Angelo State University
Department of Visual and Performing Arts

TH3345: Computer Graphics for the Theatre

Class Syllabus                   Prof. Mike Burnett                   Spring 2018

Course Description
The use of computers in designing for theatrical production, with study of computer graphics and other software for scenic, lighting, costume, sound, promotions, and projections design.

Learning Outcomes
1. The student will apply various software and apply theatre uses for each
2. The student will apply various image and audio editing software and apply theatre uses for each
3. The student will use CAD software for theatre applications
4. The student will use video editing software for a final presentation.
5. To create an original graphic image (including graphs and/or sketches).
6. To locate, retrieve and evaluate information relevant to a question or issue.
7. To recognize and respond to an ethical issue related to computer usage.

Contact Information
Professor Mike Burnett
E-mail: michael.burnett@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325-486-6190
Office Location: Carr Fine Arts/Education, Room #165
Office Hours:
Monday/Wednesday  130p-330p
Tuesday/Thursday  130p-330p
Friday by appointment

All Power Point presentations presented in class as well as other information for this class will eventually end up on Blackboard.

PLEASE NOTE
TIME MANAGEMENT AND TIMELY TASK COMPLETION are essential to success in this course! All assignments due at 8:15am on the day they are scheduled.

Backing Up Files: Losing work due to failed digital media or overwritten files is not an excuse for late work! Students are expected to implement an effective backup strategy for saving and documenting all their digital files. NOTE: ASU Lab computers are normally erased at the end of each day.

SOFTWARE
Students are responsible for downloading the appropriate software for this course. Most of it can be acquired at no cost.
1 – Vectorworks 2017 – vectorworks.net (free)
3 – QLab - https://figure53.com/qlab/ (free demo...mac only)
4 – Audacity - http://audacityteam.org/ (free)
5 – iMovie or Windows Movie Maker (free bundled with computer)
Texts/Readings
♦ Assorted Handouts & Online Readings

It is expected that students will read the assigned texts prior to arriving in class the day they are due.

Course Requirements/Assignments
• Cloud Data Management (1)
• Design Elements (5)
• Image Editing (5)
• Audio Editing (3)
• QLab (2)
• CAD (5)
• Final Project (1)
• Play Critiques (2)

Grading Policy
Grade Distribution (with competency for Learning Outcomes given):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Data Management (L1, 6, 7)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Elements (L1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Editing (L1, 2, 5, 6, 7)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Audio Editing (L1, 2, 6, 7)</td>
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<td>QLab (L1, 2, 6, 7)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>CAD (L3, 5, 6, 7)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project (L1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Critiques (L1,4, C1,4,5,6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>

The grade of "C" is given for work that completes all of the assignment requirements and is submitted on time. Grades "A" or "B" are given for work that meets the "C" requirements and clearly demonstrates thought and development in appropriate skills and aesthetic understanding.

I will NOT accept any late assignments, except due to excused illnesses. Each assignment has been created so that it emphasizes the current topic in class and prepares the foundations for the next project. Skipping an assignment will more than likely be a hindrance and detrimental to your work on the proceeding assignments.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the ASU Operating Policy and Procedure (OP10.03) a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see OP10.03 at www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

Electronic Devices
Students are expected to use all electronics (personal and ASU) in a responsible and courteous manner. Students that disrupt class with these devices or fail to focus upon their course work because of inappropriate usage will be asked to leave and will receive an absence for that day.
Attendance and Participation Policy

Quality participation in class is required. Students contribute to the learning environment and demonstrate their understanding of the material by participation. Therefore, class attendance is required and the attendance policy is as follows:

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. 0-5 minutes late will count as a tardy. Students who are more than 5 minutes late for class will be considered absent for that class. Tardiness is seriously frowned upon. 2 Tardies count as 1 absence.
- My attendance policy is strict. Missing 3 classes will lower your final grade by 10%. Every class missed after that will result in another 10% reduction.
- Missing more than 7 classes will result in a Failing grade for the semester.
- Students who are late for class on presentation days will only be given the allotted class time to complete their presentation.
- An excused absence will be granted only for documented health and family purposes. (This means you must provide “official documentation” such as an official doctor’s/clinic note, a newspaper clipping, or official university letter etc. to be excused within 24 hours of missing the class.)
- Students representing ASU (traveling groups, class field trips, etc.) will be granted an excused absence, but prior notification must be given to me in writing at least one week in advance.
- Remember, an absence is not an excuse for a late assignment. If you have prior knowledge of your absence (such as a class trip), please turn in your assignment prior to your absence. Note: Doctor’s appointments are to be scheduled at a time as to not conflict with this class. Having a doctor’s appointment is not an excuse for missing class.
- Missing class on a scheduled presentation day can jeopardize your grade for the semester. Missing class because you haven’t finished an assignment is a questionable choice and results in both a lower grade on the assignment and the loss of valuable class time.
- Regardless of attendance, you are responsible for class notes, handouts and deadlines. There are no make-ups. If you are absent on test days or when assignments are due, you will receive a zero for that grade. Please see the professor if there are some special circumstances.
- Online class days are intended for you to work on projects. You can either work on them in the lab or on your own. Attendance will not be taken on dates notated as online classes.

