



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY
Art 503 – L01 Computer Game Design
Semester *Winter 2022*

Course Delivery Format:	<i>In-person</i>
Instructor: Office: Email: Office Hours: TA Name and Email:	<i>J R Parker</i> <i>AB 606 (403 220 6784)</i> jparker@minkhollow.ca <i>Wed 11 AM Thu 1 PM</i>
Day(s), time(s) and location of class:	<i>Tues-Thur 3:30 – 4:45; AB 651</i>
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 and/or co-requisites:	Art 251 Antirequisite(s) <i>Credit for Art 503 and either Fine Arts 507.06 or 507.07 will not be allowed.</i>
Course Objectives:	Students completing this course should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand research into game 'effects', and whether games instigate violence. • Have a better appreciation of gender issues in games.
Required Textbooks or Readings:	Web site contains notes and suggested readings: http://www.minkhollow.ca/art503 Suggested reading: Challenges for Game Designers, Brenda Braithwaite and Ian Schreiber, Charles river media. Game Design Workshop, Tracy Fullerton, CRC Press. Introduction to Game Development Using Processing, J.R. Parker http://www.amazon.ca/Introduction-Game-Development-Using-Processing/dp/1937585409

Course Schedule:	https://www.minkhollow.ca/art503/ Week 1 Overview: What are games? What is design? Why are we here? Week 2 Architecture Week 3 Design Week 4 Documents Week 5 Mechanics Week 6 Prototyping Week 7 Semiotics and more Prototyping Week 8 - Sound Week 9 - Game AI Week 10- Game Play and Narrative Week 11 Violence Week 12 Gender Week 13: Final presentations
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Assignments & Evaluation

Assignment	Description	Due Date	Worth
Game testing and evaluation.		Week 2	10
Present high concepts; assessments		Week 4	15
Schedules, assignments of group members		Week 5	5
First playable		Week 6	15
Second playable		Week 10	15
Final game design document		Week 13	20
Final prototype		Week 13	15
Group assessment of members and games;		Week 13	5
Assessment expectations:	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> 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</p> <p><u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> <i>Because this course involves group work, late assignments cannot be accepted.</i></p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing is an important skill of a game designer, and written work will be a significant factor in determining the final grade.</p>		
Additional Costs and Information:			

Portfolios and Assignments:	The Dept of Art and Art History will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading.
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Other Important Dates

Last day to drop course without financial penalty	Thursday, January 20
End of refund period	Thursday, January 20
Last day to add/swap course	Friday, January 21
Tuition and fee payment deadline	Friday, January 28
Last day to withdraw from course	Tuesday, April 12

Grading Method and 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.

Learning Technologies and Requirements:	<p>There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (d2L.ucalgary.ca).</p> <p>To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates • A current and updated web browser • Webcam (built-in or external) • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled • Broadband internet connection
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<p>Campus Mental Health Resources:</p>	<p>SU Wellness Centre and the Campus Mental Health Strategy</p> <p>Counselling and mental health support services are offered through Student Wellness Services. During COVID-19, you can access counselling services remotely via Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams and telephone. Single Session Counselling appointments are available on a bookable basis. Book an appointment online or call 403-210-9355. For access to mental health support, email sar@ucalgary.ca. If you are a student in immediate distress, please contact the centre's after-hours partners:</p> <p>The Distress Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 403-266-4357, available 24/7. • Visit the Distress Centre website to access online chat from 3–10 p.m. on weekdays and 12–10 p.m. on weekends. <p>For additional crisis support from Wood's Homes Community Support Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 403-299-9699 or 1-800-563-6106, available 24/7. • Text 587-315-5000 between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. • Visit Wood's Homes website for live chat between 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
<p>Academic Standing:</p>	<p>For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html</p>
<p>Academic Accommodation:</p>	<p>It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/</p>
<p>Academic integrity, plagiarism:</p>	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html or http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html</p> <p>Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</p>

Internet and electronic communication device:	<p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time.</p> <p>Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf</p>
Deferral of Term work and exams	<p>For more information about deferring a final exam go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams</p> <p>For more information about deferral of term work go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferred_termwork-feb-2020_revised.pdf</p>
Intellectual Property & Copyright:	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.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 presentations, textbooks, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams).</p> <p>Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</p>
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:	<p>Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.</p> <p>For more information go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy</p>
Ethics	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
Additional Student Support:	<p>Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</p>
Models:	
Studio Procedures:	<p>Please view current updates from RISK and the Covidsafe page links to information on rapid testing, masking rules, vaccination regulations and documentation as well as a FAQs page, which must all be followed while in Studios.</p> <p>https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus</p>

Emergency Evacuation:	For more information go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	<p>Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca.</p> <p>You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p>
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	<p>For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938.</p> <p>Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</p>