

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Art

ART 311.01: Topics in Art
History of Video Games

Instructor Office Phone: Email: Office Hours:	Rob Furr Art 661 TBA rsfurr@gmail.com MW 2:00 - 4:00 and by appointment.
Location and Time of Class	Art Parkade 672 M, W; 8:15 - 9:45
Text(s)	Vintage Games: An Insider Look at the History of Grand Theft Auto, Super Mario, and the Most Influential Games of All Time by Bill Loguidice and Matt Barton Replay: The History of Video Games by Tristan Donovan Other texts as provided in class
Prerequisites	None
Course Objectives	This class has two primary objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To acquaint students with the history and origins of video games, as shown through examination of particular examples of the form.2. To introduce students to critical examinations of games and gaming, and to enable them to evaluate and place traits, themes, and developments in gaming in a historical context.

		Subject	Replay	Vintage Games	Blackboard Reading	Suggested Game or Experience
2012-09-10		Course Intro/Context and Needs			I Have No Words, Players Who Suit MUDs	The Bartle Test
2012-09-12		Origin of Computers			Cognitive Flow, What Makes A Game	Diplomacy
2012-09-17		Penny Arcades and Pinball			Special When Lit	Pinball
2012-09-19		Braunsteins and Fanzines		Ch. 8	Braunstein: The Roots of Roleplaying Games	Rogue
2012-09-24		Contenders for the Pole Position				NIM
2012-09-26		Spacewar! and PLATO	Ch. 1		Spacewar!,	Spacewar!
2012-10-01		Ralph Baer and the Brown Box			PONG, Happy 40th Birthday, Video Games	PONG
2012-10-03	Test 1	Nolan Bushnell and Atari	Ch. 2, 3		Racing the Beam	Combat
2012-10-08	Thanksgiving					
2012-10-10		The Golden Age of the Arcade	Ch. 6	Ch. 13, 16		Space Invaders
2012-10-15		The Video Game Crash of 1983	Ch. 7, 8		Defender. The Pac-Man Dossier	Defender
2012-10-17		Nintendo, Sega, and the Codification of a Medium	Ch. 12		Level Design in Zelda	Super Mario Bros.
2012-10-22		Crash? What Crash? (The Birth of the PC)	Ch. 5, 13	Ch. 2, 19	Elite	Elite
2012-10-24		Edugames, the BBS Scene and the Text Adventure		Ch. 25	The Infocom Canon, the History of Zork	Oregon Trail, Zork

		Subject	Replay	Vintage Games	Blackboard Reading	Suggested Game or Experience
2012-10-29		Richard Garriott and Ken Williams	Ch. 11		Dungeons and Desktops: The Silver Age	Ultima IV, King's Quest
2012-10-31		The Spectrum of European Games	Ch. 9, 10	Ch. 20	Interview with Alexy Pajintov	Tetris
2012-11-05		Japanese Games		Ch. 7	ArcadeMania	Final Fantasy III
2012-11-07	Test 2	Gaming Goes Hollywood (The CD-ROM)	Ch. 14, 19	Ch. 12	Origins of Night Trap	Myst
2012-11-12	Reading Days					
2012-11-14		Doom! / I Don't Like Mondays	Ch. 18, 20	Ch. 5, 17	Masters of Doom	Doom
2012-11-19		The World Notices	Ch. 15, 25	Ch. 6	A Rape in Cyberspace, Freedom of Movement	Mortal Kombat
2012-11-26		Big Times (Competitive gaming and MMOs)	Ch. 16, 24, 27	Ch 24	Habitat, The Lessons of Habitat	World of Warcraft
2012-11-28		Serious Games and MMOs	Ch. 23, 26		Reality is Broken, Virtual Norrath	Participate in an ARG
2012-12-03		Casually Serious / Gamification	TBA	Ch. 3		Farmville 2
2012-12-05	Test 3	Kickstarting a Renaissance	Ch. 28		TBA	Braid