Rationale:
I value attendance and participation. A class is only as useful as the time you put into it, and, more than lecturing, I think we learn from active discussion and debate.

Base Score:
The 10% points for participation includes coming to class and participating, if not in the large class discussion, in the smaller groups at least. If you are reserved, I understand, and I won’t ask you to do anything that I might assign in class that an actor might enjoy. But, oral communication is a key part of the theatre and it is essential that you learn to communicate as a theatre artist. Using class time to discuss non-class topics, non-engagement, and absence will eat away at your grade.

The Catch:
Worse than absence and not participating is actively detracting from the learning environment. I really, really, really hate having to stop the class because someone is chatting with their friends, writing notes to each other, making faces, texting, or reading the newspaper. It is disrespectful to those of your classmates who have paid good money and want to learn something. This has a far worse effect on your grade. In other words, if I have to say something to you, or if I just have a bad feeling of any kind about you that day, I will subtract points from your participation grade. If you are continually disruptive, I will ask you to leave the classroom, which will result in an absence for that day being recorded.

The Solution:
If you feel like sleeping, chatting, giggling, or being anywhere else, just don’t show up. Believe me, it will be better for your grade than being asked to leave class.
Plagiarism

Plagiarism: What it means to do it, and the consequences of being caught.

I was a student myself, and I understand the pressures students face in this department. It's getting close to the end of the semester and you just opened a show. You have two research papers due, an acting scene, and some final exams. You haven't started on your final project because you've been in rehearsal every night until midnight. Your scene partner has been flaking out on you. You've fallen behind in all of your classes - and you don't particularly like anything we've studied in this class. Really - you'd rather deal with any other assignments than think about tech theatre. Understandable. You can cut down on all of this, you think, if you just find some quick material on the internet and copy it in, work in some of the material from your friend's notes (you didn't go to class the day we discussed it), and "voila!" A paper! Worse yet, you find just the paper you're looking for from the internet. Only $10 a page... this is too perfect!

After the final exam you get an email from me telling you that your paper seems to match another one found online. It will be investigated. You find yourself in a disciplinary hearing - your scholarship is revoked, you flunk Theatre History or, worse, you are expelled from the University.

You want to finish your degree elsewhere. You audition for another grad program. They'd take you in a heartbeat, they say, but it appears that you were expelled from a school for academic misconduct; they can't possibly admit you to the program. Other graduate programs turn you down. Employers for stupid bank jobs even balk at your record. You waste your life working in an insurance office job that your loser brother got you in Kalamazoo.

Materials that are available for you to plagiarize are available to me to review. I have read most of the printed sources you are likely to use, and I also can purchase ready-made essays from the same vendors...if they can sell to you, what is to stop them from making money from me? Plagiarism is a lousy shortcut, not just because it leads to the tragic scenario I outlined above, but also because:

1. Projects and Papers put together from lifted sources are usually of poor quality. If you think the people who produce these papers for hire are better writers than you, think again. They are usually 'C' quality papers at best.

2. You lose my respect, and the respect of others on faculty. It will affect the way we evaluate you in the future.

3. You cheat yourself of an opportunity to learn. I don't assign projects for my own enjoyment! I assign papers because I want to give you an opportunity to explore in greater depth a topic you find interesting. I want to help you learn to be a better writer - to organize your thoughts, to think on a deeper level, and to analyze materials more effectively. What a great opportunity! You paid a lot of money for such an opportunity - and you cheat yourself of that. Think of how much money you are wasting by just 'getting by.'

Remember: Any paper you write yourself, with your own research, will usually be good enough for a 'B' grade or better. I appreciate the effort a student puts into a research project. Find a topic you like. ASK ME if you have any problems. I am happy to help you - even if you have to remind me a gazillion times. I take plagiarism very seriously, and I WILL catch you. I'm terribly zealous about it. So, don't do it.

The above text was taken from http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jewestla/plagiarism.html and adapted in places to fit this course.
Academic Advising
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Communication, Mass Media and Theatre require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication, Mass Media, or Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at 942-2710.

Academic Honor Code
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Non-Discrimination
Prejudice of any kind will not be accepted in the classroom. This includes age, race, political stance, religious preference, and ethnicity. Students are allowed to disagree and voice opinions if they do so in a non-offensive manner.

Incomplete Grades
The grade I (incomplete) is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. A grade of I can only be granted for documented health and family purposes. In the event of prolonged illness, please contact me personally or have a family member contact me as soon as possible. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Office of Student Services at 942-2193 and document your circumstance. Note: An incomplete will not be granted for students missing more than six (6) classes and/or for students who do not contact the Office of Student Services. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I's.

