SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Critical Game Analysis

CODE NO. :   VGA 402   **SEMESTER:**   4

PROGRAM: Video Game Art

AUTHOR: Jeremy Rayment

DATE: July, 2013   **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:**   May, 2011

APPROVED: "Colin Kirkwood"   Sept./13

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                    DEAN   **DATE**

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S):   VGA304

HOURS/WEEK: 3

Critical Game Analysis   VGA 402

I.   COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In order to analyze games, they must be played. In this course games will be played, examined, evaluated, dissected, and improved. The student will be challenged with evaluating, redesigning and artistically improving elements of games played.

II.   LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1.   Develop the ability to identify, define and critically analyze core elements of video games.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Identify and analyze key gameplay elements of video games

Describe how art style and graphics can impact the effectiveness of the core elements of video games

Demonstrate the ability to review and effectively communicate in written form the effectiveness of the implementation of core video game elements in a published video game

2.   Demonstrate the ability to focus on analysing key components of video games working collaboratively to develop written reports outlining the effectiveness of video game experiences.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Work in teams to effectively analyze the effectiveness of video game experiences

Focus and elaborate critically on key components of video game experiences

Work in teams to present the results of critical analysis to groups of peers

3.   Develop the ability to identify core elements of video games implemented poorly, with the expressed purpose of proposing and presenting changes.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Identify the key game features (unique and common) to a game that require changes

Determine the appropriate improvements required

Use industry standard tools to design and render examples of artistic changes made

4.   Demonstrate the ability to design and produce an improvement presentation package outlining in depth key artistic shortcomings and the respective suggested artistic improvements to an existing game.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Design and develop an artistic improvement package for an existing game

Critically analyze and evaluate video games deemed to be competitors to the game

Develop a revised art style for the game

Prepare a video game improvement package and present it to a group of peers

III.   TOPICS:
1.   Critically identifying and analyzing the core elements of video games.

2.   Writing and presenting critical video game analysis.

3.   Identifying problems with core video game elements.

4.   Designing solutions to identified problems with core video game elements.

5.   Package and present a video game improvement package based proposed changes.

V.   EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:
Assignments/Projects = 100% of final grade
Assignments/projects will constitute 100% of the student's final grade in this course. A missing assignment is equivalent to course objectives not achieved which results in an "F" (fail) grade for the assignment/project.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

Grade	Definition	Grade Point Equivalent
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00

CR (Credit)   Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.

S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.

VI.   SPECIAL NOTES:

Attendance:
Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM

1.   Course Outline Amendments:
      The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

2.   Retention of Course Outlines:
      It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

3.   Prior Learning Assessment:
      Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the program coordinator (or the course coordinator regarding a general education transfer request) or academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question. Please refer to the Student Academic Calendar of Events for the deadline date by which application must be made for advance standing.

      Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

      Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

4. Accessibility Services:
    If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Accessibility Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

5. Communication:
    The College considers *Desire2Learn (D2L)* as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of this Learning Management System (LMS) communication tool.

6. Plagiarism:
    Students should refer to the definition of "academic dishonesty" in *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

7. Tuition Default:
    Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of November, will be removed from placement and clinical activities due to liability issues. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.

8. Student Portal:
    The Sault College portal allows you to view all your student information in one place. **mysaultcollege** gives you personalized access to online resources seven days a week from your home or school computer. Single log-in access allows you to see your personal and financial information, timetable, grades, records of achievement, unofficial transcript, and outstanding obligations, in addition to announcements, news, academic calendar of events, class cancellations, your learning management system (LMS), and much more. Go to https://my.saultcollege.ca.