

**CAT 2C: Art & Brain**  
**Winter 2022**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:30pm**

**Location:** Zoom until further notice

**Instructor:** Dr. Pinar Yoldas

**Email:** [pyoldas@ucsd.edu](mailto:pyoldas@ucsd.edu)

**Office:** VAF 453

**Office Hours:** Upon request (I will not be responding to emails sent after Friday 10:00am. I will need 48 hours to respond and if I am still unresponsive, please send a sweet reminder!)

**Note:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the quarter. Any such changes will be announced in lecture and as an Announcement on Canvas.

**Course Description:**

CAT 2 is a 6-unit course and is the first part of Sixth's writing intensive sequence. While the topics of CAT 2 range, all generally explore an intersection of culture, art, and technology that has occurred in the contemporary moment. The overarching purpose of CAT 2 is to build on those skills developed in CAT 1 (critical reading and writing as process) and teach students argumentative writing and critical analysis.

**Course Topic:**

Welcome to CAT II! In CAT 2E our topic is brains, and the study of brains which is neuroscience. Neuroscience is one of the most rapidly developing areas in biological sciences with major projects like the White House BRAIN Initiative or the Allen Brain Atlas. It is no surprise that many subfields of neuroscience have emerged within the last decade such as neuroeconomics, neurophilosophy, and neuroaesthetics. In this class we will be focusing on the interactions between neuroscience and art, primarily looking at studies that focus on how art is represented in the brain. The course will focus on perception, emotion, memory, and creativity to offer a scientific understanding of art.

**Course Objectives:**

Building off what you learned in CAT 1, in CAT 2 you will:

- Practice clear prose that advances the rhetorical purpose and choose a tone that is appropriate to the subject and audience.
- Craft and organize a compelling argument and support it with relevant and carefully-evaluated evidence.
- Synthesize a variety of sources and points of view on a single topic (i.e. in service of an argument).
- Practice proper citation and documentation of sources, including in multimodal assignments.
- Develop your own writing voice, using revision to hone your argument and reflect on your own writing practice.

### Required Texts/Technology

- Access to Canvas
- They Say I Say CAT edition
- Access to Library Course Reserves
- Pen/paper

### Final Grade Calculation

Major Assignment #1 – 20%

Major Assignment #2 – 20%

Final Portfolio – 20%

Minor Assignments – 30% (10% each)

Participation – 10% (includes art activity report, library tutorial)

### Course Calendar

\* The course calendar is subject to change as we go along

\* Readings are all linked from the syllabus below or in They Say, I Say CAT Edition. All the required Netflix or Kanopy episodes will be either linked below or available to stream through UCSD Library's Course Reserves. You log in with your active directory.

#### Week 1

Tuesday: introduction and overview of course

Thursday: A parallel history of Art and Neuroscience

- Watch: Vilayanur Ramachandran on culture - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8ozgwo7W4Y>

#### Week 2

Tuesday: Sensing the world – How many senses?

- Rob De Salle – Our Senses, Chapter 2

Thursday: Optical Illusions and OpArt

- Richard Gregory – Eye & Brain, Chapter 9 “Illusions”
- Bridget Riley OP ART: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlrHTlPBZgM>

**DUE: Minor Assignment #1, January 17 @ 11:59pm**

#### Week 3

Tuesday: Sensing the world – Smell – Touch

Thursday: Synaesthesia

- VS Ramachandran & E.M. Hubbard – Synaesthesia—A Window into Perception, Thought, and Language: <http://chip.ucsd.edu/pdf/Synaesthesia%20-%20JCS.pdf>

**DUE: Major Assignment #1, DRAFT, January 24 @ 11:59pm**

#### Week 4

Tuesday: Crossmodality/Touch

- Eric Kandel Nobel Lecture 2000: <https://www.nobelprize.org/uploads/2018/06/kandel-lecture.pdf>

Thursday: Memories are made of this

- Complete Kandel reading from Tuesday

**DUE: Minor Assignment #2, January 31 @ 11:59pm**

#### Week 5

Tuesday: Art as Memory

- TSIS ch. 8 “Connecting the Parts”

Thursday: Memory and Emotion

**DUE: Major Assignment #1, FINAL, February 7 @ 11:59pm**

#### Week 6

Tuesday: Negative Valence in Art

- TSIS ch. 5 “Distinguishing what you say from what they say”

Thursday: Art of Agony

- Joseph LeDoux – Using Neuroscience to Help Understand Fear and Anxiety: A Two-System Framework: <https://www.cns.nyu.edu/ledoux/pdf/>

#### Week 7

Tuesday: Humor and Joy, Art of Happiness

- TSIS ch. 9 “Academic writing doesn’t mean you can’t use your own voice”

Thursday: Humor and Joy, Art of Happiness Haruki Murakami – Baby Yoda and others

- David J Linden – The Compass of Pleasure: How Our Brains Make Fatty Foods, Orgasm, Exercise, Marijuana, Generosity, Vodka, Learning, and Gambling Feel So Good, Chapter 1
- Watch: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?306091-10/the-compass-pleasure>

**DUE: Minor Assignment #3, February 14 @ 11:59pm**

#### Week 8

Tuesday: Sleep & Dream

- Matthew Walker – Dream Creativity and Dream Control
- TSIS ch. 6 “Planting a Naysayer in your Text”

Thursday: Art of the Subconscious – Surrealism

- Un Chien Andalou (1929), de Luis Bunel

**DUE: Major Assignment #2, DRAFT, February 21 @ 11:59pm**

### **Week 9**

Tuesday: Prosopagnosia vs. Superfacers

Thursday: Faces in Emotion recognition and Art Looking beyond the Face Area

- The Oxford Face Matching Test: A non-biased test of the full range of individual differences in face perception: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13428-021-01609-2>
- Rosalind Picard – Technology and Emotions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujxriwApPP4>

### **Week 10**

Tuesday: Movement in the Brain

Thursday: Dance & Choreography, Movement in Stillness

**DUE: Major Assignment #2, FINAL, March 11 @ 11:59pm**

### **Finals Week**

**DUE: Final Portfolio, March 15, @ 11:59pm**