PROGRAM IN MEDIA ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Program in Media Arts and Sciences (MAS) focuses on the invention, study, and creative use of new technologies that change how we express ourselves, how we communicate with each other, how we learn, and how we perceive and interact with the world. The field draws on a number of other disciplines, including computer science, cognitive sciences, communications, design, and the expressive arts. The program offers undergraduate and graduate subjects and a graduate program leading to master's and doctoral degrees. Its academic programs are intimately linked with the research programs of the Media Lab.

Inquiries

Additional information about the programs in Media Arts and Sciences, graduate admissions, research programs, and research assistantships may be obtained from MAS Headquarters (https://www.media.mit.edu/graduate-program/about-media-arts-sciences), Room E15-435, 617-253-5114.

Undergraduate Study

The MAS Alternative Freshman Year Program (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/academic-programs/freshman-year/#mastext) emphasizes project-oriented work and connections to current research topics. Students in this program attend mainstream lectures for core freshman subjects but take recitations/tutorials led by Media Lab researchers, take two MAS subjects, and participate in research through UROP positions at the Media Lab. This program is suitable for first-year students who intend to pursue any undergraduate major.

Most MAS undergraduate subjects are project oriented and relate to ongoing research within the Media Lab. Certain graduate subjects are open to advanced undergraduates (see Subjects for details). Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/academic-research-options/undergraduate-research-opportunities-program) positions at the Media Lab are a major part of the MAS education offerings to undergraduates. First-year students participating in UROP are encouraged to register for MAS.111 Introduction to Doing Research in Media Arts and Sciences.

Graduate Study

Media Arts and Sciences offers a graduate program leading to master's and PhD degrees. Graduate students work closely with a research advisor in an apprenticeship relationship. Students enter the program from a wide variety of backgrounds, including electrical engineering, physics, computer science, cognitive science, mechanical engineering, art and design, and the learning sciences. For the master's degree, students are required to spend at least four terms in residence (one of which may be a summer term) and to complete a satisfactory research thesis.

Students wishing to pursue a PhD degree must demonstrate exemplary progress in the master's program and gain approval from a departmental committee review. Requirements for the PhD degree include successful completion of MAS general exams, and successful completion and defense of a dissertation based on original and significant research within one of the Media Lab's research groups.

Financial Support

The Program in Media Arts and Sciences offers financial assistance to all successful applicants in the form of research assistantships within the Media Lab, which are an important part of the educational program. Research assistants receive academic credit for part of their research activities.

Faculty and Teaching Staff

Patricia Maes, MM, PhD
Professor of Media Technology
Academic Head (Fall), Media Arts and Sciences Program

Tod Machover, MM
Muriel R. Cooper Professor of Interactive Media Design
Academic Head (Spring), Media Arts and Sciences Program

Joseph A. Paradiso, PhD
Alexander W. Dreyfoos (1954) Professor in Media Arts and Sciences
Associate Academic Head, Media Arts and Sciences Program

Professors

Neil Gershenfeld, PhD
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Hugh M. Herr, PhD
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Hiroshi Ishii, PhD
Jerome B. Wiesner Professor
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Eric Klopfer, PhD
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Professor of Education
Professor of Comparative Media Studies/Writing

Nicholas P. Negroponte, MArch
Professor Post-Tenure of Media Arts and Sciences
Alex Pentland, PhD
Toshiba Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Member, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society
Rosalind W. Picard, ScD
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Mitchel Resnick, PhD
LEGO Professor of Learning Research

Associate Professors
Edward S. Boyden III, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Associate Professor of Biological Engineering

Cynthia Lynn Breazeal, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Cesar A. Hidalgo, PhD
Asahi Broadcasting Corporation Career Development Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Joseph Jacobson, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Neri Oxman, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Iyad Rahwan, PhD
AT&T Career Development Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Member, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society

Ramesh Raskar, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Deb K. Roy, PhD
Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Assistant Professors
Fadel Adib, SM, PhD
Sony Career Development Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Assistant Professor in Media Arts and Sciences

Canan Dagdeviren, PhD
LG Career Development Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Kevin Esvelt, PhD
NEC Career Development Professor of Computer and Communications
Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Hiromi Ozaki, MA
Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Professors of the Practice
Joichi Ito
Professor of the Practice of Media Arts and Sciences

