

THR 890 – INDEPENDENT STUDY: 3DS MAX

COURSE SYLLABUS

SAMPLE

TH F 9:00AM – 9:50AM

CLASSES HELD IN: 404F AUD

KIRK DOMER

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OFFICE HRS: By Appointment

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Targeted exploration of 3ds Max for theatrical designers focusing on scenery, lighting and *some* media.

GOALS:

This course is a skills-based course in 3ds Max. This is *not* a design class. Assessment will be based on design communication as it relates to creating digital environments using the designs of others.

- 1) Develop an understanding of 3ds Max especially as it relates to creating digital environments.
- 2) Explore digital presentation styles especially as they relate to design collaboration.
- 3) Improve communication skills especially as they relate to digital presentation.
- 4) Cultivate critical assessment skills especially as they relate to the evaluation of your own work.

REQUIREMENTS:

You will be required to complete specific projects in individually distinct areas.

Each phase of a project's process will be discussed and critiqued in class – in fact will, on presentation days, be the class content. Your participation in these discussions is very important, and will be part of each project's grade. In other words, your attendance and participation is required at all class sessions.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Attendance is **Mandatory** and will be taken at each session. Being present and receptive to the information, discussions, and critiques presented during class sessions is essential to the successful completion of the course. More than one (2) absences will result in the lowering of your semester's grade by .25 of a grade point. *Each additional unexcused absence will lower your semester grade by .25 of a grade point.*
- University sanctioned activities and religious holidays are understood with appropriate documentation prior to the event. If documentation concerning an absence due to an unforeseen life circumstance is provided, the instructor will take it into consideration. However, there will be no distinction made between excused and unexcused absences.
- Late arrivals will be noted and every three (3) late markings will equal one absence. Please be courteous to your instructor and fellow students by arriving on time.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments and Due Dates
1	9/1	Introduction; Discussion of Syllabus and Course Expectations: Customize Workspace	
	9/2	Process: Create: Geometry: Standard and Extended Primitives, Selection & Orbit	
2	9/8	Process: Create: Shapes & Modify	
	9/9	Process: Cloning and Rendering	Assignment: M.C. Escher "Metamorphose" for 1 st Graders (Student Creation). Due 9/22
3	9/15	NO CLASS (Design Area Meeting) – Independent Work	
	9/16	Process: Geometry: Compound Objects & Grouping	
4	9/22	Process: Geometry: Compound Objects/Snaps; Hide/Freeze: "Metamorphose" Presentations	
	9/23	NO CLASS (LEAD Meeting) – Independent Work	

5	9/29	NO CLASS (Design Area Meeting) – Independent Work	
	9/30	Process: Materials/Mapping XYZ vs. UVW	Assignment: Art Deco Design (Assigned by Instructor). Due 10/13
6	10/6	Process: Materials/Mapping XYZ vs. UVW	
	10/7	Art Deco Work Session	
7	10/13	Art Deco Presentations	
	10/14	Process: Importing DWG, 3DS and Merging	Assignment: Kirk Domer Design (Assigned by Instructor). Due 11/3
8	10/20	Process: Create: Lighting & Modify	
	10/21	Process: Create: Camera, Hierarchy, Object Properties & Transparency	
9	10/27	NO CLASS (Design Area Meeting) – Independent Work	
	10/28	Kirk Domer Design Work Session	
10	11/3	Kirk Domer Design Presentations	
	11/4	TBA: Challenges: Student Identified and/or Organics	Assignment: Master Works Recreation (Assigned by Instructor in conjunction w/ student). Due: 12/8
11	11/10	TBA: Challenges: Student Identified and/or Curtains	
	11/11	TBA: Challenges: Student Identified and/or Whatev	
12	11/17	NO CLASS (Iqbal Khan Residency) – Independent Work	
	11/18	Basic Animation	
13	11/22	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING
	11/24	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING
14	12/1	NO CLASS (Design Area Meeting) – Independent Work	
	12/2	Basic Animation	
15	12/8	Portfolio Work Session	
	12/9	Master Works Recreation Presentation and 3ds Max Portfolio Submission Course Evaluations	EXAM: None

BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:

- Each assignment grade is evaluated on three criteria: “application of course materials”, “quality of work”, and “completion of work.” Feel free to inquire about your grade standing at anytime.
- For all **FINAL DUE DATES**... Late work will devalue your assignment grade by 25% if one class period late and an additional 25% for each additional class. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

% BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:

- M.C. Escher “Metamorphose” for 1st Graders – 10%
- Art Deco Project – 15%
- Kirk Domer Design Project – 20%
- Master Works Recreation – 25%
- Final Portfolio – 30%

GRADING SCALE:

- | | | | | | |
|------------|---|-----|-----------|---|-----|
| • 93%-100% | = | 4.0 | • 73%-77% | = | 2.0 |
| • 88%-92% | = | 3.5 | • 68%-72% | = | 1.5 |
| • 83%-87% | = | 3.0 | • 60%-67% | = | 1.0 |
| • 78%-82% | = | 2.5 | • 0%-59% | = | 0.0 |

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

1. **Academic Honesty:** Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, **The Department of Theatre** adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide](#) and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this **THR 890 – Independent Study**. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage.)

2. **Limits to confidentiality.** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

3. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** (from the *Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)*): Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.
4. **Drops and Adds:** The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is **9/26/16**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **10/19/16**. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.
5. **Commercialized Lecture Notes:** Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.
6. **Internet:** Some professional journals will not consider a submission for publication if the article has appeared on the Internet. Please notify your instructor in writing if you do not want your course papers posted to the course Web site.
7. **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the [SRR](#) states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](#) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.
8. **Attendance:** Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.