



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY
ART 311.01 – Topics in Art: History of Video Games
Spring 2023

Course Delivery Format:	<i>In-person, synchronous</i>			
Instructor: Office: Email: Office Hours: Phone/Text (preferred):	<i>Rob Furr</i> <i>AB661</i> <i>rsfurr@ucalgary.ca</i> <i>12:00-1:15 TR</i> <i>403-629-8837</i>			
Day(s), time(s) and location of class:	<i>TR 9:00-11:45 ST 141</i>			
Course description:	<i>Topics related to contemporary studio and curatorial practices such as spirituality, exhibitions, digital storytelling, new media, or public art.</i> <i>History of and basic theory on the subject of video games, gaming, and games as art.</i>			
Prerequisites and/or co-requisites:	<i>N/A</i>			
Course Objectives:	<i>By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:</i> <i>1. Identify and describe key games in the early history of the industry.</i> <i>2. Discuss and apply basic video game theory.</i> <i>3. Place games in their historical context.</i>			
Required Textbooks of Readings:	<i>Replay: The History of Video Games</i> (available from Amazon's Kindle store, iBooks, and most other ebook stores). <i>Students are heavily encouraged to play one game from a list on D2L: many of the games are cheap or easily available, but certain of them will require purchase.</i> <i>Other readings will be posted on the course D2L site.</i>			
Course Schedule:		Subject	Chapters	External Reading
	May 4	Introduction / The Language of Game Studies		Introduction to Game Analysis
	May 9	Kriegspiel, Chess, and Cultural Pressures on Recreation		Wargames, Dungeons and Dragons
	May 11	Pinball, Penny Arcades, and Theme Parks		Pinball
	May 16	Early computers and video game predecessors / Spacewar!	1,4	Spacewar! The Best Waste of Time in the Universe

	May 18	The Brown Box / The Arcade	2,3,5,6,7	Pong: Avoid Missing Ball for High Score
	May 23	The Personal Computer	8, 9, 11	50 Years of Basic
	May 25	Midterm / The Crash of 1983		
	May 30	Japan / Narrative Construction	12, 13, 16, 17	The History of Dragon Quest
	Jun 1	Russia and Europe	9, 10, 16	
	Jun 6	Distribution and Media Sizes / Shareware and CD-ROMs	15, 19	Lemmings
	Jun 8	DOOM and Moral Panics	20	Masters of Doom, Moral Panics
	Jun 13	Alternate Worlds / MMOs	23, 24, 25	Virtual Worlds
	Jun 15	The Return of the Art Game / Metal Gear Solid 2	26	Killing is Harmless

Assignments & Evaluation

Assignment	Description	Due Date	Worth
<i>Test 1</i>	Test covering from Introduction to the Console	May 25th	40%
<i>Game Analysis</i>	Students will select a game from a specific list and apply standard theoretical tools to them. Specifics will be discussed in class.	June 6th	20%
Registrar Scheduled Final Exam:	<i>Test covering from the Crash of 1983 to Metal Gear Solid 2 (Material from the first half of the class will be covered, but the emphasis will be on the new material.) No notes, technological aids, or books will be permitted. Length of exam is 120 minutes</i>	TBD	40%
Assessment expectations:	<p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Tests will be given in class. The game analysis must be submitted in class in paper form.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u> Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p>		

Additional Costs and Information:	<i>Students will be expected to play a selection of video games. While most of the games involved will be provided via the provided game emulator, the Internet Archive and other JavaScript-based solutions, certain students may find it necessary to obtain these games via other methods, depending on their available hardware. As the necessity and costs involved in these other methods vary widely, total amounts for all students cannot be provided.</i>
Portfolios and Assignments:	The Dept of Art and Art History will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading.

Other Important Dates

For more information on term dates, add/drop/swap/withdraw dates from course deadlines and refund/payment deadlines, please see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Grading Method and Grading Scale

Undergraduate: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

- A grade of "C-" or below may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation, see specific faculty regulations.
- The number of "D" and "D+" grades acceptable for credit is subject to specific undergraduate faculty promotional policy.

Percentage	Grade	G.P.V.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding performance
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
80-84	B+	3.3	Exceeding good performance
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	Approaching good performance
65-69	C+	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
53-54	D+	1.3	Marginal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – Failure to meet course requirements.

Graduate: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html>

- All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

Learning Technologies and Requirements:	<p>There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (d2L.ucalgary.ca).</p> <p>To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates • A current and updated web browser • Webcam (built-in or external) • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled • Broadband internet connection
Academic Standing:	For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html
Academic Accommodation:	<p>It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations.</p> <p>Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.</p> <p>SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/</p>
Academic integrity, plagiarism:	<p>Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.</p> <p>For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html or http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity</p>
Internet and electronic communication device:	<p>The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time.</p> <p>Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Electronic-Resources-and-Information-Policy.pdf</p>
Deferral of Term work and exams	<p>For more information about deferring a final exam go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams For more information about deferral of term work go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html https://www.ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferred_termwork-feb-2020_revised.pdf</p>

Intellectual Property & Copyright:	<p>All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including presentations, textbooks, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams).</p> <p>Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</p>
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:	<p>Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.</p> <p>For more information go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy</p>
Ethics	<p>Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews, or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.</p> <p>For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html or https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb</p>
Student Support:	<p>Please visit this link for important information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellness and Mental health resources • Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points • Student Success and more.... <p>https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines</p>
Studio Procedures:	<p>Please view current updates from RISK and the Covidsafe page links to information on rapid testing, masking rules, vaccination regulations and documentation as well as a FAQs page, which must all be followed while in Studios.</p> <p>https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus</p>
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising:	<p>Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca.</p> <p>You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p>
Faculty of Graduate Studies:	<p>For graduate studies email: graduate@ucalgary.ca or call 403 220 4938.</p> <p>Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/</p>