

VFX378 Digital Compositing 2 Syllabus

DePaul University

Course Information

Course Code: VFX378

Course Title: Digital Compositing 2

Prerequisites: VFX374 Digital Compositing 1

Term: Spring 2017

Section: 1

Class Hours: Mondays, 1:30pm - 5:45pm

Location: CDM 632

Faculty Information

Brian Andrews

bandrew4@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Office Hours Location: CDM 477

Course Description

This course expands compositing 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.

Software

NukeX, Photoshop

Textbook

Nuke 101 (Second Edition) by Ron Granbar

Assignments & Grading

Projects

Digital matte painting: 30%

Sci-fi hologram: 30%

Set extension: 40%

Course Outline

Week 1

Topics: Course overview, Assign digital matte painting project, Intro to 3D in Nuke

Assignment: Digital matte painting design and design packet

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 9

Week 2

Topics: Matte paintings, Photoshop & Nuke

Due: Digital matte painting design packet

Assignment: Digital matte painting layout

Week 3

Topics: 3D cameras, 3D Compositing techniques, Digital matte painting lab

Reading: Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 4

Due: Digital matte painting layout

Week 4

Topics: Digital matte painting critique, Assign Hologram project, Camera & Planar tracking

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 10

Due: Landscape Matte Painting Project

Week 5

Topics: Particles in Nuke

Reading: TBD

Week 6

Topics: Expressions & gizmos, 3D shading & lighting, Hologram project lab

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 12

Week 7

Topics: Hologram Project Critique, Shooting for Camera Tracking, Assign Set Extension Project

Assignments: Set Extension Footage

Week 8

Topics: 3D Projection Techniques

Assignments: Set Extension Project

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 11

Due: Set Extension Footage

Week 9

Topics: Integrating CG renders

Reading: *Nuke 101*, Chapter 3

Week 10

Topics: Stereoscopic Compositing, 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. Any resubmitted projects are eligible to be regraded up to an increase of 50% of the remainder of the grade based on the initial submission. For example, if a student submitted a project on time and earned a grade of 70%, and then resubmitted the assignment at a quality of 90%, the final grade will be raised to 80%. All resubmissions are due by the final day of the course.
- **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.

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