Associate Professors of the Practice
Ethan Zuckerman, BA
Associate Professor of the Practice of Media Arts and Sciences

Visiting Professors
George M. Church, PhD
Visiting Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

William D. Hillis, PhD
Visiting Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Lawrence Lessig, JD
Visiting Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Visiting Associate Professors
Katherine Crawford, PhD
Visiting Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Mario Siller González Pico, PhD
Visiting Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Visiting Assistant Professors
Karen Ann Brennan, PhD
Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Sciences

Lecturers
Joost Paul Bonsen, MS
Lecturer in Media Arts and Sciences

Mark Feldmeier, PhD
Lecturer in Media Arts and Sciences

Research Staff

Senior Research Scientists
Andrew B. Lippman, MS
Senior Research Scientist of Media Arts and Sciences

Professors Emeriti
Barry Lloyd Vercoe, DMA
Professor Emeritus of Media Arts and Sciences
Professor Emeritus of Music
Undergraduate Subjects

MAS.110 Fundamentals of Computational Media Design  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
3-3-6 units. HASS-A; CI-H  
History of modern art and design from the perspective of the technologist. Exploration of visual analysis, typography, and technologies for audio/visual expression. Enrollment limited; preference to students in MAS freshman program.  
V. M. Bove, Jr.

MAS.111 Introduction to Doing Research in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
1-4-1 units  
Intended for students pursuing research projects at the Media Laboratory, particularly freshmen and sophomores. Exercises and discussions on topics including Media Lab research areas; documenting research progress; ethical issues in research; patents, copyrights, intellectual property; and giving oral, written, and online presentations of results. A final oral presentation is required. Enrollment limited; preference to students in the Media Arts and Sciences freshman program.  
V. M. Bove, Jr.

MAS.131 Computational Camera and Photography  
Subject meets with MAS.531  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units  
Covers the complete pipeline of computational cameras that attempt to digitally capture the essence of visual information by exploiting the synergistic combination of task-specific optics, illumination, sensors, and processing. Students discuss and use thermal, multi-spectral, high-speed and 3-D range-sensing cameras, as well as camera arrays. Presents opportunities in scientific and medical imaging, and mobile phone-based photography. Also covers cameras for human computer interaction (HCI) and sensors that mimic animal eyes. Intended for students with interest in algorithmic and technical aspects of imaging and photography. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
R. Raskar

MAS.132 Mathematical Methods in Imaging  
Subject meets with MAS.532  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Spring)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
2-0-7 units  
Surveys the landscape of imaging techniques and develops skills for conducting imaging research. Reviews technical and social aspects of the evolving camera culture and considers its role in transforming social interactions, reshaping businesses, and influencing communities worldwide. Explores innovative protocols for sharing and consumption of visual media, as well as novel hardware and software tools based on advanced lenses, digital illumination, modern sensors, and emerging image-analysis algorithms. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
R. Raskar

MAS.377[J] Objectification: How to Write (and Talk, and Think) about Objects (New)  
Same subject as 21W.734[J]  
Subject meets with MAS.677  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H  
Examines stylistic strategies for understanding and discussing technological, artistic, and natural objects. Helps students communicate about these objects in a thoughtful and effective way, and improves their ability to envision new objects. Students analyze and discuss professional writing samples from a wide variety of disciplines, then apply their insight during written and oral exercises, including peer critique. Serves as preparation for professional writing and presentation for specialist, technical and general audiences. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Enrollment limited.  
V. M. Bove, Jr., N. Jackson

MAS.490 Independent Study in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Fall, Spring)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit.  
Special projects on group or individual basis. Registration subject to prior arrangement of subject matter and supervision by staff.  
Staff
MAS.491 Independent Study in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Fall, Spring)  
Units arranged [P/D/F]  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Special projects on group or individual basis. Registration subject to prior arrangement of subject matter and supervision by staff.  
Staff

MAS.UR Undergraduate Research in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)  
Units arranged [P/D/F]  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Individual or group study, research, or laboratory investigations under faculty supervision, including individual participation in an ongoing research project. See UROP coordinator for further information.  
C. Schmandt

MAS.URG Undergraduate Research in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Individual or group study, research, or laboratory investigations under faculty supervision, including individual participation in an ongoing research project. See UROP coordinator for further information.  
C. Schmandt

