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MART 322.01: Digital Compositing I

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Media Arts 322
Digital Compositing I
Autumn 2013 - The University of Montana, Missoula

McGill 123

Professor: Greg Twigg

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00 *or by appointment*

EMAIL: greg.twigg@umontana.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class focuses on concepts, principles and practices of digital compositing and rendering in order to establish a common aesthetic and technical language necessary to develop quality time-based art and design.

This course provides instruction of the principals of digital compositing, with emphasis on: concept, composition, layering, and the animation of images in time and 2D/3D space.

This is a studio course where artists will integrate production techniques, various forms of digital design, and create original time based digital compositions as an expressive and communicative art form. Aesthetic, technical and conceptual issues will be addressed through lectures, demonstrations, projects, and critiques.

Students are evaluated based on their contribution to the class discussions, critiques, and technical proficiency with various media and toolsets.

OBJECTIVES

Students will demonstrate understanding of the following principles and techniques through studio assignments:

- Concepts and Terminology
 - compositing
 - composition
 - color perception
 - animation
 - spatial relationship
 - timing
 - blending techniques
 - three-dimensional staging and lighting
 - digital cinematography
- Application of still image based software in conjunction with motion and time based software :Adobe After Effects, Photoshop and Illustrator
- Project Development and presentation

TOPICS

- Project Setup
- Composition
- Motion Theory
- 3-D Staging

- 3-D Cameras
- 3-D Lighting
- Chroma Key Techniques
- Color Correction
- Expressions
- Particles
- Motion Tracking/Stabilization
- Motion Mattes
- Professional Production Techniques

GRADING

Philosophy

It is a common misconception that teachers assign grades when in reality it is the student who earns the grade. You are responsible for the effort put into each project therefore you assign your own grade. The purpose of grading, from a teachers perspective, is to clearly and accurately pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of your progress.

Evaluation

Your overall grade will be based on your understanding of the information and ideas discussed, your formal, technical, and conceptual progress as demonstrated in projects, your participation in class discussions, and professionalism during the course.

Grades will be based on the following formula:

Video Library will account for **5%**

Project 1 will account for **30%**

Final Project will account for **35%**

Midterm Exam will account for **15%**

Final Exam will account for **15%**

Each project will be graded on the application of technique and conceptual principles to the creative work, the organization of the production process, participation, technical proficiency with the various software applications, their aesthetic application, problem solving, project presentation and the ability to meet deadlines. The exercises/projects and descriptions are listed on the 15-week schedule sheet.

Expectations for class participation

Participation by all members is critical to the success of this studio. Excellent participation is a given and includes contributing to ongoing discussions and critiques, suggests alternative ways of approaching projects, along with a thoughtful process and strong work ethic.

Attendance & participation

Good attendance and punctuality are expected for this course and will strongly affect your grade. Only three (3) unexcused absences will be allowed. Every unexcused absence beyond this will lower your grade by a letter grade. A total of seven absences, excused or unexcused, will result in you receiving a grade of "F" for the class. Excused absences include religious holidays, a verifiable death in the family or illness with a doctor's note.

Classroom etiquette

You are expected to conduct yourself with proper respect for the classroom environment. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. **Turn off your cell phones** and beepers prior to class. (Does anyone even have beepers anymore?)

THE LAB

• **What this lab is**..... This lab has been established so that students in the **Media Arts department** can have a dedicated lab in which to do their course work. You will have Griz Card access to this lab all day, every day. After hours access to the McGill building (locked after 10pm) can now be activated via approved Griz Cards on the south entrance nearest the tennis courts.

• **What this lab is not**..... This lab will **not** be used to work on things that are outside of the course requirements and will not be used by students outside of the program. If you want to spend time fooling around with your friends, then do it at home. Abuse of this lab will not be tolerated.

SOFTWARE INFORMATION

The primary software programs that you will be using are:

- **Adobe After Effects**
- **Adobe Photoshop**
- **Adobe Illustrator**

You will also be using the Internet and the network browser in the lab.

• It is important that throughout the class you take advantage of the manuals, the program help menu, and related articles downloaded from the web.

THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

MAR 322 Digital Compositing I
Production Schedule

Autumn 2013

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Tues Welcome	Tues Photoshop Selections, patching, cloning, Content-Aware	Tues Graph Editor	Tues Expressions intro	Tues Expressions cont. Automation, Micro Hydro
Thrs----- No Class	Thrs----- Time Remapping Graph Editor	Thrs----- Intro to Proj. 1 Children's Book Animation	Thrs----- Expressions cont. Time, Math, wheel	Thrs----- Studio Day

Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10
Tues Particles Particular Intro	Tues Studio Day Book anim updates	Tues Project 1 Due	Tues MIDTERM EXAM	Tues Keying Mattes Color Correct
Thrs----- Particles cont.	Thrs----- Particles cont.	Thrs----- Project 2 Intro Green Screen Lighting	Thrs----- Green Screen Camera Video library	Thrs----- Matching moves Stabilization

Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15
Tues Mocha Intro	Tues Filming Mattes	Tues Studio Day	Tues Project 2 Rough Due	Tues Studio Day
Thrs----- Mocha Adv.	Thrs----- Advanced Track Mattes	Thrs----- THANKSGIVING	Thrs----- Studio Day	Thrs----- FINAL EXAM