

ART 352 – 02 Visual Effects Syllabus 11680
Tu/Th 11:00am – 1:45pm
CSUN Course Syllabus, Spring 2021
Art Department, online via Zoom

Instructor: Caleb Owens
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Office Hours: Tu/Th 4:45–6:00
* contact for appointment

Course Description:

Studies in the conceptualization and techniques of digitally generated visual effects in time-based media. Creative self-expression is emphasized in the production of experimental short videos.

Art Department Program Goals Addressed:

1. Students will acquire competent knowledge and skills in various art media, concepts and methodologies.
2. Students will produce a competent body of individual and collaborative work suitable for a liberal arts degree, for the local, national and global marketplace.
3. Students will solve visual problems at a competent level, including understanding/application of the elements of art and principles of design.
4. Students will utilize and apply critical thinking skills to communicate ideas for their intended audience at a competent level in visual, oral, and written formats.

Course Learning Outcomes. Student will:

1. Acquaint students with the fundamentals of compositing live action and CGI elements.
2. Promote critically viewing and understanding of visual effects.
3. Introduce students to color grading/ timing techniques for stylization and mood.
4. Acquaint students with the benefits and theories of rotoscoping.
5. Provide the necessary skills and critical thinking to become a junior compositor

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Assignments are specific and evaluated accordingly for both the process and the product. Sufficient evidence of an ongoing creative process and development over time with corrected revisions is expected.

20% Exercises and Assignments.

30% Mid Term

35% Final Project

15% Attendance and Participation: Engaging in part of class discourse and critiques

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

The Art and Science of Digital Compositing, Second Edition Ron Brinkmann

The Invisible Art, Mark Cota Vaz

LATE WORK:

Meeting deadlines is essential in Animation and Visual Effects production. Late work will not be accepted unless an arrangement has been made in advance and approved by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENT DELIVERY:

All assignments must be turned in during class meeting times. It is not appropriate for students to email instructor assignments or to request feedback out of class or office hours.

END OF TERM:

Students are responsible for turning in up to date copy of each assignment online at www.box.com.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This studio course requires attendance, actual work in class and homework/lab time outside of class time.

4 or more absences will result in lower letter grade.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR/PROFESSIONAL DEPARTMENT:

In the classroom/lab, students are expected to practice professional behavior and treat other students, lab techs and faculty.

MATERIALS: USB Flash Drive; Highly recommended, 500 GB or more external Hard Drive.

Week 1: Data Management & Fundamentals / History of Compositing

Introduction to Nuke

New Homework Assignment 1: What is Premultiplication?

Week 2 - 3: Premultiplication / Nuke interface / Color Channels /

Procedural Workspace / Intro to Roto

In Class Exercise: A over B comp.

New Homework Assignment 2: A over B comp

New Midterm Assignment – Multi Layered Composite

Week 4: More on Roto / Intro to Tracking / Intro to Matte Painting

In Class Exercise: Track and Roto

New Homework Assignment 3: Remove object from footage

Week 5 More on Tracking / Intro to Keying

In Class Exercise: Paint out blemish in actor

Week 6 and 7: Green screen / Intro to Color Correction / Timeline

Week 8 thru 10: Using elements in comp. / more color correction

In Class Exercise: track and comp fire in to scene

MIDTERM DUE WEEK 8

Final Assignment : Create a vfx scene with raw footage using green screen, stock elements, and rig removal

Week 11-14: Blur / Grain / Key Mix / Rendering /

In Class Exercise: Blurring and matching film grain

Week 15: Color Grading and Finaling your comp

Week 16: Final Critique

Final Assignment, part 3, Final Project Due

Week 17: Final

TURN IN 2 copies of all work in formats required by Instructor and Area Coordinator. These will not be returned.

This syllabus is subject to change due to overall student progress, or judgment calls from the Instructor.