Graduate Subjects

MAS.500 Hands on Foundations in Media Technology  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
Units arranged [P/D/F]  

A series of modular classes designed to provide basic foundations in the skills needed to perform research at the Media Lab. Introduces the technology tool sets and research techniques used broadly at the Media Lab. Students choose from a series of modules that include: hardware basics, I-O and interconnecting, design and fabrication, programming, analyzing data, machine learning, signals and systems, applied control, testing and evaluation methods, documentation and communication methods. Proportional credit will be assigned to each module successfully completed.  
N. Oxman, J. Paradiso

MAS.531 Computational Camera and Photography  
Subject meets with MAS.131  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units  

Covers the complete pipeline of computational cameras that attempt to digitally capture the essence of visual information by exploiting the synergistic combination of task-specific optics, illumination, sensors, and processing. Students discuss and use thermal, multi-spectral, high-speed and 3-D range-sensing cameras, as well as camera arrays. Presents opportunities in scientific and medical imaging, and mobile phone-based photography. Also covers cameras for human computer interaction (HCI) and sensors that mimic animal eyes. Intended for students with interest in algorithmic and technical aspects of imaging and photography. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
R. Raskar

MAS.532 Mathematical Methods in Imaging  
Subject meets with MAS.132  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
2-0-7 units  

Surveys the landscape of imaging techniques and develops skills for conducting imaging research. Reviews technical and social aspects of the evolving camera culture and considers its role in transforming social interactions, reshaping businesses, and influencing communities worldwide. Explores innovative protocols for sharing and consumption of visual media, as well as novel hardware and software tools based on advanced lenses, digital illumination, modern sensors, and emerging image-analysis algorithms. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
R. Raskar
**MAS.533 Imaging Ventures: Cameras, Displays, and Visual Computing**  
Prereq: Permission of Instructor  
G (Spring)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
0-9-0 units  

Project-oriented seminar covers the opportunities and challenges for businesses based on emergent imaging innovations. Students analyze the landscape of imaging developments, plan business strategies and brainstorm a start-up, business unit, non-profit or citizen sector organization; they are encouraged to form teams and craft a business plan to gain practical experience in imaging research. Includes case studies of established and emerging businesses, and talks by invited business speakers. Surveys commercialization and the innovation landscape in all imaging arenas. Topics include mobile camera phones, cameras in developing countries, image-search, medical imaging, online photo sharing, and computational photography. Enrollment limited.  
*R. Raskar*

**MAS.534[J] Engineering Health: Understanding and Designing Affordable Health Diagnostics**  
Same subject as HST.928[J]  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2017-2018: Not offered  
Acad Year 2018-2019: G (Fall)  
3-1-8 units  

Designing and building novel health diagnostics and sensors while learning the fundamentals of rapid prototyping, applied optics, signals processing, imaging and other advanced sensing modalities. Students work in teams with a physician and technical mentor to design and construct a cutting edge health diagnostic or device. The best projects may be continued in the Spring semester through a clinical trials and ventures program reaching early trials by the end of the school year.  
*R. Raskar*

**MAS.535[J] Engineering Health: Designing and Deploying Affordable Health Diagnostics and Therapeutics**  
Same subject as HST.929[J]  
Prereq: None  
G (Spring)  
6-0-0 units  

Students design and construct a cutting-edge health diagnostic or device and explore opportunities to test and deploy it. Through structured interactions with physicians, and technical rounds at local hospitals, students incorporate user-centric design into their devices and engage with the health community towards implementation. Provides exposure to clinical trials, the FDA, user experience, intellectual property, and entrepreneurship.  
*R. Raskar*

**MAS.552[J] City Science**  
Same subject as 4.557[J]  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Focuses on architectural and mobility interventions that respond to changing patterns of living, working, and transport. Emphasizes mass-customized housing, autonomous parking, charging infrastructure, and shared-use networks of lightweight electric vehicles (LEVs). Students work in small teams and are lead by researchers from the Changing Places group. Projects focus on the application of these ideas to case study cities and may include travel. Invited guests from academia and industry participate. Repeatable for credit with permission of instructor.  
*K. Larson, R. Chin*

