SWE 6903 – Special Topics in PlayStation 4 Development

Section: 01  
Credit: (3-0-3)  
Lecture T 6:30PM - 7:45PM  
Room: J 165  
CRN: 15255

Course Schedule

Course Resources

Instructor

Jeff Chastine  
Email: jeff@kennesaw.edu  
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Phone: 470-KSU-JEFF  
Office: Kennesaw Hall, Rm 3421  
Office hours: Before/after class or by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the production of media content. This course covers elements of the production pipeline from concept to content generation to post production and quality assurance. Topics include asset creation and management, cost-quality tradeoffs, and phases of production. Current and emerging models of the production pipeline such as user-generated content and participation will also be discussed. A significant, team-based project is required.

Course Prerequisites

- A course in Data Structures (taught in C/C++)

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Describe the phases of game and media production  
2. Work within a team environment to produce game/media content  
3. Describe current and emerging models of game production and user-generated content

Required Textbook

None. SDK Documentation is online.

About the Course
This course presents a low-level game development course that exposes students to many of the pipelines in game development - from idea generation to marketing. We’ll start with the most basic of PS4 applications (a “Hello, World!” of sorts), and then dive into increasingly complex topics, including input, event loops, rendering, basic physics, and sound. It’s a tough course, but worth your time...

Advice:

1. Brush up on your C/C++.
2. Keep your code and, where possible, develop your own stuff. Sometimes employers want you to submit examples of code that you’ve designed so that they can see your programming skills.
3. You’ll be showing your work in class, so always have something ready to show.

Assessment

Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>[90, 100+]</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>[80, 90)</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>[70, 80)</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>[60, 70)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F+</td>
<td>[0, 60)</td>
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</tbody>
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Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Assignments (30% each)</td>
<td>90%</td>
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Course Policies

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding all provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. The Code of Conduct includes the following:

Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Students involved in off-campus activities shall not act in a disorderly or disruptive fashion, nor shall they conduct any dangerous activity.
Students involved in off-campus activities shall not take, damage or destroy or attempt to take, damage or destroy property of another.

(See http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_course.php?catoid=27&coid=48103&print)

Disability Statement
(note: see http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/staffpages/syllabus.shtml)

Important notice: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange the necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU Student Disability Services. No requirements exist that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to notify the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Verification from KSU Student Disability Services is required. All discussions will remain confidential.

If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom or test accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. If you have not already done so, please register with KSU Student Disability Services, the office responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities.

Please contact the instructor immediately if you have or think you may have a disability or medical condition which may affect your performance, attendance, or grades in this class and for which you wish to discuss accommodations of class-related activities or schedules. Accommodations are arranged on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs and circumstances have been evaluated.

If you have a specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disability and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Student Disability Services office, located in the Student Center room 267, and obtain a list of approved accommodations.

If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Student Disability Services office in the Student Development Center and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition that would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class. You can reach me by phone at _____, or you can schedule an appointment to meet me at _____ at a determined time. If this location is not convenient for you, we will schedule an alternative place for the meeting. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

Course Withdrawal
Please refer to the KSU Undergraduate Catalog (http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=2171&hl=Withdrawal&returnto=search#withdrawalfromclasses)

Make-up Policy
If a student must miss a test due to a legitimate reason (e.g. documented illness, family death, etc), then a make-up exam will be administered. It is the responsibility of the student to coordinate with the instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance
Presentations are a required part of this course. It is expected that you attend class. It is suggested that if (for whatever reason) you miss class, you coordinate with other students about the lecture.

Communication

Professional communication is important in presenting yourself. You must use proper spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc. when communicating in your submissions and via email to me. Do not use L337 or texting shorthand when emailing me, or I will not respond to your email (or take off a significant portion of your grade). I don't do this to be mean. Rather, I want to encourage your professional development; I also don't have time to decipher cryptic emails that are not clearly written.

Assessment

Assignments are graded against a rubric - meaning that it is possible to receive at least some partial credit if something reasonable is turned in. The #1 reason students do poorly in this class is failure to turn something in!

A large portion of your grade comes from the projects you will be designing. Start them early. The other portions of your grade come from your exams (which are based on the readings and in-class discussions) as well as a few smaller assignments.

Please note that no credit will be given for late assignments without the explicit permission of the instructor. If you have difficulties, please get in touch with me before the assignment is due.

Make-up Policy

If a student must miss a test due to a legitimate reason (e.g. documented illness, family death, etc), then a make-up exam will be administered. It is the responsibility of the student to coordinate with the instructor as soon as possible.

Religious Observance

If a student wishes to observe a religious holiday, they must notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance to discuss acceptable ways of making up any missed work because of the absence. It is the student’s responsibility to be proactive and to handle this early in the semester.

Course Schedule

To help with pacing, the schedule is subject to change; this includes the dates on assignments and exams. If dates change, they will be announced in class and email. However, it is expected that students review the schedule periodically.