NEW MEDIA: AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY - 3D TECHNIQUES

New Media: 3D Techniques/ AR / VR
Monday 11:00 AM - 1:50 PM in ART 356
Spring 2026
Course Number: ASTU 3705
Office Hours: **Via Zoom, by appointment**
Office Hours: Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 AM by Appointment – please make an appointment and I will send you a zoom link – my office hours are subject to change at instructor discretion
Professor Ruth West, PhD
Email: ruth.west@unt.edu

All course syllabus content, including but not limited to schedule, assignments, materials, requirements and evaluation are subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion at any time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and critiques students will gain knowledge of 3D modeling software, game engines, and how to create meaningful interactions in a virtual space. Software covered in this class will include an introduction to Maya 2025 and other software such as game engines. Assignments and instruction will cover a wide range of approaches to 3D modeling, and how to create viewer engagement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Students will experiment with 3D modeling to design a new artwork in virtual space
- Students will participate in open discussion and critiques to further their artistic process
- Students will explore different forms of narrative in 3D space

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

Take advantage of this time to invest yourself and the issues that really move you. Make full use of this opportunity to expand and reflect upon your work. This class is first and foremost about your sustained development as an artist. It is necessary that you take yourself and your work seriously, or else no one else will. You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning for all.

The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu.

You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is an advanced studio art class that requires work outside of class time in addition to the time in class. Throughout the semester you will experiment with different digital tools. These tools are complex and take years to master. On average, students should anticipate spending two to three hours working outside of class for each scheduled class hour, for an average of approximately 9 hours per week (or more) of time outside of class working on their own. This course is structured as a "flipped classroom" where students complete tutorials and exercises outside of class in addition to work in class. Class time is split between lectures, workshops and independent studio time. **All projects are designed to be implemented in different ways** so **if a student feels more advanced they can pursue a project that is more ambitious** while also considering the time-commitment that will required to complete the project. You will be expected to plan ahead and work both outside of and during class time to submit your assignments on time. There will also be a number of small groups and one on one meetings either in person or virtual.

COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT

The course will meet **synchronously, on campus**. In the event that remote course delivery is required, we will meet (online, via the internet) via zoom.

In the event of remote course delivery, students will need access to a **computer connected to the internet** including a **web cam** and **microphone** in combination with **Zoom** and **Canvas** in order to participate fully in remote portions of the course. In the event of remote instruction, we will keep **web cams on during the entire course meeting time.**

- Access the specific Zoom link for the course sessions in the CANVAS site via the "Zoom" link in the navigation menu.

It is the student's responsibility to regularly check the CANVAS course announcements and monitor their UNT email for course instructions and updates.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students are expected to be in the classroom or physical classroom at the beginning of each class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Attendance will be recorded at the start of class. If you miss attendance it is your responsibility to check in with the instructor.
- After the first week, greater than two (2) unexcused absences will lower your final grade one letter grade per subsequent absence.
- After 6 unexcused absences you will receive an F and should consider dropping the course
- **Excused absences must comply with a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.**
- For an absence to be excused, you will need to provide documentation, such as a doctors note and documentation from the Dean of Students office.
- Departure from a class session prior to the end of the regularly scheduled class time is considered an absence.
- You are responsible for notifying the instructor of an absence within 24 hours of the absence. Do not call the department of college office to leave the instructor a message that you are missing class. Notification via email is preferred.
- **If you are absent you are responsible for contacting a class member in order to get any information or assignments that were given in class. The instructor will not use any class time to repeat missed lectures or assignments. The instructor will not email missed course information or assignments to students who have missed class.**
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be recorded or repeated for those who come in late.

- A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class.
- If you are late to class, you will need to notify the instructor at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an absence.

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of your health and the health and safety of everyone in our community.

An alternate delivery method, such as zoom may be available with instructor permission in the event a student has a health concern/issue. Email the instructor at ruth.west@unt.edu to request the possibility of alternate delivery at a minimum 4 hours in advance of the regularly scheduled class time. This is not guaranteed and the instructor reserves the right to determine if this can be facilitated in the context of the course on a case-by-case basis.