**MAS.581 Networks, Complexity, and Their Applications**  
Prereq: None  
G (Spring)  
2-0-10 units  

Covers the basics of networks science and information theory. Explains the evolution of systems as the process by which systems accumulate knowledge and information while battling the eternal need for both knowledge and information to always be physically embodied. Students form small groups to conduct a hands-on project. Additionally, students present on readings that address literature in network science, social capital theory, social networks, and economic development. Limited to 25.  
*C. Hidalgo*
**MAS.600 Human 2.0**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
0-9-0 units  
Covers principles underlying current and future technologies for cognitive, emotional and physical augmentation. Focuses on using anatomical, biomechanical, neuromechanical, biochemical and neurological models of the human body to guide the designs of augmentation technology for persons with either unusual or normal physiologies that wish to extend their cognitive, emotion, social or physical capability to new levels. Topics include robotic exoskeletons and powered orthoses, external limb prostheses, neural implant technology, social-emotional prostheses, and cognitive prostheses. Requires student presentations, critiques of class readings, and a final project including a publication-quality paper. Enrollment limited.  
*H. Herr*

**MAS.622[J] Pattern Recognition and Analysis**  
Same subject as 1.126[J]  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
3-0-9 units  
Fundamentals of characterizing and recognizing patterns and features of interest in numerical data. Basic tools and theory for signal understanding problems with applications to user modeling, affect recognition, speech recognition and understanding, computer vision, physiological analysis, and more. Decision theory, statistical classification, maximum likelihood and Bayesian estimation, nonparametric methods, unsupervised learning and clustering. Additional topics on machine and human learning from active research. Knowledge of probability theory and linear algebra required. Limited to 20.  
*R. W. Picard*

**MAS.630 Affective Computing**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2017-2018: G (Fall)  
Acad Year 2018-2019: Not offered  
2-0-10 units  
Instructs students on how to develop technologies that help people measure and communicate emotion, that respectfully read and that intelligently respond to emotion, and have internal mechanisms inspired by the useful roles emotions play. Topics vary from year to year, and may include the interaction of emotion with cognition and perception; the communication of human emotion via face, voice, physiology, and behavior; construction of computers, agents, and robots having skills of emotional intelligence; the role of emotion in decision-making and learning; and affective technologies for education, autism, health, and market research applications. Weekly reading, discussion, and a term project required. Enrollment limited.  
*R. W. Picard*

**MAS.650 Design Across Scales, Disciplines and Problem Contexts**  
Subject meets with 4.110  
Prereq: None  
G (Spring)  
2-2-8 units  
Explores the reciprocal relationships among design, science, and technology across scales. Covers a wide range of topics, from visualization, fabrication, computation, material ecology, interaction, and architecture to games and performance. Examines how transformations in science and technology have influenced design thinking and vice versa. Students collaborate on interdisciplinary design projects and creative opportunities. Additional work is required of students taking the graduate version of the subject.  
*N. Oxman, J. M. Yoon*
MAS.664[J] Media Ventures
Same subject as 15.376[J]
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
3-0-6 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Seminar surveys internal and external entrepreneurship, based on Media Lab technologies, to increase understanding of how digital innovations grow into societal change. Cases illustrate examples of both successful and failed businesses, as well as difficulties in deploying and diffusing products. Explores a range of business models and opportunities enabled by emerging Media Lab innovations. Students craft a business analysis for one of the featured technology innovations. Past analyses have become the basis for research publications, and new ventures. Particular focus on big data, mobile, and the use of personal data.
A. Pentland, J. Bonsen

MAS.665[J] Development Ventures
Same subject as 15.375[J], EC.731[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Seminar on founding, financing, and building entrepreneurial ventures in developing nations. Challenges students to craft enduring and economically viable solutions to the problems faced by these countries. Cases illustrate examples of both successful and failed businesses, and the difficulties in deploying and diffusing products and services through entrepreneurial action. Explores a range of established and emerging business models, as well as new business opportunities enabled by innovations emerging from MIT labs and beyond. Students develop a business plan executive summary suitable for submission in the MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition’s Accelerate Contest or MIT IDEAS.
J. Bonsen, A. Pentland, C. Breazeal

