

# Syllabus, ART 4384 001, Digital Visual Effects Summer II 2018

Professor: Mark Clive  
Office Number: Art Building 163  
Telephone Number: 214-597-8492  
Email Address: mclive@uta.edu  
Office Hours: MTWTH 12-1pm

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title:  
ART 4384 Digital Visual Effects - 3 hours credit.

Time and Place of Class Meetings:  
Fine Arts Building 166, MTWTH 1:00-4:50pm

## Description of Course Content:

The course is an exploration of new and emerging techniques and technologies for visual effects in film/video. Students will learn how to light and shoot green screen footage and other live effects, then how to composite them into a finished film using 2D and 3D digital tools, such as Adobe After Effects and Maya. Research skills are essential in this exploration of the genre. This syllabus and class schedule may be subject to change at any time. Students will be notified promptly about any changes.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
Students will...

- Understand the concepts of visual effects, both analog and digital, in film production.
- Understand planning, interface, and compositing in After Effects.
- Create digital visual effects, and animations in After Effects
- Be aware of real-world production problems and timelines.
- Be aware of other software packages and traditional media that are often used in developing video productions.
- Gain a broader conceptual foundation by evaluating relevant work and issues relating to artists working in the CG animation, and visual effects fields.
- Present projects for critique in a professional manor appropriate to the medium.

Evaluation Criteria and Class Goals: Does your work show:

- An approach that is visually (formally), intellectually (conceptually) and emotionally compelling. Is there something that initially draws the viewer in to want to see more?
- Originality/ creativity / innovation/ surprise/ cleverness. Does the work avoid clichés and pat expectations? Did you take a risk ...step away from your comfort zone?
- Conceptual depth, sophistication or complexity that allows a sustaining interest by the viewer. Did you develop metaphors, irony and mystery in your work while avoiding

- clichés? Does the form of the piece support the content? Is the work resolved, finished?
- A commitment that involves creative problem solving, development of technical skills on your own as well as through class, attention to detail, meeting deadlines, showing artistic integrity and effort, a willingness to learn from others including faculty and students, generosity in participation in group critiques and discussions, respect for others (electronic etiquette), attendance during class and on set, and caring for equipment.
- An awareness of the appropriate audience/ assignment/ social context of your work as relating to other artists and non-artists, those of your generation and beyond, what era you are working within, what cultural knowledge you can refer to and what will be lost on the viewer. The piece should be appropriate for experimental galleries and/or video festivals. It should be a creative response to the guidelines of the assignment.

General guidelines for filmmaking in this class: The work you make in this class may have some similarities with other moving media in our culture; it may critique that media or subvert it, but it should be similar to other visual fine arts in that its purpose is not commercial but aesthetic, it has a point of view (yours) and creative form and content, with an emphasis on appropriate visual and conceptual decisions. The goal is for the work to be compelling broadly within the artistic culture we are part of. Whatever the topic, I would encourage you to push yourself beyond what is cliché in order to make your best work.

#### Requirements:

Recommended, but not required, prerequisites for this class are Digital Design, Intro to Film, 2D Animation, 3D Animation, Drawing Fundamentals, 3D Design.

#### Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours or more per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, viewing tutorials, and completing assignments.

#### Research:

You will be required to evaluate and report on current visual effects applications and add this research to the class Blackboard page.

#### Descriptions of major assignments:

TBA

Commitment seen through class participation, attitude, work ethic, timeliness, will be filtered into each grade. Due dates will be given at the time of assignment in class. These are deadlines that you must adhere to. If dates change you will be advised. All due dates are considered to be at the beginning of class. If your work is not completed at the beginning of class it will be considered late with the following deductions in grade given:

- First deadline missed will result in one letter grade reduced for the assignment grade.
- Second deadline missed will result in one letter grade off the final grade for the semester.
- Third deadline missed will result in automatic failure of the class.

#### Technical Skills:

The student is responsible for attending all technical/equipment demonstrations and lectures. These are a mandatory part of the class. These cannot be made up if they are missed. In addition to the skills you will learn in class it is necessary for each student to have basic computer skills and to check your My Mav email and Blackboard page at least once daily and always right before class.

Computer skills should have been obtained in the ART 2304 Digital Design or in another similar class. If you are not sure if you have the necessary computer skills to complete this class

successfully please speak to the instructor. The instructor can suggest classes or workshops for you to take. Computer skills may be crucial for the successful completion of this class.

Materials and Supplies:

USB drive, pencils.

Communication and grading: Grading comes in the form of comments and letter grades. I really value talking to you in person, and I only give letter grades as a supplement to these more important tasks. Nevertheless, these can tell you how I think you are doing in relationship to my overall expectations which are based on a history of knowing what students can do, what the rest of the class might be able to do in the allotted time, and what I think you personally are capable of all in relationship to the above mentioned goals. Please do not compare your grades with others! There are many reasons for variations in grades. What is taking a risk for one person might be comfortable and predictable for someone else with more experience. Good work comes in many forms! Please take initiative in scheduling conversations with me if you don't understand something. It is your responsibility to catch up on work you have missed. Communication is key to understanding! To do the best in this class you should start work right after the assignment is given so that you can revise as needed.

