SOME QUICK COURSE FACTS:

**WHAT:** The Art of Collaboration is a 4-week summer online course during which we will study and then create collaborative art projects.

**WHO:** The course is open to *everyone*—no matter your level of artistic talent or the field of art you’re interested in: writing, music, film, painting, animation, dance, sculpture . . .

**WHEN:** May 17- June 11, 2021

**WHERE:** Online, as well as possibly Guam, Mexico, Cuba, the UK, Singapore, and elsewhere. (More on this later.)
YOU MIGHT ALSO BE WONDERING WHY?
WHY COLLABORATION?

We study history by reading the biographies of individuals.

We test intelligence by examining students independently.

We process crises by glorifying the solitary hero.

And we experience art by celebrating the lonely genius.
But not every great achievement, or brilliant idea, or inspiring piece of art can be reduced to the accomplishments of a single person.
It took scientists James Watson, Francis Crick, and Rosalind Franklin...
...TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERIES OF DNA
It took chemists Marie & Pierre Curie...
...TO DISCOVER RADIUM
It took bicycle makers Wilbur and Orville Wright . . .
…TO BUILD A PRACTICAL AIRPLANE
And it took computer science students Sergey Brin and Larry Paige . . .
... to make the Internet yield to our queries
AND THE SAME GOES FOR THE CREATION OF SOME OF THE WORLD’S GREAT PAINTINGS, DANCES, FILMS, SYMPHONIES, SCULPTURES, PLAYS AND BOOKS.
THE HISTORY OF INNOVATION TEEMS WITH PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE HISTORY OF ART IS NO DIFFERENT.
Lennon and McCartney needed each other to help revolutionize pop.
Choreographer Martha Graham and composer Aaron Copland needed each other to transform modern dance.
Surrealist artist Salvador Dali and designer Elsa Schiaparelli needed each other to reshape fashion.
And pop artist Andy Warhol and street artist Jean Michel-Basquiat needed each other to make highbrow gallery installations yield to the energy of street art.
The artistic collaboration has often been the force behind some of the greatest cultural inspirations in history.
As Nobel Prize-winning writer Thomas Mann once said:

“Art is to the community what the dream is to the individual.”
In this course, we’re going to study the art of collaboration by examining and discussing some of the best artistic partnerships across a number of media: writing, dance, film, fashion, art, music, and performance.
AND THEN . . .
WE’RE GOING TO MAKE OUR OWN COLLABORATIONS.
To get the best possible sense of how collaboration really works, everyone in class will be paired with a young artist from another culture abroad.
(You don’t need to know anyone abroad. We will hook you up.)
And then, after working with your international partner on Zoom, you will present your collaboration in a celebratory online showcase.
No matter your field
No matter your talent
No matter your interest
Everyone is welcome to take this course.
All you need is curiosity, and a willingness to create something with someone else.
3 credits

May 17–June 11, 2021

Deadline to apply is March 15.
QUESTIONS? EMAIL PROFESSOR JOHN D’AGATA AT ANY TIME:

john-philip-dagata@uiowa.edu