

# Syllabus for VFX 378/478 – Compositing II

## Course Information

**Name:** DIGITAL COMPOSITING II  
**Course #:** VFX-478-701  
**Quarter:** Spring 2014  
**Time:** Monday 13:30 - 16:45  
**Campus:** LOOP  
**Room:** CDM 922  
**System:** D2L

## Instructor Information



**Instructor:** Savvas Paritsis (Assistant Professor)  
MFA-NYU-Tisch School of the Arts  
**Office:** CDM 463  
**Phone:** 312-362-5857  
**e-mail:** savvas@cdm.depaul.edu  
**Office hours:** Wednesday 13:30 - 16:30  
**Advising hours:** Tuesday 17:00 - 20:00

## Course Summary

This class offers advanced instruction in compositing for visual effects. We will recapitulate the fundamental concepts of compositing and will learn some advanced techniques and workflows for creating visual effects. In addition, we will:

- Analyze effects from Hollywood movies to illustrate the principles and practice
- Learn how visual effects fit into the post-production workflow
- Introduce the technical background necessary to deliver high-quality media

Please note: this is a cross-listed course, combining graduate and undergraduate students. Graduate students are required to concentrate on planning and supervising the workflow of the group projects, especially in terms of organizing the production of the VFX, allow for a planning stage and ensure a timely delivery of a finished project.

## Learning goals

- Students will be able to apply advanced techniques of compositing: transparency, keying and tracking, including Mocha for AE.
- Students will be able to plan and execute a Green Screen shoot.
- Students will be able to plan and execute a Visual Effects project, from conception to execution and delivery.
- Students will be able to deliver professional-level renders.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course, but some familiarity with Photoshop and Adobe Premiere Pro would be very useful.

## Grading

Please note that late assignments will not be accepted. You must submit on time, even if you are not able to come to class on that particular day. There are many ways to submit material online. Make sure to read and understand the notes provided in class.

- 1st Assignment 15%
- 2nd Assignment 25%
- Final Project 35%
- Attendance 25%

## Textbooks

The main text of this course is based on:

After Effects Apprentice - Real World Skills for the Aspiring Motion Graphics Artist

- Publisher: Focal Press; 3 edition (August 23, 2012)
- ISBN-10: 0240817362
- ISBN-13: 978-0240817361
- Link: [After Effects Apprentice](#)

In addition we will use:

Creating Motion Graphics for After Effects - 5th Edition for AE CS5

- Publisher: Focal Press; 5 edition (June 18, 2010)
- ISBN-10: 0240814150
- ISBN-13: 978-0240814155
- Link: [Creating Motion Graphics with After Effects](#)

The students are encouraged to get both books.

## Required Supplies – External Firewire Drive

All our class exercises and home assignments deal with projects and media. It is the responsibility of the student to back up all projects & all media. Do not leave your projects on the lab computer and always make sure to back up your portable drive to another drive back home. Please note: hardware problems are not acceptable as an excuse for late submissions.

## Week-by-week

### Week 1

Introduction, Recapitulation of Interface, Project Management & Advanced Transparency

### Week 2

Digital Media, Formats, Color Space, Compression

### Week 3

Renders & Outputs, Expressions

### Week 4

Compound Effects, Media Management, Time Manipulation

### Week 5

Keying - Part A: Advanced Keylight

### Week 6

Keying - Part B: Other Keyers, Special Techniques

### Week 7

Green Screen Shoot

### Week 8

Tracking - Part A: After Effects & Mocha

### Week 9

Tracking - Part B: Advanced Stabilization, Mocha Shapes

### Week 10

Recap & Final Project

## Course Policies

### Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L or COLWeb and sent via email.

### Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

### Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: [cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment](http://cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment).

### Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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