

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311 – 10
Topics in Art
“History of Video Games”
Spring 2013

Lecture: M, T, W, R, F; 9:00-11:15; CHC 119
(May 14 – June 1, 2013)

Instructor: Rob Furr
Office Location: Art 661
Office Phone: TBA
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Web Page: N/A
Office Hours: 1-3 MTWRF

Course Description

Topics in art may include art appreciation, art and everyday life, themes in art history.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

N/A

Objectives of the Course

This class has two primary objectives:

To acquaint students with the history and origins of video games, as shown through examination of particular examples of the form.

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.

Textbooks and Readings

Replay: The History of Video Games by Tristan Donovan

Other texts as provided via the class Blackboard site.

Assignments and Evaluation

Take Home test 1	30%
Take Home test 2	30%
Take Home exam	40%

Note that extra credit is available under the policies discussed in the first day of class.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – No

Course Activities

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Day	Subject	Reading
May 14	Introduction and Reasons for Gaming	Bartle
May 15	Origins of Computers and Gaming Culture	<i>Special When Lit, Dungeons and Dreamers</i>
May 16	Spacewar! and PLATO	Replay, Ch. 1, <i>Spacewar! The Best Waste Of Time In The Universe</i>
May 16	Ralph Baer, Nolan Bushnell and Atari	Replay, Ch. 2, 3. <i>Pong: Avoid Missing Game to Start Industry, Space Invaders</i>
May 17	The Atari 2600 and the Golden Age of the Arcade	Replay, Ch. 6, 7., <i>Racing the Beam</i>
May 21	The Video Game Crash of 1983	Replay, Ch.8., <i>The Pac-Man Dossier</i>
May 22	Nintendo and the NES	Replay, Ch 13, 16, 17., <i>Super Mario Bros.</i>
May 23	The Rise of the Personal Computer	Replay, Ch 5, 19., <i>Zork</i>
May 24	Gaming in the Wider Culture	Replay, Ch 14., <i>Myst, Tetris</i>
May 27	Everything Changes: DOOM	Replay, Ch. 20, 21, <i>Masters of Doom</i>
May 28	Gaming Grows Up: The Playstation and Tomb Raider	Replay, Ch. 18
May 29	Serious Games	<i>Flight Simulator</i>
May 30	The Business of Games	<i>Male Gaze</i>
May 31	New Experiences: MMOs, Software Toys, and ARGs	Replay, Ch. 23, <i>The Economics of Everquest.</i>
June 3	The New Renaissance	<i>Minecraft</i>
June 4	The Society of Gaming: Social Gaming	<i>Sandbox Gameplay</i>
Take home Exam Available		
June 6	Take home Exam Not Available	

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Laptops and other electronic note taking devices are permitted in class, but **not recommended**.

The use of cell phones in class is *not permitted*. Students who use cell phones in class will have their devices taken away and returned at the end of the class.

It is important to note that taking notes by hand has been found to result in higher retention of course material. As a result, course presentations will *NOT BE DISTRIBUTED*.

Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final

F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Writing/Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

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. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Union and Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Locker

The Art Building lockers are administered by the Students' Union in 251 MacEwan Student Centre. There are various shapes and sizes of lockers for rent. Please write down the barcode numbers (top left of each locker) for the locker shape that you require and bring this list with you to the SU office between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m., Monday-Friday. **Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.**

For more information go to

Models

In this class students may be expected to draw from nude models. A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.

Portfolios and Assignments

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

All unclaimed work will be disposed of two weeks after the end of classes.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfieb>

Campus Security/Safewalk

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Emergency Evacuation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2nd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.