MAS.677 Objectification: How to Write (and Talk, and Think) about Objects (New)
Subject meets with 21W.734J, MAS.377[J]
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
2-0-7 units
Examines stylistic strategies for understanding and discussing technological, artistic, and natural objects. Helps students communicate about these objects in a thoughtful and effective way, and improves their ability to envision new objects. Students analyze and discuss professional writing samples from a wide variety of disciplines, then apply their insight during written and oral exercises, including peer critique. Serves as preparation for professional writing and presentation for specialist, technical and general audiences. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Enrollment Limited.
V. M. Bove, Jr., N. Jackson

MAS.690 Independent Study in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member. Registration subject to prior arrangement of subject matter and supervision by staff.
Staff

MAS.700 Future of News and Participatory Media
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
1-2-9 units
Studies the news as an engineering challenge in light of recent, rapid, and ongoing changes to the way news is delivered and spread. Considers how we discover what events are taking place in different parts of the world and how we explain the importance of these events to readers or viewers, as well as how readers of a story respond to events. Explores the systems journalists and others have used to report and share the news. Focuses on developing one’s own tools and methods to address these challenges through weekly reporting assignments and a final project in which students build tools for journalists (professional and otherwise) to use. Limited to 18.
E. Zuckerman
MAS.712 Learning Creative Learning
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring; first half of term)
1-0-5 units
Can be repeated for credit.

An introduction to ideas and strategies underlying the design of new learning technologies. Focuses especially on technologies that support interest-driven, project-based, collaborative learning experiences. Students analyze innovative learning technologies, discuss underlying educational ideas, examine design principles, create new prototypes and applications.

M. Resnick

MAS.731[J] The Society of Mind
Same subject as 6.868[J]
Prereq: Must have read "The Society of Mind" and "The Emotion Machine"; permission of instructor
Acad Year 2017-2018: Not offered
Acad Year 2018-2019: G (Spring)
2-0-10 units
See description under subject 6.868[J]. Enrollment limited.

M. Minsky

MAS.750 Human-Robot Interaction
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-7 units

In-depth exploration of the leading research, design principles, and technical challenges in human-robot interaction (HRI), with an emphasis on socially interactive robots. Topics include mixed-initiative interaction, multi-modal interfaces, face-to-face communication, human-robot teamwork, social learning, aspects of social cognition, and long-term interaction. Applications of these topics to the development of personal robots for health, education, elder care, domestic assistance, and other domains will be surveyed. Requires student presentations, critiques of class readings, student projects, and a final project including a publication quality paper.

C. Breazeal

MAS.756 Principles of Awareness (New)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
0-9-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Experiential exploration of various theories and methodologies around awareness. Students keep an open lab book documenting methods and evaluations, and present their findings and observations regularly during class sessions. In the final project, students evaluate various tools, techniques, and interfaces around awareness targeted towards "performance" and "wellbeing." Addresses themes, such as self vs. other, change, relational awareness, non-duality, and joy and happiness. In-class and virtual meetings consist of practice (ranging from meditation to hacking), lectures, and discussions with invited speakers/experts. Some of the talks will be open to the public. Limited to 20-25.

J. Ito and T. Priyadarshi

MAS.771 Autism Theory and Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-10 units

Illuminates current theories about autism together with challenges faced by people on the autism spectrum. Theories in communicating, interacting socially, managing cognitive and affective overload, and achieving independent lifestyles are covered. In parallel, the course presents state-of-the-art technologies being developed for helping improve both theoretical understanding and practical outcomes. Participants expected to meet and interact with people on the autism spectrum. Weekly reading, discussion, and a term project required. Enrollment limited.

R. Picard

MAS.784 Data Storytelling Studio (New)
Subject meets with CMS.631, CMS.831
Prereq: None
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Explores visualization methodologies to conceive and represent systems and data, e.g., financial, media, economic, political, etc. Covers basic methods for research, cleaning, and analysis of datasets. Introduces creative methods of data presentation and storytelling. Considers the emotional, aesthetic, ethical, and practical effects of different presentation methods as well as how to develop metrics for assessing impact. Work centers on readings, visualization exercises, and a final project. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

R. Bhargava
MAS.790 Independent Study in Media Arts and Sciences  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall, Spring)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit.  
Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member. Registration subject to prior arrangement of subject matter and supervision by staff. 

Staff 

MAS.808 Decoders 1.0: Microfabricated Devices (New)  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
3-0-6 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  
Explores various microfabricated device layouts and their impacts on the world through guest lectures. Follows with literature review wherein students compose a summary paper based on representative papers published by the guest lecturers. As a final project, students write and publish on the class website a comprehensive perspective article based on guest lectures. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Limited to 10; preference to Media Arts and Sciences students. 

