

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

**Art (ART) 503 – L01
Computer Game Design
Winter 2015**

M,W 14:00 – 15:15; AB 651

Instructor: *J R Parker*
Office Location: *AB 606*
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Web Page: *people.ucalgary.ca/~jparker*
Office Hours: *TW 13:00 – 13:50*

Course Description

The game design process will be explored, including a history of video games, genres, game mechanics, design documents, and a summary of the development process. The focus will be on design, rather than development, and the artistic and creative assets, rather than the software. Students will design a game and will create a playable prototype. The principles will be applicable to other sorts of games, and to media art in general.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

Art 251 or consent of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): Not for credit with Fine Arts 507.06 or 507.07.

Objectives of the Course

Students completing this course should be able to:

- Explain how computer games function internally and their role in society and academia.
- Show a distinction between serious games and other forms of computer and video game.
- Demonstrate a facility with game design and development tools.
- Appreciate distinctions between genres, especially so far as design and implementation details are involved.
- Distinguish between web-based, real time PC, console, portable, and cell phone platforms and be able to develop for two of these.
- Conduct a basic game design process within a small team.
- Explain how computer games for a type of media; the role of games in communicating ideas.
- Understand research into game 'effects', and whether games instigate violence. Students should have a better appreciation of gender issues in games.

Textbooks and Readings

Web site contains notes and suggested readings: <http://www.minkhollow.ca/art503>

Assignments and Evaluation

Week 2	5%	Your board game design from Week 1
Week 3	2%	Report on another group's board game
	3%	Game test data
Week 4	10%	Present high concepts; assessments.
	5%	Assessments of the high concepts.
Week 5	5%	Schedules, assignments of group members.
Week 6	10%	First playable
Week 10	10%	Second playable
Week 13	25%	Final game document
	20%	Final prototype
	5%	Group assessment of members and games

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

Late Assignment Policy

This course involves a significant amount of group work. Due to the nature of the projects late assignments cannot be accepted.

Additional Information

None

Approved optional &/or mandatory supplementary fees

None

Course Activities

N.A.

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.

Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your class mates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Enter rules and guidelines about the use of internet and electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, etc.) during class.

Academic Accommodation

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

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>

Lockers

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the [Locker Rental Agreement](#).

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through my.ucalgary.ca. Once you're in the Student Centre, click on **Other Academic Services** and choose **Locker Reservation**.

Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.

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

Models

N.A.

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.

Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed.

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/cfreb>

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 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 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.