VFX478 Digital Compositing 2 Syllabus

DePaul University

Course Information

Course Code: VFX478
Course Title: Digital Compositing 2
Prerequisites: VFX374 Digital Compositing 1
Term: Winter 2018
Section: 1
Class Hours: Mondays, 1:30pm - 5:45pm
Location: CDM 722

Faculty Information

Brian Andrews
bandrew4@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:30pm - 5:30pm
Office Hours Location: CDM 477

Course Description

This course expands composting into three dimensional space for set extensions and the integration of computer generated content. Emphasis on camera tracking, projections, multi-pass, and 3D compositing techniques.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Shoot footage with correct parallax and tracking for match-moving.
- Accurately match-move and track footage for compositing.
- Integrate CG elements into live action footage
- Create matte painting elements.
- Model and project matte painting elements as camera projections.
- Composite set extensions.
- Supervise CG compositing production and post-production.

Software

NukeX, Photoshop

Textbook

Nuke 101 (Second Edition) by Ron Granbar

Assignments & Grading

Projects

Digital Matte Painting: 20%
Holographic Interface: 30%
CG Compositing: 10%
Set Extension: 40%

*VFX478 students must act as VFX producers for the project.

Course Outline

Week 1

Topics: Course overview, Matte Paintings, Depth Cues, Intro to 3D in Nuke

Assignment: Digital matte painting project

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 9

Week 2

Topics: 3D Compositing techniques

Due: Digital matte painting design packet

Assignment: Digital matte painting render

Reading: Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 4

Week 3

Topics: Digital matte painting critique, Camera tracking, Assign holographic interface project,

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 10

Due: Digital matte painting project

Week 4

Topics: 3D Materials, Particles in Nuke

Reading: TBD

Week 5

Topics: 3D shading & lighting techniques, Holographic interface project lab

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 12

Week 6

Topics: Holographic interface project critique, Compositing CG renders

Assignments: CG Compositing Project

Week 7

Topics: Shooting for Camera Tracking, Image Based Modeling, Assign Set Extension Project

Assignments: Set Extension Footage

Week 8

Topics: VRay in Nuke

Assignments: Set Extension Project

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 11

Due: Set Extension Footage

Week 9

Topics: Compositing with VRay

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 3

Week 10

Topics: Set extension project lab

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 8

Finals Week

Topics: Set extension project critique

Course Policies

- Focus: Class time requires your complete attention. All students are expected to participate in all class activities. This means no distractions, such as cell phone use, web browsing, texting/chatting, food, or working on other projects in class.
- Professionalism: Students are expected to act according to the professional environment of the classroom. This includes but is not limited to:
    - Maintaining a positive and open-minded attitude while participating in class discussions.
    - Progressively achieving the highest standards of quality of artwork to be submitted for grading.
    - Defending their artwork in an articulate manner that demonstrates critical and analytical thinking.
    - Demonstrating neat, self-disciplined, and timely work habits.
    - Attending class on time and stay throughout the whole class period.
- Resubmissions: Visual effects are a highly iterative process. I highly encourage revisions and resubmission of work based off of feedback from the class. Resubmitted files should be submitted to the original submission folder on D2L. Resubmissions will be accepted until the beginning of the final class of the course. Project reviews are time based and therefore not eligible for resubmissions. Late work penalties cannot be made up by resubmissions.
- Late work: Assignments submitted late will have their grades reduced by 15% per class day the assignment is late. Late assignments are not eligible for resubmissions.
- Attendance: Attendance is key to success in this course. Student who miss three days of class will have their final grade lowered by 20%. Students who miss four days of class will automatically fail the course. Missing more than 15 minutes of class counts as an absence.
- Contact: Please attend office hours and ask questions in person, as this is often the fastest way to answer a complex question. I also am available outside of office hours by appointment. I make every effort to respond to email within 24 hours, with the exception of Sundays and holidays. If you have an issue or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible before the next class date.
- Have fun: While making film and VFX can be challenging and stressful, don't forget to have fun and enjoy the process. We are all artists, and our art thrives when we put all of our passion and enthusiasm into our work.

University 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 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:
http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx

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.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296