnographic media material.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ANTH 1170 **Requisites:** Restricted to College of Media, Communication, and Information (CMCI) undergraduate students only.

CMDP 3110 (3) Electronic Arts Survey

Explores the development of electronic media art through screenings, readings, lectures and discussions.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3150 (3) Sonic Histories

Introduces students to the history and theory of sound, through aesthetic, conceptual, and technological, developments. This course explores the physicality of sound, what sound can do inside and outside the artistic sphere, investigate sounding and listening as cultural and social acts, and study major developments in radio, electronic music, sound art, science and technology studies, and sound studies.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3210 (3) Interactive Digital Cultures

Examines how the uses of interactive media have changed the classical dynamics of human communication, allowing multidirectional, non-linear and multimedia practices. In this course, students will study the various aesthetic, narrative, emotional and cultural elements of the interface in areas such as non-linear video, the web, games and hypermedia.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade)

CMDP 3250 (3) Histories of Animation

C-).

This course provides an overview of animation by exploring this form through conceptual, historical, cross-cultural, and technical histories. **Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

CMDP 3310 (3) Performance Media Cultures

Reflect on the cultural construction of old and new performance media through the lens of emerging practices and contemporary discourse. From ancient theatre to cinema, interactive television to YouTube, and multi-media dance performances to computer games, this course explores how media shape, and are shaped by, various historical and contemporary audiences and contexts.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3350 (3) Modes of Documentary Media History

Introduces students to the variety of practices by examining their emergence, evolution and cultural impact in the global sphere. Students discover the major themes and genres in documentary work from photography, cinema, audio, hypermedia and the public debates they have engendered. Through lectures, screenings and research, develop critical perspectives on the international and transcultural dimensions of documentary media history.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3400 (3) Media Aesthetics

Builds students' ability to watch, reflect on, and write about media images. The course will be grounded in the analysis of media practices with special focus on media style and storytelling techniques. Explores media aesthetics from formal, cultural, and theoretical perspectives. Formerly CMDP 2400.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

CMDP 3450 (3) Critical Perspectives in Media Practices

Examines the contemporary landscape of media practices across platforms, such as film, social media, painting, video, and web art. This integrative exploration focuses on production contexts, circulation and reception through the lens of critical and interpretive frameworks. Drawing from key texts by major scholars and the works of media practitioners, students develop globally informed, critical perspectives for understanding.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3510 (1-3) Critical Media Practices Workshop II

Training in narrow topics of media practices. Open to CMCI students and by permission of the instructor.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 7.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3550 (3) Research/Remix

This Composition and Expression seminar develops information literacy practices: self-motivated, reflective discovery; critical source evaluation; and responsible, ethical knowledge creation. Encourages the seeking of multiple perspectives and diverse viewpoints through critically informed research, reflection, and creative work. Provides hands-on training in advanced searching, fact-checking, citation, and licensing. Enhances understanding of creators; rights and responsibilities.

Requisites: Restricted to CMCI majors with 57 or more credit hours.

CMDP 3600 (3) Creative Media Making

Focus on developing an understanding of the principles, forms and aesthetics of media production. Working in design groups on small-scale media preproduction and production exercises, screenings and critiques, students learn creative solutions to problems in realizing expressive media projects. Formerly CMDP 2600.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3610 (3) Contemporary Image Making Practices

Provides students the technical skills for in depth exploration of the evolving principles and strategies of digital image making. Students will create small-scale projects with the primary emphasis on cinematographic experimentation and innovative visual techniques. **Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3620 (3) Images and Stories

Learn and apply innovative non-traditional approaches to scripting and storytelling, including automatic thinking, idea sketches, visual notes, outlines and storyboards, serials, aleatoric methods, diagrams, locations, photographs and short stories. Focuses on methods of exploring scripting methods outside of the fixed and rule-bound traditional model of storytelling as a means of introducing students to discover their own scripting techniques.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3700 (3) Digital Photographic Practices

Explores the creative possibilities of photography; students work on projects that combine concepts and techniques with contemporary practice and current modalities of exhibition and social distribution. Emphasis is placed on the student's personal growth through aesthetic and intellectual development in relation to current technologies. Formerly CMDP 3500.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3710 (3) Audio/Vision 360

Introduces techniques, software and related concepts of digital design and image making through individual and group projects. Emphasizes digital animation, digital audio, digital video and website design and development as a means to formal and expressive ends. Introduces students to critical readings and theories related to digital media practice.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3750 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3720 (3) Multimedia Composition

Combine writing with media such as video, music, animation and podcasting on the computer. Includes a unit on web-site design and ends with each student creating their own website and positing on it the project they created for the course.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3730 (3) Media Production Methods and Ideas