<p>Course Activities</p>	<p>Lecture and Discussion: During the term, class meetings will be held during weekdays. Where possible, time for discussion will be made available in class.</p> <p>Tests and Final Examination: There will be two tests and one final examination, conducted via Blackboard. Students will be expected to complete each test within a four day period. Each test will be given a set time period of one and a half hours for completion once begun: <i>do not expect to stop and start the examination again.</i> Material from readings, lecture, and class discussion are all valid sources for questions.</p> <p>Class Participation: Students will be expected to participate in class discussions: however, this is not a component of the final grade.</p> <p>Homework Assignments and Readings: Before each class, students will be expected to complete all assigned readings. Readings are taken from the two textbooks and external readings, available through the Blackboard site. Material from the readings <i>will</i> appear in the tests.</p> <p>Side Quets: The three exams are designed to be <i>extremely</i> challenging, requiring that the student attend all classes and read all supplemental material carefully to achieve the highest mark. However, extra credit is available, upon discussion with the instructor, with a wide variety of potential bonuses to the final mark.</p> <p>Deadlines: Deadlines are firm; late assignments will not be accepted without prior negotiation with the instructor, or with documented illnesses or family emergencies. Documented means a fully explanatory note from an appropriate authority, e.g., physician or counselor.</p> <p>Email Policy: Where possible, please take advantage of office hours to communicate with me: email is acceptable, but can result in delays in response time. Please be sure to include your full name in the email, and to begin your email subject line with the phrase “ART 311”. I will endeavor to reply to your emails within two business days. Do not expect immediate replies over the weekend or holidays. For users of Gmail, please do not use the instant messaging features to contact me.</p> <p>PowerPoint slides will not be posted online or otherwise made available.</p>
<p>Course Content</p>	<p>Tentative Schedule: Note that content may change: due dates for assignments will not.</p> <p>Examination 1: Available between Noon, October 3 and Noon, October 9 Examination 2: Available between Noon, November 7, and Noon, November 13 Final Examination: Available between Noon, December 5, and December 10.</p>

<p>Assessments (including breakdown of total percentage and grading scale as appropriate)</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Test 1</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Test 2</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Test 3 / Final</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </table> <p>GRADING SYSTEM: All work is graded on a numerical scale. The following are the letter grade equivalents:</p> <p>A . . . 93-100 A- . . 86-92 B+ . . 80-85 B . . . 75-79 B- . . 70-74 C+ . . 65-69 C . . . 60-64 C- . . .55-59 D+ . . 50-54 D . . . 45-49 F . . . 0-44</p> <p>Students must complete all required assignments in order to be eligible for a grade in this course.</p> <p>Grades, depending on class performance, may be curved: this will never result in a lower grade than the above system indicates.</p>	Test 1	30%	Test 2	30%	Test 3 / Final	40%	Total	100%
Test 1	30%								
Test 2	30%								
Test 3 / Final	40%								
Total	100%								
<p>ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION AWARENESS INFORMATION</p>	<p>It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact the office at 220-8237 or drop in at MacEwan Student Centre 293 (across from The Stor). Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. (The DRC works with students with learning and developmental challenges as well as those with physical disabilities)</p>								

ACADEMIC STANDING	Students should familiarize themselves with the sections of the University Calendar that deal with Academic Standing , including grading, unsatisfactory standing, examinations, and deferrals as well as the sections on Reappraisals and Appeals and Student Misconduct . Questions or concerns about anything students read in this material should be directed to the Associate Dean Academic, CHD 100 or 220-7834.
ADVISING	For information concerning advising resources, please consult http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/student-support or Student Success Centre 3rd Floor TFDL University of Calgary 403-220-5881 success@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.
COURSE OUTLINES FOR TRANSFER CREDIT	It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.
EXAMINATION	If your course has a Registrar scheduled exam: the final exam timetable is posted on the portal, on the website. Make sure you check the correct course name, number and lecture section. Bring to the exam photo ID, HB pencils, pens, an eraser and allowable aids (eg. Calculator). No cell phones, wireless devices or headsets. You will be asked to leave books, coats, purses, and backpacks at the front of the room. Seating lists are available at the Registrar's Office 24 hours in advance of the exam (one hour in advance of the exam in the Kinesiology Building). Clear the exam room immediately after your session has ended. Students will not be allowed to leave the exam area during the first 30 minutes and the last 15 minutes of the exam. Check with campus resources for writing successful exams. Tips: Read all exam questions carefully, word by word (to yourself). Make sure you have answered all questions. No talking, pencil tapping, pen clicking or gum chewing – it disturbs others. If you are sick, in crisis or your exam is held on a day of religious observance, please see faculty advisors for advice. Manage your anxiety: take a few slow breaths, shrug your shoulders, roll your head, stretch your arms, before you start and periodically throughout the exam. Do not leave your seat. Do not look in the direction of any other student's writing area. Cheating is a serious and punishable offence.

LETTER OF PERMISSION	If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the UofC, you must have a letter of permission. Faculty advisors can prepare this form, as well as check out courses for transfer. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.
PLAGIARISM	<p>Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. For details see the University of Calgary Calendar. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.</p> <p>You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.</p> <p>Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services, Student Success Centre (3rd flr, TFDL) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.</p>
SAFEWALK	220-5333 anytime. Safewalk is a student run volunteer service that is designed to promote campus safety and awareness and to walk people safely to their cars or housing. Safewalks are done in Male/Female pairs anywhere on campus (including McMahon, residence rooms, the LRT and bus stops).
STUDENT UNION CONTACT	TBA