The course introduces the foundation concepts and skills of interactivity employed in contemporary art and design. It aims to go beyond the traditional discussion of interactive media from either the media studies approach or the cognitive aspect of the human computer interaction (HCI) direction. Within the current social and technological context, it provides a broader investigation from the participatory and the performative nature of interaction with the focus of the human body as the main site of interaction.

Students in the course learn to create simple audio-visual musical instruments that the artists and audience can perform together. They also build game-like environments or devices that participants can explore through their bodily interaction. Within this context the focus of the course lies more on the interaction process and experience rather than on the interface design.

This course provides a broad coverage of the use of interactivity in different facets of contemporary art and design. Historical reference will be drawn from a variety of sources like cybernetics, phenomenology, human computer interaction, performance studies, narrative studies, game and play studies, architecture, and sociology. The conceptual framework in the class is transferable and applicable to other subjects like media art/design, spatial design, performance art, and contemporary art theory. As computing technology gets more involved in the creation of visual arts, it is essential for students and practitioners to understand the potential and limitations of the medium in relation with the human body.

The course will introduce the use of the simple graphical programming environment Pure Data that the students can use to experiment with interactive media content, without going through a steep learning curve of mastering traditional text based programming.

VART 3157 Virtual Touch (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2155 Bodyscape

Media art relies much on the audio and visual senses to engage audience. Interactive media has its uniqueness to employ the tactile sense to create a total sensation for audience. Early interactive artworks start by using "classical" devices of mouse and keyboard to couple the audience's actions and the audio and visual transformation of virtual objects on screen. More sophisticated works embed the interacting devices into a spatial environment or custom made artefacts. In both cases, audience has an embodied experience with the artworks through the exchange of information channeled in the sense of touch.

Because digital technologies are incorporated into our daily life, there is a crucial need to strengthen the communication between these systems and their users. These interfaces are the subject of the course. Students will create new hardware interfaces using electronics and sensors that can replace the mouse and keyboard. Basic design skills and knowledge of Adobe Creative suite are expected.

The interaction between the digital and the physical world is a field with increasing meaning for designers and artists. This course will explore the history of interface design—related to time and space—with regards to usability and cultural issues. The development of interfaces has always been driven by technical progress along with the needs of human beings. Students will research experience design, products design, and digital content and create new concepts for interfaces.

VART	3205	Special Topics in Craft and Design (Graphic Book)	(3,4,0) (E/C)
VART	3206	Special Topics in Craft and Design (Experimental Imaging)	(3,4,0) (tbc)
VART	3207	Special Topics in Craft and Design (Glass and Ceramics)	(3,4,0) (tbc)
VART	3295	Special Topics in Craft and Design (Wearables)	(3,4,0) (tbc)
VART	3296	Special Topics in Craft and Design (Objects and Environment)	(3,4,0) (tbc)

Prerequisite: To be specified by offering instructor

This course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in-depth selected topics in contemporary issues related to the various creative practices in Craft and Design.

Through examination of theories related to the topic, students will get an initial look at issues in the Craft and Design from an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The course will then guide them to integrate various points of view, and to develop their own critical judgment on the topic under study.

Starting on the basis of this initial introduction the course will then aim to investigate through practice different approaches and methodologies to the course topic, and to ultimately connect and integrate them with existing skills and knowledge of course participants. The aim is to develop and practise skills and concepts for students' personal practices in Craft and Design at the current state of the arts.

This course changes subjects/theme regularly; therefore the individual instructor in consultation with the Craft and Design Division will determine the selected topic, to take full advantage of developing research, issues and global developments in the visual arts.

VART 3215 Picture Book (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2115 Typography or VART 2216 Graphic Storytelling

This course aims to develop student's storytelling skills and the ability to conceptualize complex visualization in the form of picture book. It provides a platform for the students to explore how images, text, graphics and other visual elements can be used to inform, explain and narrate complex "story" in a unique and creative way.

The course emphasizes the importance of research in the stage of idea-development. Through lectures, workshops and field trip, students will have chance to explore various methodologies that could help them to conduct research on related topics. They will need to initiate their own story idea and develop strategy to gather, organize and articulate contents and information for creative use. To enrich student's visual language, advance topics in story structure, story setting, character design, visualization, image-text interactions and book illustration will be covered. Students are also encouraged to experiment with various approaches in visual expression in order to establish their own personal style.

Besides, the course will provide a comprehensive overview of the history and contemporary practice in the areas stated above by introducing classical works and modern examples. Alternative and cutting-edge models of publishing methods will also be examined to encourage students to challenge the concept of a "picture book".

VART 3216 Cover to Cover (3,4,0) (E)
Prerequisite: VART 2215 Typography

For centuries, reading a book was the only one way of save-travelling to faraway places, unknown cultures and bold adventures. Even time travel and the transforming to another identity were possible while lounging in an armchair at home and reading a book. Today we have more opportunities to get into a story by listening to an audio book, watching movie or playing computer games. But even the medium book is changing its nature from analogue to digital (Kindle and iPad, only to name the famous one).

Despite all these innovations, the traditional printed book is still the most common and most successful distribution format for text- and image-based content. Still the number of printed publication is rising every year. Book design is still the ultimate achievement for any 2D-designer. The innumerable contents of books cannot be covered by one standard design of an anonymous iBook. Not just the physical design of the "anatomy" of a book—spine, cover, binding, front, body, and back—but also the canons of proportion, grids, formats, openings and page design in combination create the essential experience of a good read. And these are only the basics. In addition a digital book cannot replace the sensory experience of touching, smelling and hearing the pages of an analog book.

This course critically evaluates contemporary book design by exploring the changing formats of the book in history, and in the context of the visual arts: as craft, as product, as art and