Explores creative approaches to idea formation, conceptualization, and organization for the moving image employing critical thinking, improvisation and visual storytelling techniques. Includes forms of creative writing, storytelling and preproduction techniques and strategies. Previously CMDP 2710.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3740 (3) 3D for Extended Realities: Animation

Explore computer animation in the making of short projects that may address topics such as: nonfiction, immersive environments and digital compositing. Designed to develop the student's understanding of movement, timing, scripting, editing and color composition. Through screenings and discussions students will gain an appreciation of history and practices of animation.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3750 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3750 (3) Introduction to Extended Realities

Introduces concepts and practices associated with immersive media production, specifically as it applies to extended reality. Emphasizing hands-on experience, students will gain knowledge about basic 3D modeling, creating fully-immersive virtual reality experiences, and building augmented reality applications.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3800 (3) Documentary Media Poetics

Investigates documentary cinema and media practices through class discussions, research papers, hands on exercises and the screenings. Cross-references documentary photography and moving-image documentary in the production of short digital projects. Explores the distinctive contributions of digital technologies to documentary image making. Formerly CMDP 2810.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-)

CMDP 3810 (3) Engaged Documentary Media Practices

Combining research, scripting methods and field trips, students produce short media non-fiction storytelling projects emerging from an engagement with historical events, contemporary issues and the world around us.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3800 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3820 (3) Performance Media Practices

Develop a performance vocabulary within the context of various media platforms. Through creating individual and collaborative performance projects, students will explore performance design issues such as movement, blocking and staging with projection, sensors, sound and other media tools.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3830 (3) Advanced Performance Media Workshop

Study practical, technical and theoretical strategies of performing with and through media. This is an in-depth course that investigates a narrow scope drawn from topics that may include dance/movement, the illustrated lecture, projection environments, digital sensing, responsive lighting or acoustic strategies for performance.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3820 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3840 (3) Sound Practices

Explores the aesthetics of sound through the study of sound art and sound culture. Reading and discussion covers theories, technologies, and histories that drive the medium. Students apply concepts by designing and building their own soundscapes. Classes will be organized around hands-on activities, lecture, and discussion of readings.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 or MUSC 2081 (minimum grade C-). Restricted to College of Music (MUSCU) or Department of Critical Media Practices (DCMP) majors and minors only.

CMDP 3860 (3) Sonic Arts I

Surveys the various tools and techniques in the field of music technology. Topics include an introduction to basic synthesis, digital signal processing, MIDI and audio sequencing, music notation and a historical perspective on electronic music.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: MUSC 2061 and MUEL 2061

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3840 (minimum grade C-). Restricted to Department of Critical Media Practices (DCMP) undergraduate majors and minors only.

CMDP 3880 (3) Hearing Image, Seeing Sound

Explores how artists, filmmakers, composers, and others have forged connections between sound and image, and how we might learn from them to create our own meaningful creative work. Readings and screenings will dig deep into the geneologies of film sound, and students will create their own imaginative combinations of sound and image throughout the semester.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3840 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3910 (3) Media Production Topics

Rotating topics in media production techniques.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 3990 (3) Media Professional Seminar

Learn aspects of professional development in media production. Through workshops, class trips and assignments students will learn of the many opportunities found within media production.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4110 (3) Cultures of Digital Sound

Introduces students to a variety of critical scholarship and debates about our sonic environment through an examination of how sound interfaces with different facets of media production. Consisting of listening, analyzing and differentiating sound in different contexts, students will deepen their understanding of the relationship between sight and sound in cultural production.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4220 (3) Digital Archives in Media Practices

Examine the theories and methods underpinning the use of archival materials in non-fiction media production while simultaneously exploring questions of ethics, truth and representation that the use and manipulation of archives raises. Through weekly lectures, seminars, readings and screenings, students will discover the theories and interpretive approaches to understanding the archive and its uses.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4310 (3) Screen Culture and Globalization

Examine the formation of screen cultures (narrative, experimental, documentaries and multi-media video art) in the context of the cultural globalization of the moving image. Through lectures, seminars and research projects students explore the formation and evolution of screen cultures on various platforms such as digital cinema, web environments, video art, multi-channel installations and the moving image on mobile interfaces

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4320 (3) Media Engagement in Digital Diasporas

Offers students critical and interpretive frameworks for understanding the cultural and historical significance of digital diasporas and these communities' use of digital technologies for communication, community building and the creation of digital documents about migration and connectivity with the homeland.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-)

CMDP 4410 (3) Topics in Contemporary Media Technologies

Topics in Contemporary Media Technologies

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4450 (3) Topics in Contemporary Media Technologies

Focus on the development and application of media technologies in moving image aesthetics and emergent media practices. Topics rotate according to faculty expertise, but may include new imaging technologies for small screen and mobile devices, web-specific media or emerging modes of production. Through lectures, screenings and seminars, students explore the work of contemporary thinkers and practitioners in the field.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 1400 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4610 (3) Small Screen Storytelling

