CSC 233 – Scripting for Animators
M/W 5-7:20PM D227

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:
Alex Jerez
email: ajerez@parkland.edu
Office: B131
Office Hrs: M W 3-5 and T Th 4:30 -5

COURSE INFORMATION:
Scripting and programming fundamentals for 3D content and effects creation for digital media applications including gaming, film, and interactive applications. Procedural methods for 3D modeling, animation, shading, and visual effects using 3D animation scripting languages. Prerequisites: CSC 179 and CSC 187.

TEXTBOOK:
required - Course class notes.
required - MEL Scripting for Maya Animators Wilkins, Mark R. and Charles Kazmier

WEBPAGE:
Information regarding the class including instructor, syllabus, schedules, and homework information can be accessed from the class web page by either following the CSC 233 link from the instructor's home page at: http://www.csit.parkland.edu/~ajerez
or directly at http://www.csit.parkland.edu/~ajerez/Classes/CSC233/.

We will also be using Parkland’s online system Angel for grade reporting and lab submissions.

FORMAT:
Class time will be comprised of lectures and labs. It is expected that additional time outside of class will be spent on assignments, projects and preparation. Preparation should consist of reading assigned materials and the web notes before attending class along with any necessary reviewing of previously covered material. Please let the instructor know if you have any difficulties in accessing the web materials.

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE:
One of Parkland’s Core Values is Multiculturalism and with it we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity in our community. As a second language speaker, I understand some of the barriers and problems that may arise while trying to communicate certain ideas. If this is an issue for the student during the semester, I encourage the student to respectfully request the information to be repeated or rephrased. By no means will I take this as an insult, but instead as an incentive to make my classes clear.
for everyone. Cultural differences can be taunting to some people, but I encourage everyone to see it as
an opportunity to learn about other cultures and ways of living.

**GRADING:**
Course work will consist of class labs, programming assignments, and exams (midterm and final exam). The final grade will also reflect the student’s class attendance and participation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripting Projects</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (Midterm and Final)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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90 - 100% will receive A
80 - 89% will receive B
70 - 79% will receive C
60 - 69% will receive D
0 - 59% will receive F

The instructor reserves the right to lower these criterion, but will never raise them.

**CLASS LABS AND SCRIPTING PROJECTS:**
The goal of these assignments is to allow students to apply and implement programming principles while developing animation tools. These assignments would range from simple programs that can be developed during the class period or more elaborate programs that will required the student to work on his/her own. **Students will not be allowed to submit scripts for grading after due date.** However, the student is encouraged to finish the scripts in order to understand the concepts taught by particular assignments. Scripts should be submitted at any stage of development. Partial credit will be given depending on how much progress the student has made on the current script. Scripts not submitted or with minimum work will receive F (0 pts).

Students will be allowed to drop one lab whether the lowest ones or one given the day the student was absent. Students have the option of continuing to work on and fix any problems with the scripting projects. They can be resubmitted the day of the final for regrading. Each assignment can get a full letter grade update if enough changes/improvements are shown (re-worked project grades will never drop in grade). **All re-worked stages should be well documented in the final script.**

**IMPORTANT:** Scripting Projects will be submitted via Angel Dropbox and through graphics share.

**MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMS:**
A midterm and a comprehensive final, both written, will be given to test the student's understanding of course material. A large portion of tested material will only be covered during lecture, hence attendance to lecture is crucial. If a student anticipates missing an exam, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor beforehand and arrange a time for a make-up exam. Otherwise, a missed exam will result in zero points. Missing any of the exams without a valid excuse will result in an F grade (0pts).
ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to be present for all class sessions - for the entire period. (Attendance counts for 5% of your grade) Peer learning and interaction is highly encouraged. It is expected that all students participate in the learning environment. For this reason, attendance is mandatory. A student’s final grade will be lowered by one full letter grade after three unexcused absences. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of each period. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor when they may not be in attendance. The attendance policy in this course is in keeping with the policy stated in the Parkland College Catalog. It says: "Regular and prompt attendance is expected at all classes," expect in cases involving illness or emergency which should be brought to the attention of the instructor. "Regular attendance and consistent study habits are considered necessary for academic success in college. Faculty members have prerogative of lowering grades for excessive absence."

Please be careful of the language you use in your emails and during class. The anonymity of the internet and the easy-going stereotype of this field might give the wrong impression to some people that they can say whatever they want. Yes, you are entitled to present your ideas and opinions in a respectful way, but we are also entitled to request that you leave the class room if I you don’t. We expect everybody to behave professionally and to have smart discussions about their projects and their ideas. Any behavior that disrupts the class or that offends instructors, classmates, and other students that also use the lab will not be tolerated.

