Assignment 4 Content Guide

1- Choose 1 of the following works of art. Choose a work that you have not written about in a previous assignment (not a weekly response, but an assignment). Your essay is to be written specifically about this artwork and **incorporate elements of description, analysis, interpretation and judgment.**

   Automated Prayer Machine http://kunstradio.at/SPECIAL/LIVE/08_02_04/
   Balkan Mediations http://www.pomgrenade.org/BM/
   Blackness for Sale http://obadike.tripod.com/ebay.html
   Body Missing http://www.yorku.ca/BodyMissing
   Carnivore http://itserve.cc.ed.nyu.edu/RSG/carnivore/
   Eyes of Laura http://eyesoflaura.org/index3.php?bandwidth=hi
   FutureBodies http://users.rcn.com/laporta.interport/futurebody.html
   Google Will Eat Itself http://www.gwei.org/index.php
   National Heritage http://www.mongrelx.org/home/index.cgi?NationalHeritage
   Murmur Toronto http://murmurtoronto.ca/
   One Block Radius http://oneblockradius.org/obr.html
   Post-Coitus http://post-coitus.net
   Two Minutes Fifty Seconds Silence for the USA http://mrogalsky.web.wesleyan.edu/gwb170303/
   UCBM http://www.yorku.ca/tenhaaf/ucbm.html

2- Choose 2 of the following themes. Your assignment is to discuss your selected artwork in terms of these 2 themes:
   Body in relation to digital technologies and art
   Control in relation to digital technologies and art
   Community in relation to digital technologies and art
   Public in relation to digital technologies and art
   Technological determinism in relation to digital technologies and art

3- Choose any two readings (from what is listed in the schedule page) and any 1 lecture from term 2. Your assignment is to reference concepts and issues discussed in these in relation to your selected artwork and themes.

4- Choose 3-5 (absolute maximum) of the following keywords. These terms are to be significant concepts/issues meaningfully used in your assignment in terms of your discussion of your selected artwork and themes:

Appropriation	Dystopia	Manipulation
Artificial	Everyday	Mass Media
Authority	Freedom	Military
Autonomy	Gift Economy	Network
Beauty	Hyperreality	Object
Communication	Intelligence	Oppositional
Conceptual Art	Interactivity	Panopticon
Consumption	La derive	Participation
Détournement	Liberation	Perfection
Discipline	Life	Performance
Domination	Location	Political Economy

Production	Software	Ubiquity
Protocol	Space	Utopia
Public	Spectacle	Virtuality
Reality	Strategy	
Representation	Subversion	
Reproduction	Surveillance	
Simulation	Tactic	
Situationism	Tactical Media	

5- In light of your discussion of the above artwork, themes, readings, lecture and key terms, your essay must declare a position with regards to the question "What is Digital Art?" Here you could propose an answer to the question or even problematize the question itself, so long as you engage with it seriously and meaningfully.

A "position" establishes and explains the writer's point of view on a particular topic or field of inquiry. A position is more than just an opinion: **A position is an informed opinion that is backed by solid arguments (reasoning) and specific evidence**. It must be based on what you have concluded from your careful study and consideration of the issue at hand. (In other words, "I like/don't like it" or "it's a masterpiece" or "it's strange/exciting/etc." or other such simplistic formulations do not constitute a position.) A position is what you want to convince your readers of. In other words, the reader should be able to easily identify your position and be able to follow your line of reasoning. Yes, it is perfectly fine to write in the first person voice when you express your position.

Essay Format Requirements

- The body of the essay (that is, excluding references, footnotes/endnotes, title) must be 900-1100 words (1100 is the absolute max). You must include a word-count at the end of the main text.
- Your essay must be written in formal English and properly proofread and edited. Good grammar and thoughtful structure count. (Typos, repeats, thoughtless wording and flow and other manifestations of last-minute assembly will affect your mark.)
- Your essay must have an original, creative, relevant and appropriate title. (Generic titles such as "Assignment 4" or simple repeats of the title of your selected artwork/themes are NOT acceptable.)
- Your essay must properly reference any sources including artwork, course readings, course lectures.
- You are not required to use any sources external to the course, but if you do, these must be credible sources (read the housekeeping section of 08/FEB lecture for standards of credibility) and properly referenced.
- Your essay must have a bibliography (works cited) list, formatted according to MLA standards and included at the end of your main text.
- Your essay must not include lengthy direct quotations from your sources. Try to paraphrase unless it is absolutely necessary that you use direct quotation. (Also, do not use 'sound bites' – short quotations – in every other sentence. Understand your source, paraphrase and quote directly only when necessary.)
- **Your writing must be your writing.** If you use somebody else's wording you must put it in quotation marks and properly cite and reference it. **Failure to do so would constitute plagiarism and result in an automatic 0 mark for the assignment** with no possibility to

make up and, very likely, further follow-up through the Visual Arts Department according to York's Guideline on Academic Honesty.
- At the top of your essay (after the title, before the main text), you must list the artwork, themes, and keywords you have selected. (These are to be made into internal links in the course wiki where you will submit your essay.)

Deadline and Submission

Your essay must be submitted on the course WIKI in full by **11:59 PM, Thursday, April 6, 2006**. Absolutely no late submission will be accepted without properly documented medical reason. If you submit late without appropriate medical documentation, you will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment.

To submit, you must register on the course WIKI at
http://www.yorku.ca/gita/visa1005/wiki

Use your **FirstName LastName** (with a space between them) as your user name. Use your YorkU email address only. Please register NOW.

Why a WIKI?

We've been using Wikipedia all year as a reference site. The course wiki uses the same application (MediaWiki) used in Wikipedia. This is a collaborative authoring environment that, as we have seen, allows easy updating and cross-linking of content. Registering on the course wiki will allow you to post and edit content freely and as necessary. **We will use the title of the artworks, themes, keywords and the titles of your essays to cross-link the essays** (so keep track of what you use), thus creating a collaborative, comprehensive, collectively created mega-text. This allows us to put to use some of the practices we've been talking about all year, and experiment in a new writing environment.

Additional technical guide will be posted on the WIKI itself shortly and announced when posted.