CLASS RECORDINGS
Synchronous (live) and asynchronous sessions in this course will **NOT be recorded**.
Class recordings by students or others are NOT permitted without express written approval of the instructor. Class materials and or/any recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

CRITIQUES AND DISCUSSIONS
We will have multiple opportunities for open discussions and critiques. Being able to have open discussion and critique is an essential skill for all artists. Discussions are an essential part of developing your abilities as an artist. You will not only be graded for your own contributions, but also on how well you engage with your peers in class as an active listener. It is imperative that your work is ready to present in class on your assigned critique day for each assignment.

COMMUNICATION & COURSE UPDATES
Student communication and course updates will be conducted through the UNT CANVAS course management system and/or UNT email. You are responsible for monitoring your UNT e-mail and the course CANVAS pages for communication and updates. If an email or course update has been sent out, it is assumed you have received it and are responsible for any specified course requirements therein.

In the event of weather events, the University will send out emergency notifications. See the UNT Emergency Notifications section (below).

If weather presents unsafe driving or other conditions, the instructor may offer the course via ZOOM. Students are expected to monitor their UNT email and Course Canvas Announcements for any updates regarding the course delivery mode for a given date or other course notifications.

Email: When contacting the instructor please use UNT email or the CANVAS messaging system. Emails and Canvas messages must i**nclude a header that reflects the subject** of the email, in addition to the body of the email. My email is: ruth.west@unt.edu I will answer emails in the order in which I receive them, as soon as possible, and within three business days (M-F). My email hours are 10 AM – 5 PM. I will not be available to reply to emails during weekends. I will not reply to emails from those who were absent and would like information on what was missed in class. Please see the attendance section for how to obtain information if you missed class.

OFFICE HOURS
I request that students schedule an appointment in advance to meet during office hours. You can make an appointment by speaking with me during a class session, or via email.

RESERVATIONS

Booked Scheduler (for reserving time in CAVE or Lighting Studio)https://booked.cvad.unt.edu/Web/

CAVE and Classroom open hours (when a class is not using the space)

- M-TH: 9a-8p
- F: 9a -4p
- Sat: 12p-5p
- Sun: 12p-6p

New Media Equipment List

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SP5e1RYOkUBUXwyFJTp12w0qvs7wOo5FsKW0AfJLLvw/edit?usp=sharing

REQUIRED MATERIALS/SOFTWARE
Software
·   Maya 2026 (access free version using information in Module 1 of course Canvas)
·   Adobe Creative Cloud
·   Unity 3D (current version - second half of the course)
·   Additional software and materials as needed for projects throughout the course

·   Students will need to purchase an **individual license for Adobe Creative Suite** software to work remotely on personal computers, as well as any other software they select for individual projects.

·   Please see information at https://cvad.unt.edu/cvad-it-services/ and also this link for how to purchase Adobe Creative Cloud/Suite for education: https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/education.html

·   Additional software as per individual student project requirements

·   Materials and supplies as needed and determined by each student's projects, including additional software as determined by individual project needs.

Materials/supplies

·   External hard drive – 250 GB or larger

Note: do not use a USB stick, use an actual external hard drive that can connect to the classroom computers and your personal computer. The drive should have at least 50% of the drive space free/available for you to work in.)

·   Headphones (for listening to music or tutorials while in class studio time)

·   Notebook/journal

·   Other materials as needed per individual student projects

·   Digital camera: A digital camera with still and video capture capabilities and audio recording in order to create original content for digital artworks. **A smartphone camera is acceptable for this. Cameras are also available for check out from CVAD IT equipment check out or at the Willis Library.**

Technical/computing Resources

·   Computer capable of running Maya 2026 and the current version of Unity 3D and accessing the internet, capable of running Zoom and a web browser capable of running Canvas

·   A **THREE BUTTON MOUSE**. Without a three button mouse you cannot complete the work for this course and the instructor will not be able to assist you. You cannot complete the work using a trackpad or two button mouse.

-        BACK UP your work. Make sure to continuously back up your work for this course throughout the semester.

DO NOT SAVE WORK ON CLASSROOM OR LAB COMPUTERS

Classroom computers are erased at the end of each day. Students should not save any work to classroom computers. Students will need to have an external hard drive in order to work on their projects on the computers in the classroom and in the computer labs, as well as back up and transporting their work. Students will have access to the computers in the CVAD classroom and computer labs, but **should NOT** save anything to those computers because their work will be erased and the student work will be lost.