Finally, the student should remember that the person in charge of his/her academic success is the student himself/herself. If you would rather play videogames, text message, use Facebook, chat, or simply use the web while the instructor is lecturing please leave the classroom and do it at home. You are enrolled in a higher educational institution and nobody is forcing you to attend classes.

DROPS/WITHDRAWALS
On the ten-day roster, I am required to assess your attendance. If you have not attended regularly to that point, you will be dropped with no refund of tuition or fees. After the ten-day roster, you should not plan on an instructor withdrawal if you want to withdraw from the course. You are ultimately responsible for your own withdrawal by the withdrawal date. Non-attendance after the ten-day roster will result in an F if you don’t withdraw yourself.

CORE VALUES
We believe strongly in the Core Values espoused by Parkland College: Honesty and Integrity, Fairness and Just Treatment, Responsibility, Multiculturalism, Education, and Public Trust. Essentially, these values set guidelines for how we should treat you and how you should treat each other (and us). Failure to be respectful of one another or to maintain ethical behavior will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC ACADEMIC HONESTY
Unethical conduct during examinations of in preparation of assignments designated by the instructor will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action. All material handed in with your name on it is to be your work. If it is not you will fail that assignment and will be faced with disciplinary action.
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEBSITE:
You can find information about the Computer Science and Information Technology Department courses and programs by visiting our website: [http://www.parkland.edu/csit](http://www.parkland.edu/csit)

COLLEGE ORIENTATION
Orientation to College (PSY 109) is a class that anyone can benefit from taking - it covers goal-setting, career development, study strategies, library skills, time management and many other useful skills. Most sections begin the second or third week of the semester and at mid-semester.

STUDENT E-MAIL
Students should access their Parkland e-mail accounts at [http://stu.parkland.edu/](http://stu.parkland.edu/) at least weekly to obtain information about courses or college announcements. Students can go to the information desk or call 217-351-2561 for help with their student e-mail accounts. There is someone available at this number to answer questions from 2-4pm M, T, W, F. Please use the Parkland email to contact the instructor. Gmail, hotmail, and any other email domains might be filtered by the anti-spam program used by Parkland. Contact the instructor using your @stu.parkland.edu account and also read emails from there. Angel is used by the instructor to communicate with the students and you can set up Angel to forward emails to any other account you want to.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE
It is the student’s responsibility to monitor his/her progress in this course. If after consulting with the instructor, the student feels it becomes necessary to withdraw from this course, it is the responsibility of the student to do so. Please check with the office of admission to find out the final day for withdrawal with “W” grade from courses ending at midterm. If you have questions about the withdrawal procedure, see your Parkland College catalog. It is your responsibility to drop yourself from the class. Please do not assume that by stop attending to the class you will be dropped from it. As the one responsible for your academic progress, it is your responsibility, not the instructors, to keep track of it.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:
If you believe you have a disability for which you may need an academic accommodation (e.g. an alternate testing environment, use of assistive technology or other classroom assistance), please contact:
Cathy Robinson, Room X148, 217-353-2082, crobinson@parkland.edu

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS
The Center for Academic Success provides a wide range of academic support services to enable you learn well, grow as a student, succeed in your classes, and excel at what you do. These services include the following:

1. **Tutoring and Learning Assistance:** Make use of walk-in tutoring services provided by faculty, staff and trained peer tutors, Monday through Friday. Many students come to get help in study skills, reading, writing, math (all levels), and many other subjects.

2. **For-credit Modules and Tutorials:** Enroll in one-credit hour Tutorials to supplement classroom instruction in reading, writing, ESL, math, chemistry, and study skills. Modules are available for eligible
students to complete certain developmental coursework requirements.

3. **Advising and Advocacy:** Work with our team of advocates and academic advisor to plan a semester schedule, understand transfer requirements, or manage issues that stand in the way of school.

For more information, please contact

**Anita Taylor**
Room: D120
Phone: 353-2005

**Sue Schreiber**
Room: D120
Phone: 351-2441
You may also email the CAS at CenterForAcademicSuccess@parkland.edu.

**MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**
In the event of a significant campus emergency, Parkland College will activate its mass notification system. We encourage you to sign up for this free service and select how you would like to be notified: text message, audio message, or email message. Sign up at
http://www.parkland.edu/publicsafety/alerts.htm

**COMPUTER RELATED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS:**
Parkland College offers help with technical questions and issues regarding Email, Angel, My.Parkland and Wi-Fi access. Visit the STAR (Student Technical Assistance & Resources) office in D-248, contact the STAR Hotline at 217-353-3333, or email star@parkland.edu for technical assistance.