

(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.

The technology we have seen in developing the last ten years or so, for example the developing of a virtual world like Second Life where people meet other people through their computers makes me wonder how communication of the future will be. Will the future be lacking the direct communication of two persons? Will people of the future only communicate through computer software? Already today we have several software's that enable this possibility, Second Life, EVE Online and other game based software where you create your own avatar.

In Second Life, you create your avatar after your own idea how he or she should look like. What I found interesting was the statement "in Second Life, you have to look good" that gives us the idea that even in a virtual world appearance is important. Therefore people will have the tendency to appear in a virtual world different in real life. Your Avatar will be a stereotype of how your body should look like. And although avatars in Second life can seem to be realistic with movements that have been programmed to look just like real people using bio-motion technology, the real gestures of your avatar are no more real than your behavior in this virtual environment.

Because what we have, in spite of good intention of the majority, is a virtual world that is even more deceiving than your real world. I say that because in a virtual reality you can be who ever you want to be. If you do not have to look like you do in the real world then there is an opportunity to not behave like you do in the real world and because there is limited responsibility you have to take in this virtual world. People that play video games like "Call of Duty-modern Warfare" play a soldier in several missions where you as the soldier fight against other people with various weapons, killing other game players for entertainment. The video game gives us the chance to go out of bounds in your behavior, something that we would never do in our real life, at least the majority, because if we kill someone in real life we have to take responsibility.

Second life is nonetheless a great form that can be used to educate, connect and communicate to people all around the world it should be more introduced as a way

to communicate education and knowledge. On the other hand every virtual world is imperfect and even more imperfect than your real world because it excludes some forms of communication like body language and facial expressions of the real person making it harder for people to perceive the real meaning of human communication.

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

This course has been very interesting and opened me mind to many things discussed in it. For example the discussion about musical meaning and how we perceive music as a part of something that we feel. I sense a little difference how I listen to music after the course and believe I relate to it much better. Music has always been a part of my life. For several years I learn to play the Piano, but has also learned to play on trumpet and trombone. Still to this day I play the piano in my home and also my nine-year-old daughter has learn to play the piano. I find it important for her to not just to listen to various music and music genres, but also to learn to play music to exercise movement, hearing and mind. If we put the meaning of music aside and focus just on what it is to play music, then we can see that learning to play music is good for the soul and body. When learning to play music you need to organize your movement, you need to learn the “formula” of the song to play it right. You have to sync body and mind to one entity. I think music is a tool that we as humans have developed, not just to enjoy, but also to educate.

Earlier in the course I said in an assignment “what is sound if no one is able to hear it and what is music if no one will enjoy it?” and I it clear to me that music is a important part of the human behavior. It is not only a part if your culture, the music as a special place in the evolution of mankind and it will be that way in the future. Sound is an element that gives us this opportunity to evolve, learn, enjoy, communicate and express what we are and what we feel. I would like to place sound somewhere in the middle of the four elements Earth, Wind, Water and Fire, making it some kind of a fifth element in the world. A world without sound is a world without music and without sound and the sound of music the world would be less interesting.