CGDD4203 - Fall 2015, Section 01

Syllabus

CGDD4203 – Mobile & Casual Game Development
Credits: 3-0-3

Meeting Days & Times

Class time: Mon, Wed and Fri, 11:00AM – 11:50AM
Lab time: None

Please plan on participating in the Fall Game Jam. You are strongly encouraged to attend and learn and expand your game design skills.

Description

This course explores the segments of mobile (handheld, smart phone, tablet) and casual gaming. Aspects of mobile hardware resources such as smaller memory, limited processor capabilities, and smaller displays are discussed; implications of such limitations to design and playability are also presented. Patterns of casual game development and emerging markets for casual games are also explored. A term project exploring mobile and/or casual game development is required.

Prerequisites

CGDD4003 or permission from instructor/department

Instructor

Rongkai Guo
Office: J379
Phone: 678-915-5558
Email: rguo@kennesaw.edu
Office hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 12:00PM – 2:00PM; via email, appointment, and open-door
Website: http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~rguo/

Lab Assistant

N/A

Textbooks

• Required
  ○ Beginning Android Games (2nd Edition, Nov 2012) by Zechner and Green
    (ISBN 978-1430246770)
• Recommended  
  o Readings and books as assigned (TBA)

**Objectives**

Students will be able to:

1. Describe the unique characteristic that define casual game play  
2. Describe the architectural constraints and considerations specific to mobile games  
3. Develop programs/games that are deployed to mobile devices  
4. Develop casual programs/games

**Course Philosophy**

Games should be fun, and so should learning about games. This course will be a lot of fun, but it will also be a lot of work. Modern APIs provide a lot of scaffolding and there is a lot already there to do the work for you... so you just need to tap into the existing code to make it do what you want. While this can be empowering, it can also be overwhelming... so get ready to be frustrated but eventually achieve elation!

You will be working in many technologies, and this course requires that you learn and adapt quickly. We will work in teams on projects, and each member is required to contribute significantly. If your team has someone on it that isn't contributing, then the entire team will suffer and the quality of the project will not be very good. Everyone needs to keep constant watch on the progress of the projects. If someone is not contributing, inform me immediately to resolve the issue.

Much of this course relies upon creativity and thinking beyond your current frame of view. Don't ever be afraid to suggest something novel or bring up your perspective; it is through dialog that we'll explore these concepts.

All of that said, this course will require significant time on the task at hand, so be prepared to devote attention to the class - it's not "a free A." I hope you'll have fun while you're going through the course!

**Assessment**

**Grading Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>[80, 90)</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>[60, 70)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(-∞, 60)</td>
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**Assignments**

Projects (20% each for Project 1 and 40% for Final Project) 60%
Course Policies

Academic Misconduct

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.

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

Disability Statement

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 678-915-5558, or you can schedule an appointment to meet me in J-379 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 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 at http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=2171&hl=Withdrawal&returnto=search#withdrawalfromclasses

Communication

The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

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 leet or texting shorthand when emailing me, or I will not respond to your email or I will take off a significant portion of your grade. I don't do this to be mean; rather, I want to encourage your professional development, and I also don't have time to decipher cryptic emails that are not clearly written.

Make-up Policy

No late work is accepted. Plan ahead and coordinate with me proactively and head of time if a deadline cannot be met. If you have a problem that arises during the course of the semester, please contact me as soon as possible. I'm happy to work with you under legitimate circumstances (life has potholes), but I can't work with you to help you succeed if you don't let me know of a problem.

If a student must miss a test or final exam due to a documented, legitimate reason (illness with documentation, family death, etc.), then a make-up test/exam will be
administered. To coordinate this, contact the instructor as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to coordinate this in a timely manner.

**Attendance**

Attendance is REQUIRED. You must attend all status meetings and submit a status report 24 hours before the meeting. For each report that you fail to submit or for each meeting you fail to attend, you will lose 5% of your overall grade. If you need to miss a meeting, negotiate this **BEFOREHAND**, and I will gladly work out a way for you to catch up.

**Feedback in a timely manner**

You will receive a response from me typically within 24 hours of sending an email during

**Academic Integrity**

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:

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- 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.

**Reasonable Accommodations**

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-2666.
Religious Observance

I encourage students in promoting their spiritual health. Religiously-observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class and/or exam should notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance and discuss acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. It is up to the student to be proactive and handle this early in the semester.

Academic honesty

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Academic Resources

Academic Tutoring Services - http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/alp/academic.shtml
Disability Resources - http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html
ESL Study and Tutorial Center - http://www.kennesaw.edu/uc/esl/
Library - http://www.kennesaw.edu/library
Supplemental Instruction - http://www.kennesaw.edu/us/si_leaders/
The Writing Center - http://www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/index.php
The KSU Writing Center helps students in all majors improve their writing. Experienced, friendly writing assistants help with topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. For more information or to make an appointment, visit writingcenter.kennesaw.edu or stop by English Building, Room 242 (Kennesaw campus) or Building A, Room 184 (Marietta campus).
Math Lab - http://mathlab.kennesaw.edu/Home.html

Student Support and Wellness Resources

Career Services Center - https://careerctr.kennesaw.edu/
Counseling and Psychological Services - http://sss.kennesaw.edu/cps/
KSU offers counseling services on-campus that are available to you at no cost. All counseling services provided are confidential and in no way connected to your academic record.
Center for Health, Promotion and Wellness - http://www.kennesaw.edu/col_hhs/wellness/
Student Health Clinic - http://www.kennesaw.edu/col_hhs/hc/

Course Schedule

I have made every effort to plan the course out well with reasonable pacing, but it may be that we're moving too fast/slow and the schedule may change. Please view the published
schedule to plan your semester but realize that it might change. Assignment deadlines may change as well. I will announce in class and email if such changes occur.