REQUIRED READINGS

All texts will either be found on the web or provided by me electronically.

COMPUTER SKILLS & DIGITAL LITERACY
Students are expected to be proficient in basic technical skills in order to succeed in the course, including but not limited to:

· Using CANVAS and the CANVAS mobile application including, but not limited to functions such as:

  o Embedding images in discussion posts

  o Attaching files to discussion posts or assignment uploads

  o Accessing, navigating and viewing course content, assignments, calendar

· Using email with attachments

· Downloading and installing software

· Utilizing an external hard drive with your computer

· Backing up your work to an external hard drive

· Formatting drives for use with CVAD computers and your personal computer

· Safe computing practices, including use of Antivirus software

· Using Zoom, including settings for video and audio

· Configuring and maintaining your personal computer

· Using presentation programs (e.g. Powerpoint or Keynote)

· Using word processing programs (e.g. Microsoft office suite)

· Utilizing a web browser

· Utilizing a web cam

· Utilizing a computer microphone and speakers

· Using any computer peripherals you have for your computer

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Computer Help Desk: CANVAS, Zoom and Computing
Part of working in the online environment, and with any digital media or technologies, involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. **Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with CANVAS, ZOOM, your computer or other technology issues.**
For help with CANVAS, Zoom, or other computing issues related to work for our course, please contact the UNT Student IT help desk.
HELP IS AVAILABLE at: https://online.unt.edu/gethelp
Extended hours are available and updated at this link.
Contact UIT Helpdesk for assistance:

- **Web:** https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk
- **Phone:** 940-565-2324
- **Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu
- **Hours (subject to change):**
  - Sunday: 12 p.m. – 10 p.m.
  - Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
  - Friday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
  - Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

COMPUTER ISSUES: Occasionally problems arise – files can be accidentally erased, disks can get corrupted, networks crash and printers or other digital devices break down. This is a

technically-oriented course. Loss of work due to technical malfunction of your computer or software issues or lack of back ups does not qualify as a reason for a due date extension for course assignments.

BACK UP YOUR WORK: Be prepared. Back up all your files on an external drive or other storage devices. Do not save work on CVAD classroom or lab computers as files are erased regularly.

SAVE WORK INCREMENTALLY by VERSIONING: Save your work often and save it incrementally, creating multiple versions as you progress work on your projects. Do not rely upon "undo" functionality in the software to revert to prior versions. Indicate the version number in the file name. For example: myProject v1, myProject v2 etc. Or include the date and time in the project file name. For example: myProject 10-02-20 8PM, myProject 10-02-20 10PM etc.

FILE NAMING: Include your name and the project name in your file name when you submit them for grading. For example: "jane smith project 1". **Do not use slashes, periods or other punctuation or special symbols in file names** as these symbols can cause problems with files not being readable or being corrupted by the operating system. There should **only be one period (.) in the file name to separate the file name from the file extension**. The file extension indicates which program can read the file. For example: myEssay.doc where the .doc is the file extension indicating this file can be opened/read/edited by MS Word. Another example: myImage.psd, where the .psd file extension indicates the file can be opened and edited by Photoshop.

FILES FOR FAB LAB /COMPUTER LABS: Prepare your files in advance for use of any CVAD computer lab, Fab Lab or other digital output device you are using for completing your projects. Complete the respective safety training prior to utilizing fab lab equipment.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: For assistance with CANVAS, Zoom and other computing related issues, please contact the UNT Student Helpdesk (see above). **Please note: The instructor cannot troubleshoot or configure a student's computer, computing peripherals or software. Please contact the UIT Helpdesk for assistance.**

PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
There are three types of assignments in this course:

Technical Exercises: combine information from in class workshops and online tutorials

Online tutorials: complement in class workshops (we can't cover everything in class and these serve as a comprehensive reference)

Project prompts: modify for your interests, skill level and academic/professional objectives

Instructions for assignments and due dates will be provided in the course canvas.

GRADING AND LATE WORK POLICY

Assignments	Percent (%) of Grade
Technical Exercises	40
Projects	40
Online Tutorials	20
Total	100

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc.) and at end of term.
A = Excellent (100-90%)
B = Above Average (89-80%)
C = Average (79-70%)
D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]
F = Failure (59% or below)

NOTE: Grades are NOT rounded up. The corresponding letter grade applies as per UNT designated percentages as in the above set of letter grades and percentages.

