

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I
SPRING 2024 | DTA I
ART 318C | Unique: 20450
Meeting Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 8-11AM
Meeting Room: ART 3.202 Transmedia Lab

Instructor: Jeffrey Charles Stanley | JCS
Email: jeffreycharlesstanley@utexas.edu
Office & Hours: TBA / by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBA

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF DTA I

Study in digital video, sound, and animation, with emphasis on the exploration of movement, image, and montage. Guided inquiry into relevant conceptual, perceptual, and practical skills. Two lecture hours and four laboratory hours a week for one semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will explore 3D Digital Modeling of a "Personal Object" and an "Avatar" in a minimalist Virtual/Digital Environment in Autodesk Maya and Unity. Additionally, we will experiment with Procedural and Real-Time (movement practice) Time-Based Animations. We will complete Three (3) Projects that cohesively form a singular Cinematic Scene.

MAIN PROJECTS

P1) Object – Hard Surface Modeling and Texture

Maya – Weeks 01-04

Build an "Personal Object" using hard-surface modeling and texture techniques. Use your creative intuition and research to develop your 'ideal' object.

P2) Persona – Organic Modeling, Texturing, and Rigging

Maya and Mudbox – Weeks 05-11

Build a (Human or Anthropomorphized) Figure using organic modeling and texture techniques in Autodesk Maya. (Step-by-Step) Transforming Primitive Geometry into a more complex Organic Figure. Use your creative intuition and research to develop this 'Persona' / 'Avatar.' Texture techniques for the figure will cover Maya Hypershader and Autodesk Mudbox. Rigging of the Figure will take place before moving to Project 3.

P3) Cinematic Scene – Real-Time Animation and Environment

Unity and Rokoko – Weeks 12-16

Populate Scene with Object, Persona, and additional virtual ecological objects to form a minimalist environment that Aesthetically and Conceptually links = Object + Persona + Scene. We will shift to using Unity, an open-source Game Engine.

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

SUPPORTING PROJECT OBJECTIVES

aka Mini-Objectives (Tentative)

M-0-1) Artist Flag – Design a Flag – Illustrator & Maya – Week 3-4

M-0-2) Add Ecology – Photo-Capture – RealityScan/KiriEngine – Weeks 10-14

M-0-3) Add Ecology – Found Objects – Resources Provided – Weeks 10-14

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & PARTICIPATION

You are responsible for your research and bringing your creative intuition (come as you are – and that's great). Your values, principles, and philosophies can (and/) should be actively practiced within the framework of the projects / assignments. Practice freedom of expression, do not self censor your work, and I will not enforce any censorship. Complete the research during and between classes. You are responsible for meeting the course deadlines and managing your time. See attendance for your responsibilities regarding staying at the pace of the course, etc.

Please be respectful of other student's work as we will cultivate a safe and inclusive environment. We will critique and provide feedback for the class – so please engage professionally and constructively in the participation of these discussions. Your participation is valued. Feel free to discuss, invent, cohort, and collaborate within the frameworks presented in class in addition to the experience, knowledge and ideas you bring to the table.

Blogs and other technological resources are available for those who are introverted.

PREREQUISITES

Prerequisite: [Studio Art 311C](#), [312C](#), [313C](#), and [314C](#) with a grade of at least C in each (or two of the following three courses with a grade of at least C in each: [Studio Art 301C](#), [302C](#), [303C](#)).

INSTRUCTOR PREPARED | AVAILABILITY

Tutorials, Lectures, and Individual Mentoring will be distributed as evenly as possible across our valuable time together. Tutorials will be provided in Autodesk Maya, Mudbox, and Rokoko Motion Capture. I will present philosophy, culture, history, politics, ethics, and social issues as related to the project objectives, and the questions that arise from our working together through the problems presented.

I am available during class – we will utilize all of our time together. My office hours are by appointment only for now. I will provide designated times and my office location.

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

COMMUNICATION & COURSE MATERIALS

Email will be our official mode of communication for this course. Canvas will be secondary in supporting you with class materials. Hyperlinks with additional resources and supported class materials will be presented via both email and Canvas. This will include Indeed Learning / Lydia Tutorials, Reading Materials, References, Detailed Project Descriptions, Research, Templates, and Schedules. Having said that: We are a Traditional Face-to-Face class in a digital world - in-person is very valuable for the studio art practice and mentorship I provide.

I would suggest a sketchbook to record your process, ideation, and visions on paper. You should also have this sketchbook ready to record feedback during critiques, one-on-one conferences, and lecture & tutorial topics of interest. If you prefer digital note taking, you may use the workstations or your personal laptop / tablet, but these devices will not be on during critique (I would suggest some analog paper during critiques).

