



(#28270) GAM 205-501: Games Literacy Winter 2021 DePaul University

Mondays and Wednesdays 3:10 PM - 4:40 PM - Remote but held in this time period

Instructor: Jonathan Hey

Jon Hey mobile # (773) 443-7877 Text and Voice

jhey@depaul.edu

jhey.depaul@gmail.com

jonhey@rcn.com (This one “ports” to and from D2L mass emails)

Important Dates Winter Quarter 2021

- <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>
 - **Monday January 4, 2021** **Begin WQ2021 Classes**
 - Sunday January 10, 2021 11:59 PM Deadline to add classes to WQ2021 schedule
 - **Sunday January 17, 2021** **Last day to drop WQ2021 classes with no penalty**
 - **(100% refund of tuition if applicable and no grade on transcript)**
 - Monday January 18, 2021 Grades of "W" assigned for WQ2021 classes dropped on or after this day
 - **Monday January 18, 2021** **Martin Luther King Day - University officially closed**
 - Tuesday January 19, 2021 Last day to select pass/fail option for WQ2021 classes
 - Monday January 25, 2021 Last day to select auditor status for WQ2021 classes

- Monday February 1, 2021 Begin WQ2021 optional mid-term week
- Sunday February 7, 2021 End WQ2021 optional mid-term week
- Sunday February 21, 2021 Last day to withdraw from WQ2021 classes
- **Sunday March 14, 2021** **End WQ2021 Day & Evening Classes**
- **Monday March 15, 2021** **Begin WQ2021 Day & Evening Final Exams**
- **Sunday March 21, 2021** **END WINTER QUARTER 2021**
- **Sunday March 21, 2021** **End WQ2021 Day & Evening Final Exams**
- Monday March 22, 2021 Begin Spring Break
- Friday March 26, 2021 End Spring Break
- Friday March 26, 2021 GRADES DUE: WINTER QUARTER 2021

Course Description

This lecture course introduces students to the evolving forms, uses, and design of games. Topics covered include the tactility of play, the breadth of games as a field, the changing contexts in which games are designed and consumed, and the way communities shape and are shaped by games. Students will participate in discussion boards on D2L, and ultimately imagine a future for games in our society.

Required Texts

...will all be provided as PDF scans or available to read Online.

Learning goals:

- Develop an appreciation for the diversity of play and games;
- Learn frameworks and vocabulary for critically analyzing and discussing games;
- Understand the larger cultural context within which a game exists;
- Develop a sense for the poetry and rhythm of games;

Assignments:

- **5 Individual assignments** (These were in Groups, but they are now Individual)
- **Microgames** - Each student will design and write a rhetorical microgame nearly every week.
- **Final Manifesto** - Students write their personal manifesto for the future of game design

Notes on Assignments

All assignments will be submitted through D2L. If you think you will need extra time on an assignment, contact your professor to request an extension as soon as possible.

Assignment due dates: To Be Determined – The assignment PDFs will all have a date. The submission folders will also display a due date.

Letter grade equivalencies

- A 95-100
- A- 91-94
- B+ 88-90
- B 85-87
- B- 81-84
- C+ 77-80
- C 73-76
- C- 69-72
- D+ 65-68
- D 61-64
- F 60 or below

Class schedule (This may be adjusted at any time for Remote work)

Mondays

Day 1 What is a game?

Day 3 Play communities

Day 5 NO CLASS MLK Day

Day 7 Tabletop, Role-playing, LARP

Day 7 Microcomputers

Day 9 Hacking and modding

Day 11 Creative and expressive play

Day 13 Architecture

Day 15 The larger games community

Day 17 Intimacy in games

Day 19 TBD

Wednesdays

Day 2 Different lenses on play

Day 4 Formal qualities of games

Day 6 Radical formal games

Day 8 Platform Studies

Day 8 Shareware and distribution

Day 10 Interactive Fiction

Day 12 Sound Play

Day 14 TBD

Day 16 Implicit and explicit politics

Day 18 TBD

Day 20 TBD

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Important changes will be announced on D2L, and/or via email. **Because of the presence of COVID-19 this may change assignments, due dates, readings and scheduled topics.**

Course Policies

- D2L: This class relies on D2L for submission of assignments and Online discussion.
- Attendance: You are expected to watch the presentation videos, do the readings and:
- Assignments: All assignments are due by the end of the day on the date given unless you have gotten an explicit extension, negotiated in advance either in person or via email. Please don't email me about an extension the night before an assignment is due; Request your extension as early as possible.
- Office hours: Virtual - Phoning (773) 443-7877 is the best starting method.

