



## Foundations of Games and Playable Apps

Class Meeting: M/W 3:30 – 5:00 pm, CBA 4.326

**Instructor: Dr. Paul Toprac; email: [topcat@cs.utexas.edu](mailto:topcat@cs.utexas.edu)**

Office Hours: TH 3:30 – 5:00 (or email for an appointment)

Office: GDC 6.318



### Proctors (email for an appointment)

Nathan Ballinger - [nathanielballinger@gmail.com](mailto:nathanielballinger@gmail.com)

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### Course Overview

This course provides students with the fundamentals of digital game creation. The course focuses on two areas: (1) general principals of game design and game development, and (2) development of 2D games. Prerequisite: AET 303 and 304.

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand some of the fundamentals of 2D game design
- Execute to the agile development methodology
- Accept criticism and provide positive feedback/critiques
- Become a better team member
- Produce a 2d game in a small team

### Course Requirements

#### Textbooks, Web Materials, Software, Hardware

##### Required Textbooks:

- Learning Stencyl 3.x Game Development: Beginner's Guide by Innes Borkwood
- Secrets to Rapid Game Development by Cloudy Heaven Games

##### Recommended Books:

- For Game Dev:** Game Design: Principles, Practice, and Techniques by Thompson, Green, & Cusworth
- For Game Design:** Level Up! by Scott Rogers

*Software:* Stencyl

*Hardware:* Bringing a laptop to class is highly recommended!

### Grading and Assessment

	Points
Stencyl Game Dev	35
Game Pitch Doc	5
Game Test Reports	15
Game Release to Public	5
Game Trailer	5
Game Presentations	10
Course Reflection	5
Professionalism	<u>20</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

#### !!! Important !!!

Things may change but whatever happens, we won't have a FINAL EXAM!

## **Attendance and Assignment Grading Policy**

Attendance and participation in all classes is expected, but if you cannot make it to class, there are consequences. Being consistently late to class is not cool and it will have a negative impact on your grade. Also, assignments are due at the beginning of class and there are consequences for turning in assignments after this time.

### *Attendance Policy*

Days Absent	Consequence	Cumulative
1 - 3	Free	Free
4	-1 point	-1 point
5	-2 points	-3 points
6	-4 points	-7 points
7	-16 points	-31 points

(on the 8<sup>th</sup> absence, you automatically fail)

### *Late Work Policy*

Hours Late	Consequence	Cumulative
1	-2 points	-2 points
2	-4 points	-6 points
3	-8 points	-14 points
4	-16 points	-30 points
5	-20 points	-50 points

## **Other Course Policies**

### *Computer Policy*

Your computer is to stay closed unless otherwise indicated by the professor. Mobile phones are not to be used in class. If there is an emergency, please leave the class.

### *Professionalism*

This course is a preparation for employment in a studio. Therefore we expect you to act in class as you would in the workplace. While studios are often informal, they still require everyone to be respectful of others. Furthermore, attendance both for the class and when your team meets are critical. How your teammates view the quality and quantity of your work, as well as your team skills are important. Finally, how much work you produced, as recorded in Trello, will be considered.

## Final Grade Scale

Percent	Letter Grade	Description
94-100	A	Excellent work
90-93	A-	Nearly Excellent work
87-89	B+	Very Good work
84-86	B	Good work
80-83	B-	Nearly Good work
77-79	C+	Somewhat better than average work
74-76	C	Average work
70-73	C-	Somewhat worse than average work
60-69	D	Poor work
Less than 60	F	Failed

**Critical Dates (see UT Calendar for details)** <http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars>

### UT Policies

#### The University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

#### Scholastic Dishonesty

The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial services Web site at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>

#### Undergraduate Writing Center

The Undergraduate Writing Center, located in the FAC 211, phone 471-6222, <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/uwc/> offers individualized assistance to students who want to improve their writing skills. There is no charge, and students may come in on a drop-in or appointment basis.

#### Services For Students With Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471- 4641 TTY.

#### Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

#### University Electronic Mail Notification Policy

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. The complete text of this policy for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>. In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements.

#### Campus Safety

Regarding emergency evacuation: 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety>. Evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>. For **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**: 512-232-5050.