UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY
ART 311-01: Topics in Art: History of Video Games
Spring 2021

Course Delivery Format:	Online / synchronous. (Final assignment must be printed in the IAML on the last day of class.)
Instructor: Office: Phone/Text: Email: Office Hours:	Rob Furr AB 661 403-629-8837 rsfurr@ucalgary.ca by appointment
Day(s), time(s) and location of class:	Tues/Thurs 12:00pm – 2:45pm, online
Course description:	Topics to be announced. Possible topics include art appreciation, art and everyday life, themes in art history.
Course Objectives:	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Describe key moments, creators, and works in the history of video games as an art form. 2. Identify and apply common theoretical analytical strategies to interactive works.
Required Text:	Replay: A History of Video Games, by Tristan Donovan.
Course Schedule:	May 4: Introduction and Theory (Moondust) May 6: Origins of Computers (Chess, NIM, Sublogic Flight Simulator) May 11: Pinball and Gaming Culture (Bagatelle, Baffle Ball, Bingo, Triple Action, Humpty Dumpty) May 13: Computer and "Nerd" Culture (Kriegspiel, Jane's Naval Game, OGRE, D&D, the Detection Club-style Mystery.) May 18: Academic Roots (PLATO, Colossal Cave, BASIC Computer Games, The Sumer Game, Spacewar!) May 20: Industrial Roots (Pong, Tank, Breakout, Home Pong.) May 25: The Arcade (Space Invaders, Pac-Man, Dragon's Lair, Major Havoc.) May 27: The Console (Super Mario Bros., Dragon Quest) **May 27-May 31: Test 1** June 1: The Personal Computer (Mystery House, SimCity, Civilization) June 3: Moral Panics and the Aging Market (Doom, Night Trap, Mortal Kombat) June 8: Puzzles and the Mass Market (7th Guest, Myst, Gabriel Knight, Tetris, Pokemon) June 10: Alternate Worlds (Ultima Online, EVE, World of Warcraft, Overwatch) June 15: Maturation of the Form (Bioshock, Shadow of the Colossus, Spec Ops: The Line, Metal Gear Solid 2) June 17: Overflow **June 17-19: Test 2**

Assignments & Evaluation

Assignment	Description	Due Date	Worth
Test 1	Test covering from Introduction to the Console	May 27-May 31	40%
Test 2	Test covering from the Personal Computer to Maturation of the Form *(material from the first half of the class will be involved here, but the emphasis will be on the new content.)*	June 17-June 19	40%
Test-Style Questions	Students will write one multiple-choice question that would evaluate understanding of a course concept.	Weekly on Thursday by midnight.	10%
Game Analysis	Students will select a game from a specific list and apply standard theoretical tools to them. Specifics will be discussed in class.	June 10	10%
Assessment expectations:	<u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:</u> Writing assignments will be submitted via the D2L discussion forum. Tests will be taken via the D2L system. <u>Missed or Late Assignments:</u> Missed assignments and tests cannot be made up without prior discussion with the instructor. <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.		
Additional Costs and Information:	Students will be expected to play a selection of video games. While most of the games involved will be provided via the Internet Archive and JavaScript-based solutions, certain students may be 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.		
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

Last day to drop course without financial penalty	Tuesday, May 11 2021
End of refund period	Tuesday, May 11 2021
Last day to add/swap course	Tuesday, May 11 2021
Tuition and fee payment deadline	Friday, May 14 2021
Last day to withdraw from course	Thursday, June 17 2021

Grading Method and Grading Scale

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

Learning Technologies and Requirements:	There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (d2L.ucalgary.ca). 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: • 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
Campus Mental Health Resources:	SU Wellness Centre and the Campus Mental Health Strategy Counselling and mental health support services are offered through Student Wellness Services. During COVID-19, you can access counselling services remotely via Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams and telephone. Single Session Counselling appointments are available on a bookable basis. Book an appointment online or call 403-210-9355.For access to mental health support, email sar@ucalgary.ca. If you are a student in immediate distress, please contact the centre's after-hours partners: The Distress Centre: • Call 403-266-4357, available 24/7. • Visit the Distress Centre website to access online chat from 3–10 p.m. on weekdays and 12–10 p.m. on weekends. For additional crisis support from Wood's Homes Community Support Team: • Call 403-299-9699 or 1-800-563-6106, available 24/7.

	• Text 587-315-5000 between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. • Visit Wood's Homes website for live chat between 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Academic Standing:	For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html
Academic Accommodation:	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. 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. 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/
Academic integrity, plagiarism:	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. 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
Internet and electronic communication device:	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. 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
Deferral of Term work and exams	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
Intellectual Property & Copyright:	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). 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
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy:	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. For more information go to https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-centre/privacy-policy
Ethics	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. 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
Additional Student Support:	Please visit this link for important information on UCalgary's student wellness and safety resources: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines
Arts Students' Centre Program Advising	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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate which has detailed information on common academic concerns.