C. Dagdeviren 

MAS.825[J] Musical Aesthetics and Media Technology  
Same subject as 21M.580[J]  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-3-3 units  
In-depth exploration of contemporary concepts in music and media. Studies recent music that uses advanced technology, and the artistic motivations and concerns implied by the new media. Practical experience with computer music technology, including MIDI and post-MIDI systems. Special emphasis on the interactive systems for professionals as well as amateurs. Midterm paper and term project required. 

T. Machover 

MAS.826[J] Projects in Media and Music  
Same subject as 21M.581[J]  
Prereq: MAS.825[J]  
G (Spring)  
3-3-6 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  
Current computer music concepts and practice. Project-based work on research or production projects using the Media Lab’s computer music, interactive, and media resources. Requires significant studio work and a term project. Projects based on class interests and skills, and may be individually or group-based. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. 

T. Machover 

MAS.834 Tangible Interfaces  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-3-6 units  
Explores design issues surrounding tangible user interfaces, a new form of human-computer interaction. Tangible user interfaces seek to realize seamless interfaces between humans, digital information, and the physical environment by giving physical form to digital information and computation, making bits directly manipulable with hands and perceptible at the periphery of human awareness. In the design studio environment, students explore experimental tangible interface designs, theories, applications, and underlying technologies, using concept sketches, posters, physical mockups, and working prototypes. 

H. Ishii 

MAS.836 Sensor Technologies for Interactive Environments  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
3-3-6 units  
A broad introduction to a host of sensor technologies, illustrated by applications drawn from human-computer interfaces and ubiquitous computing. After extensively reviewing electronics for sensor signal conditioning, the lectures cover the principles and operation of a variety of sensor architectures and modalities, including pressure, strain, displacement, proximity, thermal, electric and magnetic field, optical, acoustic, RF, inertial, and bioelectric. Simple sensor processing algorithms and wired and wireless network standards are also discussed. Students are required to complete written assignments, a set of laboratories, and a final project. 

J. Paradiso
MAS.837 Principles of Electronic Music Interfaces
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2017-2018: Not offered
Acad Year 2018-2019: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Explores the ways in which electronic music is controlled and performed. A solid historical perspective is presented, tracing the development of various families of electronic musical controllers and instruments from their genesis in the late 1800s onwards. Design principles and engineering detail are also given for various current and classic controllers. Evolving issues in the control of computer music for live performance and interactive installations are discussed, including computer mapping of sensor signals and transduced gesture onto sound, music, and other media. Weekly reading assignments are given, and a final project or paper is required.

J. Paradiso

MAS.862 The Physics of Information Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Self-contained introduction to the governing equations for devices that collect, store, manipulate, transmit and present information. Provides an understanding of how operational device principles work, their uses, the limits on their performance, and how they might be improved. Students review the foundations of thermodynamics and noise, electromagnetics, and the quantum description of materials, and then study their application in areas such as semiconductor logic, magnetic storage, wireless and optical communications, and quantum information and computation.

N. Gershenfeld

MAS.864 The Nature of Mathematical Modeling
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2017-2018: Not offered
Acad Year 2018-2019: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Surveys the range of levels of description useful for the mathematical description of real and virtual worlds, including analytical solutions and approximations for difference and differential equations; finite difference, finite element and cellular automata numerical models; and stochastic processes, nonlinear function fitting, constrained optimization, and data-driven inference. Emphasis on efficient practical implementation of these ideas.

N. Gershenfeld

MAS.865 Rapid-Prototyping of Rapid-Prototyping Machines: How to Make Something that Makes (Almost) Anything
Prereq: MAS.863[J]
Acad Year 2017-2018: G (Spring)
Acad Year 2018-2019: Not offered
3-9-0 units
Studies rapid-prototyping machines and covers the theory and practice of digital fabrication processes. Weekly lectures supported by readings from research literature. Students work on machine development projects throughout the term.

