

New Media

The Berkeley Center for New Media (BCNM) offers two programs for graduate students at UC Berkeley, a Designated Emphasis in New Media and a Graduate Certificate.

Designated Emphasis

BCNM's designated emphasis is for selected students from any Berkeley doctoral program. It provides enhanced skills in analyzing and/or designing future media with an awareness of historical, social, cultural, and other perspectives that might not be visible from any single disciplinary point of view. Students completing the PhD program receive the designation "in New Media" on their diplomas. New Media Designated Emphasis students are also eligible for a variety of fellowships and graduate student instructor positions through BCNM.

Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in New Media is an addition to existing master's degree-granting programs. Students receive a certificate with the designation "Graduate Certificate Program in New Media," which certifies their successful completion of the New Media requirements. The award is posted to students' transcripts. Designed to enhance interdisciplinary graduate studies at UC Berkeley, the graduate certificate program emphasizes critical understanding of the nature and implications of new media, broadly conceived, drawing on theories and methodologies from across the disciplinary spectrum—the arts, the humanities and social sciences, and science and engineering. The Graduate Certificate in New Media provides students with a competitive edge for some of the most desirable jobs in industry and academia and may enhance opportunities for innovative and collaborative research.

Admission to the Designated Emphasis

Any UC Berkeley PhD student in good standing may apply. Admission to the BCNM Designated Emphasis program is determined by the BCNM DE Academic Programs Committee. To apply, students must send a letter of intent, their curriculum vitae, a letter of recommendation from their UC Berkeley faculty adviser, their Berkeley course transcript, BCNM course requirements worksheet, along with the BCNM cover form to the Center for New Media. Applications are accepted twice a year, with deadlines for admission on March 1 and November 1.

Admission to the Masters Certificate Program

Any UC Berkeley master's student in good standing may apply. To apply, students should send a letter of intent, their curriculum vitae, a letter of recommendation from their UC Berkeley faculty adviser, their Berkeley course transcript, BCNM course requirements worksheet, along with the BCNM cover form to the Center for New Media. Additionally, applicants may supplement their portfolio with their own research publications and creative productions, which pertain to the critical study of new media, in the form of DVDs, websites, and so on. Submitting a creative portfolio is optional. Applications are accepted twice a year, with deadlines for admission on March 1 and November 1.

Curriculum/Coursework

Core courses

NWMEDIA 200	History and Theory of New Media	4
AND		
NWMEDIA 201	Questioning New Media	3

AND EITHER

NWMEDIA 202	New Media Methods	3
OR		
NWMEDIA C203	Critical Making	4
OR		
NWMEDIA 204	Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation	4
OR		
NWMEDIA C262	Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces	4
OR		
NWMEDIA C263	Technologies for Creativity and Learning	3

Electives

Select at least two additional 3-4 unit courses that significantly deal with new media, approved by the BCNM graduate adviser. All NWMEDIA courses automatically count towards the elective requirement.

It is possible to provide evidence of equivalent level of experience/skill in an area and request a waiver of a core course by writing a petition to the DE academic program committee, endorsed by your program adviser, describing how the requirement has been met with a previous course (include a copy of your transcript to confirm completion) or provide evidence of equivalent experience. Questions about the core requirements may be addressed to the BCNM graduate adviser, Kimiko Ryokai, at kimiko@berkeley.edu.

Qualifying Examination

Your PhD qualifying exam committee must include at least one member of the BCNM Graduate Group/Affiliated Faculty who will evaluate your knowledge related to the designated emphasis.

Dissertation

Your PhD dissertation topic must be related to New Media and your PhD dissertation committee must include at least one member of the BCNM Graduate Group/Affiliated Faculty who can evaluate it from that perspective.

Curriculum/Coursework

Core Classes

Certificate students must take one of the following core seminars offered each year by BCNM:

NWMEDIA 200	History and Theory of New Media	4
OR		
NWMEDIA 201	Questioning New Media	3
The following courses are pre-approved to count for electives:		
NWMEDIA 202	New Media Methods	3
NWMEDIA C203	Critical Making	4
NWMEDIA 204	Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation	4
NWMEDIA C262	Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces	4
NWMEDIA C263	Technologies for Creativity and Learning	3
NWMEDIA C265	Interface Aesthetics	3
NWMEDIA 290	Special Topics in New Media	1-4
NWMEDIA 299	Individual Study or Research	1-4

Elective Courses

Students must complete new media-related breadth courses in at least two of the following three areas: technology, art/design, and humanities. The two courses must be approved by the BCNM graduate adviser. Breadth courses must be taken at Berkeley (transfer credit will not be accepted).

Lyman Fellowship

The Peter Lyman Graduate Fellowship in new media, established in the memory of esteemed UC Berkeley Professor Peter Lyman, provides a stipend to a UC Berkeley PhD candidate to support the writing of his or her PhD dissertation on a topic related to new media. The fellowship is supported by donations from Professor Barrie Thorne, Sage Publications and many individual friends and faculty. Funds total approximately \$6,000 each year.

Summer Research Fellowships

The Center for New Media endeavors to offer five \$1,000 summer research fellowships each year to support its graduate students' research agendas.

Conference Fellowships

The Center for New Media seeks to support its students' scholarship through conference grants. The Center disburses approximately \$2,000 each Fall and \$4,000 each Spring to this end.

Additional Conference and Research Support

Each year, BCNM provides seed funding for student-led conferences. These awards are available by petition to the director and program officer.

Space

Cubicles are available by application on the fourth floor of Sutardja Dai Hall. The BCNM also administers 340 Moffitt, which can be booked for classes, office hours, seminars, and meetings.