Students with Disabilities
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191 If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

In General
I do not accept late assignments. However, if you are having trouble keeping up - please come and see me. I would much rather you come and talk to me than let your work slide. I am in during my office hours, during the shop, and other times, and I can be easily reached by email. You will find I am usually pretty agreeable if you take the initiative and communicate with me.
**Formating/Paper Requirements**

- All written assignments are to be TYPED using either Times New Roman, Arial, Century, or Cambria, in Size 12 of course.
- Double-spaced.
- All written assignments should be well thought-out and in complete sentences. (FYI: Yes. No. are not complete sentences!)
- Don’t forget: Spell check is your friend!
- Proof reading helps a lot, too!
- Papers must be saved in Microsoft Word format (either .doc or .docx). If it is not in this format, I will not grade it and you will get a failing grade for the assignment.
- All Assignments will need to be submitted via Blackboard by the assignment deadline. I will not accept printed papers.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Performance Attendance/Critique**

For this particular class, you will be required to attend the 2 live theatrical productions presented by the Arts @ ASU. For each production, you will complete a critique.

This semester, the required productions are *Student One Acts* & *W;t*. The most cost-effective way for this to happen is for you to attend the Final Dress Rehearsal the night before the show opens to the public. If you can’t make it to Final Dress, you’ll have to pay for a student ticket like everyone else. **Please, get your tickets in advance.** Waiting until the last performance will put you at a disadvantage. Production response papers should be 2-3 pages in length and will be due within a week after the play closes. These papers are designed to get you to put your impressions (likes, dislikes, etc.) of the technical elements of the production into a coherent expression of words. I don’t grade you on WHAT YOUR OPINION IS, I grade these on how well you support your opinion. Copying another person’s production critique (or collaborating with another student on this paper) WILL result in at least a zero (0) for the assignment for both students—and could result in an “F” for the course and disciplinary action from the Dean.

**For extra credit**, you may to attend up to 3 live theatrical productions produced by either another college/university, a local established community theatre, or a professional theatre company, but it may not be your church’s Christmas pageant, your little sister’s high school production, or an “improv”/comedy show. If you are not sure that a performance you are planning to attend fits the criteria. Be sure to ask me first, not later.

You may attend these extra credit theatrical productions at any time throughout the semester. Once you have attended the performance, you will complete a critique for the production. The critique, a scan of the coverpage and cast/production staff from your program, and a scan of your ticket stub are due for the full extra credit amount (each extra credit journal may count up to ½ of a critique grade).

Extra credit critiques are due no later than **Friday, April 27**.
Play Selection
Each student should choose and read a play to complete assignments for this course. The Professor must approve play titles before any further work is completed.

Cloud Data Management
Using Dropbox, you will create a folder for this class and share it with the professor (Michael.burnett@angelo.edu). You must also have sub-folders for each of the assignments this semester.

Design Elements (DE)
Using Vectorworks, you will complete 5 Design Element exercises. See Handout for instructions on each.
1 - Line
2 - Shape
3 - Color Wheel
4 - Value
5 - Texture

Image Editing (PS)
Using Photoshop, complete 5 Photoshop exercises.
1 – Using a piece of research for your play and edit the color range to focus on 1 element of the image. The majority of the image should be in black and white with the color remaining on the focal point of the image.
2 – Take a digital photo of some actors and create 3 “publicity” photos for your play by layering the actors into different backgrounds
3 – Find an old black and white photo research that is relevant to your play. Colorize the image.
4 – Create a production poster for your play
5 – Create 3 costume renderings for different historical characters. Use different fill techniques to create interesting textures of fabric.

Audio Editing (Aud)
Using either Audacity complete the following assignments:
1 – Take a popular radio song and edit out 1 complete verse/chorus
2 – Using sound effect libraries, edit 4 sound effects into 1 layered effect based on an audio image
3 – Record and layer 4 voices speaking text from a Shakespeare sonnet. Use audio effects to create auditory interest in the piece.

QLab (QLAB)
Using QLab, complete the following assignments (see handout):
1 – Audio Q’s
2 – Video Q’s

CAD (VW)
Using Vectorworks, complete the following assignments (see handouts):
1 – Plan, Front, Side, Ortho
2 – Drafting Flats/Platforms
3 – Ground Plan for your play
4 – 3D image of your play, with textures and lighting
5 – Elevations for your set

Final Project
Using your play and the software in class, create either a 1 minute PSA ad (individual) or a shot by shot remaking of a classic 80s music video (group of 3):
PSA Ad Requirements (individual project)
1 – 1 minute of music edited together (minimum of 3 songs and 5 sound effects)
2 – a minimum of 2 lines of text from the play. The lines of text should be “quintessential” lines.
3 – manipulated images to create a visual environment based on the text of the play
4 – create a short 1 minute film using iMovie or a similar software title
Music Video (group project...must have 3 members)
1 – select a music video and create a shot by shot remaking. (You must attempt costumes, actors, locations, etc...)
2 – final video should have the original in a Picture in Picture in the lower right

Final Exam Period
Please note, there is no final exam for this class. During the final exam period, the class will view/listen to each student’s final project and offer a critique.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>17-Jan</td>
<td>Intro to the Class &amp; Data Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>22-Jan</td>
<td>Overview to Photoshop &amp; Vectorworks</td>
<td>Cloud</td>
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<td>W</td>
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<td>ONLINE CLASS - TBA</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>Design Elements</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>FINAL - 8am</td>
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