LATE WORK POLICY
Late work is not accepted in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence as per UNT policy 06.039 https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039Links to an external site. and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor in a timely manner within this timeframe. Computer issues, or technical difficulties, including access to CANVAS are not mitigating circumstances to excuse late work penalties. It is important to keep backup copies of work in progress, maintain your computer and any peripherals in working order, and submit projects before/by the due date.

Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you are experiencing any circumstances affecting your ability to submit the work for this course on time so the instructor can be of assistance.

GRADE DISPUTE POLICY
You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting the instructor to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

COURSE SCHEDULE

All course syllabus content, including but not limited to schedule, assignments, materials, requirements and evaluation are subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion at any time.

MODULE 1	
	· Course structure overview · Preparing for next week: getting software installed and tools · Introduce/present: Portfolio Project
MODULE 2	
	· Polygonal modeling concepts Introduce: Tutorial
MODULE 3	
	· Polygonal modeling concepts (continued) Introduce: Technical Exercise 1
MODULE 4	
	· Polygonal modeling concepts (continued)
MODULE 5	
	· Polygonal modeling concepts (continued) Rendering Introduce: Technical Exercise 2
MODULE 6	
	· Polygonal modeling concepts (continued) Rendering Introduce: Places Project - part 1
MODULE 7	
	· Introduce: Technical Exercise 3 · Introduce: Tutorial 2
MODULE 8	

	Introduce: Technical Exercise 4
MODULE 9 – SPRING BREAK	
	Spring Break There is no class this week
MODULE 10	
	Present Technical Exercise 4 Introduce: Places Project - part 2
MODULE 11	
	Continue: Places Project
MODULE 12	
	Present: Places part 1 and 2 Introduce: Places Project - Part 3
MODULE 13	
	· Introduce: Tutorial 3
MODULE 14	
	Continue: Places Project part 3
MODULE 15 – BREAK – No Class	
	· Continue: Places Project part 3
MODULE 16	
	· **Present: Places Project**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may

result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.

In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas' Office of Risk Management.   Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY / STUDIO RULES

· Always be respectful of University Property, New Media technology and facilities, your colleagues, and the work of your peers.
· If ever you feel you may need assistance moving, lifting, hanging, drilling, cutting, etc., ask someone for help before attempting the action by yourself. If you don't know how to use something, ask. Part of a successful art making community is a willingness to assist fellow artists.
· Practice common sense and always be aware of your surroundings. Even if you are not working with something dangerous, someone around you may be.

- Wear appropriate safety equipment and clothing if you are using or around power tools, heavy objects, chemicals, dust, fumes, etc. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry when using power tools. Closed toe shoes should be worn during construction and installation of work. Wear a respirator if you are working with any noxious fumes (smoke, spray paint, resin, etc.)
- Paint, chemicals, dyes, and oil must be disposed of by UNT Risk Management Services. Do not pour any of these items onto the ground or down a drain.
- No food or drink around or near New Media studio or classroom computers. Spills may damage computer hardware and greasy keyboards and mice are gross. Always clean up after yourself before leaving the studio or classroom.
- If multiple people are using an item that comes in close contact to the body (VR headset, microphone, mask, etc.), take proper precautions to minimize the transfer of contagions. Utilize disinfecting wipes, disposable face masks, etc. to help keep yourself and your peers healthy.
- Be diligent in protecting your privacy and data. Log out of email and social media accounts when you long in on shared computers. If you notice a colleague forgot to log out of an acct, log out for them. Make sure to back up all of your project data. If you use shared data storage device (SD card, Camera's internal HD, Flash Drive, etc.) delete your data off the device before returning it.
- If you check out New Media equipment, technology, or media, you alone are responsible for the care and safe return of that item. If the item is damaged, lost, or stolen, you will be held financially or academically liable for the repair or replacement.

COURSE SAFETY PROCEDURES

Students enrolled in ASTU 3705 are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities.

All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the

UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES
UNT Emergency Guide: https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & ASSAULT
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.
UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0.
UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.