

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE**

**ART (ART) 311 L01**  
**Topics in Art**  
**“History of Video Games”**  
**Spring 2020**  
**Tue, Thurs 12:00 – 2:50**  
*(Online synchronous delivery format)*

**Instructor:** *Rob Furr*  
**Office Location:** *N.A.*  
**Phone:** *403-629-8837*  
**E-Mail:** [rsfurr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsfurr@ucalgary.ca) *(please call or text if possible)*  
**Office Hours:** *Via D2L, or by appointment.*

**Course Description**

Topics related to contemporary studio and curatorial practices such as spirituality, exhibitions, digital storytelling, new media, or public art.

*History of and basic theory on the subject of video games, gaming, and games as art.*

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

*N.A.*

**Objectives of the Course**

This course will introduce students to key games in the gaming industry, their influence and historical context, as well as foundational theory for video game research.

**Textbooks and Readings**

*Replay: The History of Video Games* (available from Amazon's Kindle store, iBooks, and most other ebook stores).

Students are heavily encouraged to play one game from a list on D2L: many of the games are cheap or easily available, but certain of them will require purchase.

Other readings will be posted on the course D2L site.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Exam 1	May 28	30%
Exam 2	June 16	30%
Gameplay discussion	Throughout	20%
Student-authored questions	Throughout	20%

## Writing

Writing will be a component of online participation. Students will be expected to post to the D2L site (Gameplay discussion) on a regular basis, and participation there will be graded. Further, certain questions on the exams may be short answer or essay questions.

Note regarding Participation: Students must post three times a week at a minimum. A guide with further details will be uploaded to D2L.

## Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – No.

**Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of or any relevant documentation regarding each submitted assignment.**

Assignments will be handled via D2L.

## Late Assignment Policy

*Late assignments will receive a grade of zero. 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 counsellor. **In all cases where students do not turn in work on time without such documentation, a grade of zero will be entered into the gradebook for that assignment.** Do not email assignments except by prior arrangement with the instructor: all assignments are either via the D2L test-distribution component or on the discussion board.*

## Additional Information

*Students will be required to play through one of the games on a list given on the D2L site, as well as play enough of the free or sample versions of the games listed in the Topics column to have a sense of the gameplay and experience. Let's Plays and similar video experiences are, regrettably, not adequate replacements for playing the game. Every effort has been made to ensure that the games listed are available*

## Course Activities

Date	Topic	Chapters
May 7	Introduction to Class, Language, and Kriegspiel	1, 2, 3
May 12	Spacewar!	
May 14	Colossal Cave / Rogue	
May 19	Space Invaders	6, 7
May 21	Dragon Quest	12, 14
May 26	Super Mario Bros.	15
May 28	Civilization	16,19

<b>Jun 2</b>	Tetris	20
<b>Jun 4</b>	Doom	21
<b>Jun 9</b>	Metal Gear Solid 2	23, 24
<b>Jun 11</b>	World of Warcraft	27, 28
<b>Jun 16</b>	Inevitable Schedule Slippage Overflow Day	

**Grading Method/Grading Scale:**

Percentage	Grade	G.P.V.	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**

Due to the distance learning aspect of the class, students are required to treat the discussion board with decorum, and hold to a standard of politeness and civil discussion. Students who behave in a way that interferes with the class or makes other students uncomfortable or feel unwelcome in the discussion board will have their grades reduced at the sole discretion of the instructor. Examples could include online harassment, mockery, insults, unreasonable dismissal of other people's opinions, off-topic conversations, racist or sexist language, etc. The discussion board grade \*is\* the participation grade.

## **Portfolios and Assignments**

N.A.

## **Academic Accommodations**

The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## **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 about deferring a final exam go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

For more information about deferral of term work go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/q-7.html>  
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15.pdf)

## **F.O.I.P.**

For more information go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

## **Writing/Plagiarism**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

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

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. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

## **Campus Mental Health Resources**

[SU Wellness Centre](#) and the [Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

## **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>

## **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/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html>

or

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb>

## **Instructor Intellectual Property and Copyright Legislation**

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.).

Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## **Lockers**

N.A.

## **Student Misconduct**

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

## **Student Ombudsman**

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

## **Student Union**

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

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 3rd 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.

*ART/Admin/Course Outlines/Course Outlines/2020-2021/Spring 2020/Art 311 Furr*