

## *Multi-Modality*

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### *Essay 3*

1) Please reflect upon the ways in which issues regarding gesture are exemplified in the context of a 3D virtual reality such as Second Life.

(2) Please share any insights into philosophy and multimodality which you feel you have acquired as a result of this course.

1) Avatars in 3D realities such as Second Life or characters in computer games where communication is important are designed to resemble human beings as much as possible. It's very hard to capture genuine looking facial expressions or gestures but the technology is always improving. For example we could see Gunhild, Cynthia's avatar, slump down when she was idle for a while, signaling that Cynthia was away from her computer. I think that's well thought out, it's a posture that says "I'm not available for communicating with you at the moment." One of these days we'll probably be able to make our avatars move in unison with our movements, like in motion capture. It's so easy for the human eye to spot fake skin texture and things like movement that's programmed to be the same every single time the CGI character does something specific. I thought it was interesting what Jesper mentioned about computer games that were motion captured, I didn't know there were already released games with this technology, it will be interesting to check out.

2) This course gave me a lot of insight into how music and philosophy relate to one another. Things like if the musician and the audience are sharing an emotional experience and music being transcendent in that way. It made me appreciate music even more than I already did before, especially classical music. It was little over a year ago that I started listening to classical music in my spare time to help me study. I had read that studying to classical music stimulated your brain in a way that was helpful to your memory and I decided

to try it out. I found it was nice to have it on in the background and I enjoyed it very much. After a little while I found myself not only listening to classical music while I was studying but in my free time as well. Since then I've grown to love it and like I said before, this course made me appreciate it even more. Getting to listen to Bill play and talking about music in depth, like the things he was feeling while he was playing, was very rewarding and I'm happy I took this course. All in all a very thought provoking and interesting week. Thanks!