The BCNM strives to provide its graduate students with opportunities for teaching experience. Each year, the center employs three GSIs (graduate student instructors) to staff small discussions or assist with grading its three core courses. The BCNM seeks to offer summer session courses and encourages its students to apply for these positions.

For more information, visit the Berkeley Center for New Media website (<http://bcnm.berkeley.edu>).

New Media

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

NWMEDIA 200 History and Theory of New Media 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2017

This course provides a broad historical and theoretical background for new media production and practice. The class will map out theoretical approaches from different disciplines and allow graduate students to discuss and apply them to their own research projects.

History and Theory of New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Required for all students in the Designated Emphasis in New Media

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

History and Theory of New Media: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 201 Questioning New Media 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019

Held in conjunction with the Art, Technology, and Culture Colloquium which brings internationally-known speakers to campus to present their work on advanced topics in new media: <http://atc.berkeley.edu>. Students will enhance skills in questioning new media: how to think critically about new media, how to use new media resources to research pioneering work in new media, how to form incisive questions about new media, and how to evaluate and create effective presentations on topics in new media.

Questioning New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. Required of all students in the Designated Emphasis in New Media

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture and 2 hours of colloquium per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Goldberg

Questioning New Media: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 202 New Media Methods 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014

In this methods course we will study key languages of new media innovation, ranging from flow charts to scripting languages and circuit diagrams. Our study method involves the creation and application of sensing devices in an urban context, and engages students in establishing chains of references which connect ground truth to data, data to information, information to people, people to actions, and actions to policies. Taking into account technical, political, cultural and literacy questions we seek to connect our data production work with information needs of underserved communities in the Bay Area region.

New Media Methods: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 9 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

New Media Methods: [Read Less](#) [-]

NWMEDIA C203 Critical Making 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Critical Making will operationalize and critique the practice of “making” through both foundational literature and hands on studio culture. As hybrid practitioners, students will develop fluency in readily collaging and incorporating a variety of physical materials and protocols into their practice. Students will envision and create future computational experiences that critically explore social and culturally relevant technological themes. No previous technical knowledge is required to take this course. Class projects involve basic programming, electronic circuitry, and digital fabrication design. Tutorials and instruction will be provided, but students will be expected to develop basic skills in these areas to complete course projects.

Critical Making: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of studio per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 8 hours of studio per week

8 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 4 hours of studio per week

10 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of studio per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: New Media 203

Also listed as: MEC ENG C205

Critical Making: [Read Less](#) [-]

NWMEDIA 204 Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019

Critical Practices is a hands-on studio design course where students work at the intersection of technological innovation and socially engaged art. Students will integrate a suite of digital fabrication tools with social design methods to create work that engages in cultural critique. Working with innovative technologies and radical, new art practices, this course will explore: hybrid art forms, critical design for community engagement, interventions in public spaces, tactical media, and disobedient objects. These new making strategies will reframe our notions of people, places and participation.

Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of studio per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of studio per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of studio per week

10 weeks - 6 hours of studio per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Critical Practices: People, Places, Participation: [Read Less](#) [-]

NWMEDIA C262 Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

This course explores the theory and practice of Tangible User Interfaces, a new approach to Human Computer Interaction that focuses on the physical interaction with computational media. The topics covered in the course include theoretical framework, design examples, enabling technologies, and evaluation of Tangible User Interfaces. Students will design and develop experimental Tangible User Interfaces using physical computing prototyping tools and write a final project report.

Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ryokai

Also listed as: INFO C262

Theory and Practice of Tangible User Interfaces: [Read Less](#) [-]

NWMEDIA C263 Technologies for Creativity and Learning 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

How does the design of new educational technology change the way people learn and think? How do we design systems that reflect our understanding of how we learn? This course explores issues on designing and evaluating technologies that support creativity and learning. The class will cover theories of creativity and learning, implications for design, as well as a survey of new educational technologies such as works in computer supported collaborative learning, digital manipulatives, and immersive learning environments.

Technologies for Creativity and Learning: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for INFO C263 after completing NWMEDIA 290, or INFO 290.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ryokai

Also listed as: INFO C263

Technologies for Creativity and Learning: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA C265 Interface Aesthetics 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

This course will cover new interface metaphors beyond desktops (e.g., for mobile devices, computationally enhanced environments, tangible user interfaces) but will also cover visual design basics (e.g., color, layout, typography, iconography) so that we have systematic and critical understanding of aesthetically engaging interfaces. Students will get a hands-on learning experience on these topics through course projects, design critiques, and discussions, in addition to lectures and readings.

Interface Aesthetics: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ryokai

Also listed as: INFO C265

Interface Aesthetics: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 290 Special Topics in New Media 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

See Schedule of Classes for current section offerings. Topics deal with new media and related issues.

Special Topics in New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-15 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week

10 weeks - 1.5-4.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in New Media: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 291 Topics in New Media 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

See Schedule of Classes for current section offerings. Topics deal with new media and related issues.

Topics in New Media: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar and 1-2 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-6 hours of seminar and 2.5-4 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 2-4.5 hours of seminar and 2-3 hours of discussion per week

10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar and 1.5-3 hours of discussion per week

12 weeks - 1.5-2.5 hours of seminar and 1.5-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Topics in New Media: Read Less [-]

NWMEDIA 299 Individual Study or Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017

Individual study or research with Center for New Media- affiliated faculty.

This course provides the opportunity to search out and study in detail subjects unavailable in the ordinary course offerings. Unit credit will reflect comparable work per unit as regular courses, and will include both meetings with faculty sponsor and independent work.

Individual Study or Research: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: New Media/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Individual Study or Research: [Read Less](#) [-]