

**Course Syllabus**  
**ART 375 01**  
**Introduction to 3-D Computer Animation**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2007**

**Farrington 213**  
**T/Th 1:00-3:50**

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**Office hours T/TH 4:00-4:30, W 1:00-2:00 and by appointment**

**Course Description**

This course provides the student with an overview of the History of 3-D Animation, and an introduction to the concepts and techniques used in computer generated 3-D animation. Students will learn the basic concepts of 3-D modeling, texture mapping, lighting and animating using key frames and behavior physics. Prerequisite: ART 331, ART 234, ART 274.

**Course Objectives**

At the completion of the course, students should be able to

- model representations of 3 dimensional objects
- conceptualize and storyboard an animated project
- keyframe motion
- create textured surfaces and lighting effects
- create shots and scenes using a virtual camera
- render an animated sequence
- create a soundtrack for an animation
- output a completed animation to DVD
- understand the principles of traditional animation and apply them to computer animation
- distinguish different styles and techniques used in animation

**Textbook**

*Learning Autodesk Maya 8: Foundation*  
published by Sybex ISBN 1-897177-33-X

**Required Supplies**

9"x12" or larger Sketchbook (available at Bearkat books for \$12 and less)  
CD R's or CD RW's or jump drive  
DVD-R's (DVD+R's will not work in the animation lab)

## **Assignments, Exams and Grading**

The software used for 3D animation and modeling is **Autodesk Maya**. **Adobe After Effects** is used for compositing and adding sound. **Sound editing software** may also be used. The software is taught through demonstrations and tutorials. Each student will create 3 animated projects during the semester, and a final portfolio consisting of these projects on DVD. Sketchbooks are required and students will prepare storyboards and sketches for each project. A midterm exam on the principles and history of animation will consist of multiple choice and true false questions. Projects, exams and assignments constitute these percentages of the final grade:

Project 1 Multi-rotational device	20%
Project 2 Bouncing	20%
Project 3 Lighting and Rendering	20%
Final Portfolio	20%
Sketches and Storyboards	20%

In this class 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D 59-0=F.

At the conclusion of each project, work will be discussed in a critique. Grades for each project will be based on craftsmanship and quality, as well as an expressed understanding of concepts. **All work must be turned in on time for full credit.**

The grade of **C** is considered average. If work meets the minimum stated requirements for the project, it will be considered average in terms of design, concept and craft. Work that exceeds that basic expectation will have points added and fall into the **B** range, and exceptional work will earn an **A**. Work that fails to meet the minimum criteria for the project will receive **C-**, **D**, or **F**.

Due to the amount of work required for the course, work cannot be re-done and re-submitted for re-grading. Extra Credit work is not allowed.

## **Attendance is mandatory**

According to University policy, a student may miss 3 hours (that's one class period) before their final grade is affected.

In this course, you may miss two class periods before your final grade is affected. Use your absences wisely. I suggest saving them for when you are sick or absolutely unable to come to class. Please do not ask me if you can miss class for personal reasons. If you have 3 absences, your final grade will be lowered 5 points, 4 absences -10 points, 5 -15, 6 -20, 7 -25. If you miss more than 7 classes, you will not pass the course. Students who are more than 20 minutes late will be counted absent. Students are expected to remain in class the entire period. You are responsible for all assignments and information given in class even if you are absent.

## **The BFA Review**

Spring Semester, 2007, the Art Department will begin implementing the BFA portfolio review. Any student without a degree plan (BA/BFA) will be required to follow the BFA review policy.

Upon completion of the 6 foundation art classes (Art 161: Basic Design I, Art 163: Drawing, Art 164: Life Drawing I, Art 265: Basic Design II, Art 271: 3D Design, Art 260: Pre-Renaissance Art History) students are required to meet with an art advisor, to declare a degree program (BA/BFA) or they will be blocked from registering for upper division art classes.

Students choosing the BA program will be unblocked and continue with their course work.

Students who elect to apply for the BFA will fill out an application, must have a 3.0 or better GPA and are required to sign up for a portfolio review after completing the first course in their intended concentration. Reviews are conducted each semester by Departmental faculty. Students who pass the review will be invited into the BFA Program. Students who do not meet BFA standards will be given feedback on areas that need improvement and will be directed to either reapply for a second review or enroll in the BA program. Students are limited to two BFA applications. Those requesting a second review are advised consult with faculty concerning their progress and course of action.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

## **Classroom Rules of Conduct**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Students must abide by the posted lab rules concerning use of computers or lab privileges will be revoked.

No Food is allowed in the lab. Drinks may be brought in as long as they are kept on the center table and not placed on the computer tables. Please dispose of any trash (including newspapers) that you bring into the room. The privilege of consuming beverages in the classroom will be revoked if it is abused.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/811006.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html)

### **Religious Holidays**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor

involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)