Grades will use the 100% scale, but will be weighted by percentage of final grade, depending on the intensity of the project. For instance: a shorter project may be worth 5-10% of the final grade where as a longer project could be 30%. The evaluation criteria will all be taken into account for each due date, not just the final result.

- 90-100 (A range) The high end of this indicates exceptional work to which nothing can be added, on time, following the assignment and with special insight, effort, risk-taking and creativity. All of the evaluation criteria are met. Excellent participation in critique and discussions.
- 80-89 (B range) This indicates above average work, competent, safe and interesting but still lacking something or it could be innovative work without a high enough skill level. Good comments during critique and discussions.
- 70-79 (C range) This indicates average work, average effort, basic amount of skill and creative ideas. Low participation in critique and discussions. Questionable preparation.
- 65-69 (D range) The work is handed in but shows less than acceptable effort creativity and skill. Little to no participation in critique and discussions. Not prepared for class.
- Up to 65 (F range) Little effort, skill, imagination, not prepared, etc.

Due Dates: Projects are due at the beginning of the class period on the date of the progress or final critique. A project is considered late if it is not ready at that time and will receive an F until submitted. The F will then be averaged with your grade if the piece is handed in BEFORE the next scheduled critique. If you have an excused absence coming up on a critique day, the work is due before you leave. Most projects will have one or more progress critiques for which you will receive credit toward the final score. The final project is due before the last day of class, not during final's week.

Resubmission: You may improve and resubmit work and the new grade will be averaged with your initial grade. Please submit the new version within a week. Revisions that are expected for the entire class receive their own credit. This doesn't apply to the final project.

Collaboration: You all have different aptitudes and experiences, please be respectful of these in each other. Working together will improve all of your pieces. For some projects you will be the crew for another artist in the class. You are expected to help each other and to pull your part of the load. Groups will also be important at idea sessions and critiques. It is here that feedback from your peers becomes collaborative. Your voluntary participation at critiques will influence your grade.

Attendance Policy:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

All faculty members of the film/video program share the following attendance policy. Attendance is required to all scheduled classes. However we do understand that there are occasions when absence is necessary and excusable. In accordance to university policy religious holidays are excusable as is illness with a written note from a physician. The student is responsible for notifying the professor ahead of class if the absence is unavoidable. **Unexcused absences over two days, including any absence in which the professor and student do not communicate in writing about before the absence will result in the following grade reductions. Third day absent will result in reduction of one letter for the final semester grade. Fourth day absent will result in two letters off the final semester grade. Fifth day absent will result in automatic failure of the class.** The student is responsible for any work missed during an absence, including any handouts given in class and any demonstrations. It is not the responsibility of faculty to re-teach what the student has missed. Student should be aware that if a demonstration is missed they might not be allowed to utilize that equipment. Attendance is also mandatory for all critiques whether the student has completed the work required or not. Consistent lateness will also have a detrimental effect on the student's final grade. If you are more than ten minutes late you will be counted as absent. Three late appearances will count as one absence. Always check your MavMail and Blackboard Page at least an hour before class for assignments, updates and critical information.

While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

#### Mobile Phone, Email, and Social Media Use:

**All mobile devices will be turned off and stored during class at all times.** You may make calls or check messages during a break outside of the classroom. **You may not wear headphones in class unless you are editing your film.** You may not browse the Internet or check email on the lab computers except when given permission by the instructor. **Violation of any of the above will result in being marked absent for the day.**

#### Lab Use:

**There is no food or drink allowed in any of our labs at any time.** Do not remove any cables on the computers. You may plug in any drives or headphones using the cables provided. The lab is to be used for student work only; no use for professional projects is permitted. **For safety reasons, never prop open the lab door for any length of time, and never open the lab door if someone knocks on it.** Any student who has legitimate access to the lab will be able to enter using their key card. Any violation of these rules may limit or cancel your access to the lab for the semester. If you find any malfunction of the computer, report it to your instructor.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Lab Safety Training: Students registered for this course must complete all required lab safety training prior to entering the lab and undertaking any activities. Once completed, Lab Safety Training is valid for the remainder of the same academic year (i.e., Fall through Summer II) and must be completed anew in subsequent years. There are no exceptions to this University policy. Failure to complete the required training will preclude participation in any lab activities, including those for which a grade is assigned.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one [tutoring sessions](#), [Start Strong](#) Freshman tutoring program, and [Supplemental Instruction](#). Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit [www.uta.edu/utsi](http://www.uta.edu/utsi) or call 817-272-2617.

The IDEAS Center (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at [www.uta.edu/IDEAS](http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS), or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

#### Email Communication:

Due to the high volume of email our faculty and the art office receive an important message may be missed or response to your email may take time. If your email has not been responded to within two days please contact the instructor or stop by the office in person. In addition weekend email messages may not be received until the following week.

#### Student Grievance Procedures:

Contact faculty member in writing (not email) to set up a meeting. The office staff can help accommodate that communication in FAB 335.

If after the meeting the problem is not resolved, both faculty and student attend a meeting with the department chair together to resolve the issue.

If at that point the problem is not resolved it will reviewed by the Departments Grievance Committee.

All resolutions will adhere to university policies.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. Changes will be announced in class.

No children, no pets, and no unauthorized personnel are allowed in class at any time.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. For non-emergencies, contact the UTA PD at 817-272-3381.]
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------