Shoot footage on or for mobile screens including narratives, microdocumentaries, music videos, short stories and collaborative exquisite corpse projects. Students will complete work and distribute through various outlets on the internet.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4620 (3) Media Environments

Explore the design and implementation of multimedia environments. Students will develop strategies for creating media exhibitions and/ or performance environments with projection and sounds activated by sensors. This course is ideal for performers, dancers and media artists as well as those desiring to present information in novel ways, such as working with archival or non-fiction materials.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3820 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4630 (3) Introduction to Computational Media

Develop the technical and conceptual skills for computational media practices. Through individual and collaborative projects, students will explore the creative use of electronics and microcontrollers (including wearable and other embedded systems) through relevant programming environments. Introduces visual programming with a focus on signal processing for image and sound.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4640 (3) Multimedia Sound

Learn what sound is and where it comes from; how to create, analyze, alter, mix, and record it digitally in the studio and in the field; and how it can interact creatively with other media. In addition to analyzing how professionals use sound, students will create five sound-based projects of their own.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3840 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4650 (3) Collaborative Performance Media Making

Explores the potential of collaborative performance media making through interdisciplinary, collaborative, media-for-live-performance production. Students create their own original performative works, reflect on both their own and their peers' works, and revise and revisit their creative work.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3820 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4660 (3) Dance for Camera

Explores the practices and techniques of moving-image production course with an emphasis on capturing human movement. The class develops skills in the areas of camera usage, digital editing, choreography, sound, and visual composition.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3820 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4710 (3) Projection Practices

Design and implement projection-based media projects and explore projection practice as a distinct field. Through individual and collaborative projects, this course explores projection for live events, installation, moving images and site-specific or community-based projects. Students will be introduced to emergent software and hardware for projection design.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4720 (3) Installation and Performance Media

Focusing on live image and sound processing in constructed or natural environments, students will work individually or collaboratively on an installation project that engages with the intersection of performance and media. Potential models include site specific work, illustrated lecture, gallery installation, movement and dance with projection mapping, participatory media and virtual environments.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3820 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4730 (3) Digital Art and Emergent Technologies

Explores digital artistic practices across contexts and disciplines in various contexts. Emphasizes web and networked media as it applies to digital practices in sound, image, language, spatial and time-based arts. **Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 2500 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4750 (3) Advanced Virtual Reality

This course provides advanced technical training in the arena of virtual reality (VR), as well as an in-depth perspective on the history of VR, its practical and artistic applications as well as its societal implications. Throughout the semester students also engage in discussions centered around best practices for immersive storytelling and user experience. **Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3750 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4760 (3) Topics in Immersive Media

Rotating topics in extended realities.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3750 (minimum grade C-)

CMDP 4810 (3) Advanced Documentary Practices

Combine research and production to produce short documentary media projects, which explore the world we live in. Focusing on practice, this course explores stylistic options employed on documentaries that give voice to different perspectives on the world. Students will be able to identify the tactics and strategies of documentaries in a variety of media, and will include visits with professional documentary makers. Students will complete a final documentary project.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3800 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4820 (3) Ethnographic Media

Explores emerging creative documentary practices through visual research, fieldwork, oral histories and the construction of innovative ethnographies. Through ethno-fiction, eco-ethnography, photography, indigenous media and cinema, students explore the development of ethnographic documentary and visual anthropology in both traditional and experimental forms. Projects are developed with an emphasis on the ethical and political challenges of representation through media technologies.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3800 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4841 (1-4) Undergraduate Independent Study

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

CMDP 4860 (3) Sonic Arts II

Learn strategies and techniques for generating and manipulating sound with computer-specific tools. Students' projects will include compositions, soundscapes, ambient environments and soundtracks for multimedia and performance projects.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3840 or MUEL 2061 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4870 (3) Sound and Technology

Exploration of issues, techniques and tools of music and sound technology. Topics vary and may include: interactive systems for performance; music and mobile media; electronic music instrument design; digital synthesis and signal processing; music in multimedia; sound practices and analysis. Lecture during work sessions will support student projects.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3840 or MUEL 2061 (minimum grade C-).

CMDP 4900 (3) Concepts and Practices of Contemporary Media

This Media Production capstone course explores the application of new media technologies in depth and engages students in an ongoing dialogue about the cultural context of new media technologies and their own work. Students will produce a major media project that synthesizes methods of media making into modes of communication and expression. Students are encouraged to take this course during their final semester. **Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of CMDP 3600 (minimum grade C-) and a minimum of 95 credit hours. Restricted to Media Production (DCMP) majors (not minors).

Critical Media Practices

CMDP 4931 (1-6) Internship

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple

enrollment in term.

6

Requisites: Requires prerequisite of CMDP 3600 (minimum grade C-).

Restricted to MDPD majors.