N. Gershenfeld

MAS.881[J] Principles of Neuroengineering
Same subject as 9.422[J], 20.452[J]
Subject meets with 20.352
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Covers how to innovate technologies for brain analysis and engineering, for accelerating the basic understanding of the brain, and leading to new therapeutic insight and inventions. Focuses on using physical, chemical and biological principles to understand technology design criteria governing ability to observe and alter brain structure and function. Topics include optogenetics, noninvasive brain imaging and stimulation, nanotechnologies, stem cells and tissue engineering, and advanced molecular and structural imaging technologies. Includes design projects. Designed for students with engineering maturity who are ready for design. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

E. S. Boyden, III

N. Gershenfeld, J. DiFrancesco, J. Lavallee, G. Darcey
MAS.883[J] Revolutionary Ventures: How to Invent and Deploy Transformative Technologies
Same subject as 9.455[J], 15.128[J], 20.454[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
2-0-7 units
Seminar on envisioning and building ideas and organizations to accelerate engineering revolutions. Focuses on emerging technology domains, such as neurotechnology, imaging, cryotechnology, gerontechnology, and bio-and-nano fabrication. Draws on historical examples as well as live case studies of existing or emerging organizations, including labs, institutes, startups, and companies. Goals range from accelerating basic science to developing transformative products or therapeutics. Each class is devoted to a specific area, often with invited speakers, exploring issues from the deeply technical through the strategic. Individually or in small groups, students prototype new ventures aimed at inventing and deploying revolutionary technologies.
E. Boyden, J. Bonsen, J. Jacobson

MAS.890 Independent Study in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.
Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member. Registration subject to prior arrangement of subject matter and supervision by staff.
Staff

General

MAS.910 Research in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
For research assistants in Media Arts and Sciences, where the assigned research is approved for academic credit by the department.
Staff

MAS.912 Teaching in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.
Laboratory, tutorial, or classroom teaching under the supervision of a Media Arts and Sciences faculty member. Students selected by interview. Enrollment limited by availability of suitable teaching assignments.
Staff

MAS.914 Practical Experience in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
0-3-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.
For Media Arts and Sciences masters students participating in curriculum-related off-campus work experiences. Before enrolling, students must have an employment offer from a company or organization and approval from their advisor. Subject to departmental approval. Upon completion of the work the student must submit a write-up of the experience, approved by the MIT supervisor. Consult the MAS Office for details on procedures and restrictions.
MAS Staff

MAS.915 Practical Experience in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
0-3-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.
For Media Arts and Sciences doctoral students participating in curriculum-related off-campus work experiences. Before enrolling, students must have an employment offer from a company or organization and approval from their advisor. Subject to departmental approval. Upon completion of the work the student must submit a write-up of the experience, approved by the MIT supervisor. Consult the MAS Office for details on procedures and restrictions.
MAS Staff
MAS.921 Proseminar in Media Arts and Sciences
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Designed specifically for new doctoral students in the Media Arts and Sciences (MAS) program. Explores intellectual foundations of MAS, unifying themes connecting MAS research, and working practices of MAS researchers. Restricted to MAS doctoral students. D. Roy

MAS.940 Preparation for SM Thesis
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
2-0-10 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Selection of thesis topic, definition of method of approach, and preparation of thesis proposal. Independent study supplemented by individual conferences with faculty. C. Breazeal, C. Schmandt

MAS.945 Media Arts and Sciences General Exam
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
0-12-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Selected readings for Media Arts and Sciences doctoral students in preparation for their qualifying exams. Staff

MAS.950 Preparation for Ph.D. Thesis
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Selects thesis subject, defines method of approach, and prepares preliminary thesis outline. Independent study, supplemented by frequent individual conferences with staff members. Restricted to doctoral candidates. Staff

MAS.960-MAS.964 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff

MAS.965-MAS.969 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff

MAS.970 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff

MAS.971 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring; first half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff

MAS.972 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring; second half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff

MAS.973 Special Subject in Media Technology
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum. Registration subject to prior arrangement. Staff
MAS.574 Special Subject in Media Technology (New)
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring; first half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum.
Registration subject to prior arrangement.
Staff

MAS.575 Special Subject in Media Technology (New)
Prereq: Permission of Instructor
G (Fall, Spring; second half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Supplementary work in areas not covered by the regular curriculum.
Registration subject to prior arrangement.
Staff

MAS.THG Graduate Thesis
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Program of research and writing of thesis; to be arranged by the student with supervising committee.
Staff