Keep your phone off / silent and put away during class. Be active in listening and engaging with the course material. When you are on a computer or your personal laptop, minimize distractions, please. We will engage in active learning, use critical thinking, and pursue creativity.

SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Course Schedule will be provided independently via Box and Canvas. All contents, including: assignments, meeting location, and course schedule are subject to change. See future emails and Canvas for any changes and updates. In any event that you are unable to attend class, you are responsible for learning about any changes to course contents and staying at the pace of the course either by contacting me, the course TA, or engaging with classmates. We are a traditional face-to-face class, and even if our work for the class is digital, that traditional face-time is very valuable in a Studio Art Discipline.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY

ATTENDANCE

"Class attendance is a requirement, and use of the full class period is expected. You will be allowed three sick, personal, physical, or mental health days without grading consequences. It is up to your discretion how you use these three days. Being late to class three (3) times or leaving class early three (3) times will count as an absence. Fifteen minutes late to the start of class will constitute a tardy. Leaving class before being dismissed by your professor will constitute an early departure. A 4th absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. Absences, tardiness, and/or early departures beyond this could result in course failure. If a serious medical or personal situation affects Attendance, please discuss it with your professor."

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

ATTENDANCE CONTINUED

"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. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence."

You may utilize three (3) class absences. Any additional time will effect your grade (in addition to 3 lates rule - see above). Our time is short and valuable. I value your presence and participation. It is mandatory for you to communicate with your instructor and TA when you will be absent. Your peers are counting on you. Additionally, you are responsible for compensating for lost time.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- Sketchbook
- USB 3.0 External Drive / ThumbStick / OR SD Card
(high write and read speeds required)
- iPhone or Android Smartphone (Free Apps for Photo Capture)

GRADES

A/A- = Excellent	90-100%
B+/B/B- = Very Good	80-89%
C+/C/C- = Average	70-79%
D+/D/D- = Below Average	60-69%
F = Failure	0-50%

Our grading is subjective, meaning each individual's educational level will be considered as her unique reference. Each student hopes to develop conceptual and technical skills at and above their existing level. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE), Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).

We offer the following grading system:

- 40% for effort and productivity, and 60% for effective aesthetic results
- Missed critique day will subtract 30% of the total course grade; we expect you to show up even if your project is not on time
- The 3rd project might count for 40% of the grade if it is compellingly superior
- The TA will take class attendance at every class.

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

Land Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas. For resources and calls to action, visit this site. Resource for Native Land: <https://native-land.ca/>

Names and Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, unless they have added a chosen name with the registrar's office. If you have not yet done so, I will gladly honor your request to address you with the name and pronouns that you prefer for me to use for you. It is helpful to advise me of any changes or needs regarding your name and pronouns early in the semester so that I may make appropriate updates to my records and be informed about how to support you in this class.

For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit this site. If you would like to update your chosen name with the registrar's office, you can do so here, and reference this guide.

For additional guidelines prepared by the Gender and Sexuality Center for changing your name on various campus systems, see the Resources page under UT Resources here.

TRANSMEDIA LAB RULES

You need to follow other safety and academic equipment policies and guidelines. Lab set of rules are posted in the Transmedia Lab and Studio rooms.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. The unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty.

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

TITLE IX & MANDATORY REPORTING

As an employee / instructor at UT, I am a Mandatory Reporter. Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

If you would like to speak with a case manager, who can provide support, resources, or academic accommodations, in the Title IX Office, please email: supportandresources@austin.utexas.edu. Case managers can also provide support, resources, and accommodations for pregnant, nursing, and parenting students.

For more information about reporting options and resources, please visit: <https://titleix.utexas.edu>, contact the Title IX Office via email at: titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Campus Safety

The following are recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Emergency Management, 512-232-2114

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity

According to the General Information catalog, "the value of a university degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by each student for that degree, a student should maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work."

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. 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. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

TRANSMEDIA: DIGITAL TIME ART I

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

The Office of the Dean of Students provides information for students and faculty about academic dishonesty.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Counseling and Mental Health Center

<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html>

Keep Learning Resources:

<https://onestop.utexas.edu/keep-learning/>

The Sanger Learning Center

<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

COVID-19 Update:

“Keep Learning” Resources This course may be offered in a format to which you are unaccustomed. If you are looking for ideas and strategies to help you feel more comfortable participating in our class, please explore the resources available here: <https://onestop.utexas.edu/keep-learning/>