Academic Integrity

Please refer to the DePaul Student Handbook <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/> for information regarding academic integrity violations including policies on cheating and plagiarism. Violation of this policy can result in automatic failure of an assignment, course, or more. Sources should always be acknowledged and linked directly if possible – that includes code or assets used for multimedia or game-based work.

Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectual and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and 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.

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. My email address is jhey@depaul.edu. 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. Fax: (312)362-6544

Phone number: (312)362-8002

TTY: (773)325.7296

The latest email from CSD:

“Dear Faculty:

It’s Fall Quarter 2020! I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the support available to you, and the accommodations available to students with documented disabilities in your courses.

While most classes have switched to remote learning formats for this term, I want you to know that our staff continues to be available to support you and your students. Like most university personnel at this time, we are teleworking from home and can be reached at:

Email: csd@depaul.edu

Phone: 312-362-8002

Loop Campus Staff 773-325-1677

Lincoln Park Campus Staff Virtual office

www.tinyurl.com/CSDVirtualOffices

9am.-5pm. Monday through Friday, except holidays

Website: <http://go.depaul.edu/csd>

Exam Accommodations

Due to COVID-19 the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) will remain closed through the fall quarter. Whenever possible this Fall Quarter, we encourage you to make your exams available to ALL students online because Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) campus offices will be closed this term. We’ve made this temporary change to our policy to encourage social distancing and to reduce the footprint students and faculty will have on campus.

This means that students approved for extended time for their exams will need you to adjust the amount of time allotted for the exercise. Please send an email to fits@depaul.edu if you need assistance with adjusting the time for your students’ exams.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about how to proceed, or other questions about students’ accommodations.

General Information

At the start of each new term, we ask that faculty check to see the names and accommodations of CSD students identified in your courses. For more information on how to identify those students on your roster, go to the link below. If you have difficulty viewing student accommodations on your class roster, please contact our office.

[Faculty Resources Link](#)

Students with disabilities who have not already registered with the CSD may also self-disclose themselves to you during their participation in your course or advising session. DePaul has legal obligations regarding students with disabilities. We therefore ask that rather than working with these students to assess reasonable accommodations yourself, you direct students to get in contact with CSD to discuss their options.

We also encourage you to include in your syllabi a statement which advises students with disabilities to contact our office if they are interested in accommodations. Below is a sample statement that you may modify as you deem appropriate in light of our staff working remotely from home.

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus - Lewis Center #1420 - (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus - Student Center #370 - (773) 325-1677

Students can also email the office at csd@depaul.edu

Virtual office

www.tinyurl.com/CSDVirtualOffices

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

In closing, the CSD coordinates the university's provision of accommodations and other services to students pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. As such we regularly work with students diagnosed with a range of disabilities such as learning disabilities, AD/HD, medical conditions, chronic illness, mental health disorders, and physical/visual disabilities, amongst others. The CSD is also available as a resource for faculty and staff who may have questions about accommodating, or otherwise working with students with disabilities. For more information about our department please follow the link below.

<http://go.depaul.edu/csd>

We welcome you to contact our staff and discuss effective strategies for implementing accommodations that have been assigned by CSD for students in your course(s) as well as to discuss DePaul's obligations and services regarding students with disabilities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gregory A. Moorehead, Director, Center for students with Disabilities

Lincoln Park 773.325.1677 Loop 312.362.8002

csd@depaul.edu

<http://go.depaul.edu/csd>