

Big Questions in Time

Exhibition group project assignment

Installation

The exhibition group project is the central assignment in the Big Time course. For this assignment, you will be collaborating in an interdisciplinary group of students. Together, you are required to produce an installation that presents an interdisciplinary perspective on time. In short, you're meant to produce a "time-piece," broadly conceived. This could entail some kind of materialization of an abstract concept (or set of related concepts) related to time. Alternatively, your installation might offer some kind of solution to a (practical or theoretical) problem related to time. There are many types of final product that you could come up with; an artwork, a multimedia installation, a film, or some kind of time-keeping appliance all belong to the possibilities. It is essential, however, that your time-piece in one way or another *materializes* or *concretizes* an interdisciplinary perspective on time. This also means that you're required to actually build your "time-piece," not to merely present a blueprint.

In order to complete this assignment successfully, you and your team members need to bring together your various disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and knowledge, and collaborate intensively to materialize the perspective that you have collectively envisioned.

The procedure is as follows:

- You will be assigned to an interdisciplinary group of around 4 students. In forming the groups, we will be considering your disciplinary background in order to create groups with as broad an interdisciplinary orientation as possible.
- You will get together as a group for the first time during the virtual excursion to Zaanse Schans (week 10).
- In the following weeks (week 11-13), you'll be working on your project intensively, engaging in various activities inside and outside of scheduled timeslots
- In week 14, your installation must be ready to be installed and presented online, using video, photo, 3D models, etc. You will be asked to build a website where you present your installation, please note that the website itself is not the installation.
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- To accompany your installation, you'll write an essay (or "catalog text") that explains the theoretical and interdisciplinary rationale informing your installation. (more info below)

This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.

It will be assessed using the following grading criteria:

1. Interdisciplinarity: Does the installation integrate or contrast interdisciplinary concepts on Time?
2. Level: Does the installation display a deep understanding of concepts related to Time?
3. Alignment: Do the installation and essay reinforce each other?
4. Clear message: Does the installation present a clear message, and does it engage the audience?
5. Creativity: Does the installation engage with Time in original and /or innovative ways?
6. Craftmanship: Does the installation portray craftsmanship, artistry and group collaboration?

Exhibition essay (catalog text)

As with any exhibit in an art gallery or museum, your installation must be accompanied by an explanatory essay—a catalog text. While your installation should speak for itself as much as possible, you should use the essay to deepen your audience's understanding of the perspective on time your installations presents. Ideally, your installation and your essay should mutually reinforce each other: by viewing the installation and reading the essay in tandem, the audience should get a better understanding of both.

In your essay, you should consider the following topics and questions:

- Explaining the concept or purpose of your time-piece: what is its rationale?
- Address the interdisciplinary aspects of your time-piece: what are the various disciplinary insights you're bringing together in your installation? What are the benefits of this?
- What are the theoretical, practical, and material choices that you have made in producing your time-piece? And why have you made these choices?
- Reflect on the process of building your time-piece, as well as on the final product. What are the challenges you experienced in producing your installation? Did you experience gaps in your knowledge and skills? If so, how might these problems be overcome? What do you see as the strong points of your installation? And what are its limitations?

You are strongly encouraged not to postpone writing your essay until the very end of the project phase, when the installation is almost completed. Instead, start gathering notes and draft it alongside building the installation. This way, you'll be in a better position to critically reflect on how your installation materializes time, and to implement improvements to your installation as you're working on it.

The word count for the essay is 1,500-2,000 words.

The essay must accompany the presentation of your installation, so it must be complete and finished by week 14.

This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.

It will be assessed using the following grading criteria:

1. Interdisciplinarity: Does the essay integrate or contrast interdisciplinary concepts on Time?
2. Level: Does the essay display a deep understanding of disciplinary concepts related to Time?
3. Alignment: Do the installation and essay reinforce each other?
4. Reflection: Does the essay provide pertinent, critical reflections on the process of building the installation, and the installation itself?