

SPRING 2015

Wearable Technology

Ostrenko and Ryan

ARTH 4420 sec. 1 / ART 4240 sec. 2 / X-Listed Course

Class: Tu 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Optional Workshop Th: 3:00-6:00

Location: TBA



L: Atsuko Tanaka, *Electric Dress*, detail, 1956; R: Anouk Wipprecht, *Smoke Dress*, 2012

Wearable devices and enhanced garments are among the hottest tech trends today, but a significant number of artists worldwide are also creating mobile, sonic, and performative art works with wearable technologies and exhibiting these in museums.

This cross-listed course will combine history, theory, and practice. Students will learn about the embodied interface, how it impacts our habits of dress, and even how we might evolve as a species. The course will combine lectures, discussions, and workshops where they will learn about Arduinos and microprocessors and how to use them and devise wearable items of their own. Issues to be covered and debated include the relationships between technology and dress, technology and the body, the ethics of biometrics and data surveillance, and the meaning and merits of posthumanism.

Students will sign up for credit as either the Art History or the Digital Art, but class work will be the same for both. All students will complete research and written assignments as well as create wearable projects. There will be opportunities to exhibit the final projects at the end of the course and even contribute to a runway-style exhibition at RedStick Open Source Festival in May of 2015.