THTR 357
Computer Sceno-graphics

MWF 11:30-12:20 in CFTA 210
Instructor: Jim Billings
Office: CFTA room 135B   Phone: 646-5041 Office hours by appointment
Email: jbilling@nmsu.edu

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to using computers to create the design documents that designers use to communicate design ideas. It is a combination of lecture and hands-on learning with concepts reinforced by examples.
Our learning goals will be:
-To learn and create sceno-graphic documents.
-To learn concepts of use and workflow – independent of specific software or hardware package.

Course Delivery:

Face to face.

Course Goals:

Upon completing this course, you will be able to:
-Create and evaluate sceno-graphic documents.
-Be a safe computer user, for long term health
-Enhance your design communication with enhanced graphics.
-Develop the beginnings of a digital portfolio

Textbooks and Materials:

There is no required textbook for this class.
Readings from selected sources will be on available on the web.
Everything is on U-tube…
You should have a reliable means of backing up your work – a jump drive, cloud storage, NMSU email account–whatever, **don't leave this to chance.**

Communication:

All e-mail communication will be through your NMSU e-mail account. Email is the best way to get in touch with me (jbilling@nmsu.edu) I am not reliably near a phone, but feel free to try my office number (646-5041)or stop by my office. I will always try to return any e-mail within 24 hours. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any problems, questions or concerns.

Course Requirements:

Stage Craft and Costume crafts are no longer pre-requisites for this course

Course Expectations:

I expect your full attention. Therefore, I have a strict policy against the un - authorized use of electronic devices during class time. I also expect that you will be respectful of other students and listen and respond respectfully and constructively during discussions.
In return, I promise that I will always make time for you. I will listen and respond respectfully in discussions and to any comments or concerns you may have.

Grading:

The majority of this class will be an informal lecture format. I will provide you with basic course information, however, questions provide additional depth for class information. The more you invest in the class, the more valuable it will be.
Weekly course work will be 75% of your final grade
The final project will be 20 % of your final grade
Class participation will be 5% of your final grade

Attendance:

Lectures form the main source of information in this class, consequently, it is important for you to come to every class. Attendance will be randomly taken. You are allowed to miss 4 class periods during the semester for any reason, without penalty. Each class missed beyond 4 absences is considered to be un-excused. Signed medical excuses allow you to make up work missed, and do not erase absences.

Failure to attend class will result in a failure in this class. The instructor will not automatically drop students for lack of attendance, but reserves the right to do so, without further notice if a student misses 3 or more consecutive classes.

Grading policy

My grading scale is:

For exceptional work   100-90% = "A"

For good work   89-80% = "B"

For completed, average work   79-70% = "C"

For below average work   69-60% = "D"

For work that is failing or incomplete   59% or less = "F"

I do not use fractional grading. Minimum passing grade for "S" option students will be "C" work.

Late work

Theatre is a profession driven by deadlines. Late work will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. Late work that is accepted will lose 5% per class day.

Academic integrity

I have a zero tolerance policy on academic integrity. If you do someone else's work or use someone else's work and I become aware of it, you will be dismissed from the class and referred to the department head and dean's office.

Course Schedule - subject to revision
SECTION ONE –Getting Started – Module 1 (1 week)

Our objectives are to review course requirements , class computers and learn different types of graphic documents designers are expected to produce and Learn what they communicate.
Week #1
January 17,19   types of sceno-graphic documents

Section Two – Concepts – Module 2 (7 weeks)

Our objectives are to: examine how documents become language, learn the difference between soft and hard creation – ways of drawing, and learn some basic software, create some documents
Week #2
January 24,26,28   Line weight and title blocks, style sheets, layers,
                           orthographic and isometric drawing (VW) file organization
Week #3
January 29, 31 February 2   Making "3-d" out of 2-d, basic rendering concepts,
                           introduction of visualization thinking in 3-d (sUp, VW)
Week #4
February 5,7,9   Using a modeler for visualization   (VW,C4D)

Week #5
February 12,14,16   Ways of working precisely – numeric input, file formats
                                    Keeping track – annotation

Week #6
February 19,21,23   Scale references: why? Introduction to poser, CAD figures

Week #7
February 26,28 March 2   Enhancing the visualization, texture, light and shading
                                    (add Photoshop)
Week #8
March 5,7,9   Enhancing the visualization, Renderers, Workflow

SECTION 3 - learning into practice- Module 3 (7 weeks)

Our objectives are to: put learning into practice finding creative solutions to projects Practice "healthy "computing, and investigate some power user enhancements

Week #9
March 12,14,16   Modeling a "real " Space

                        SPRING BREAK
Week#10
March 26,28 -30th is spring holiday   complex lighting

Week #11
April 2,4,6   Re-creating space "the music lesson"

Week #12
April 9,11,13   Modeling fantasy space

Week #13
April 16,18,20   Adding animation – flying graphic, render farms

Week #14
April 23,25,27   Finish up

Week #15
April 30, May 2,4   Portfolio work

     Final Presentation :Wednesday, May9 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Accessibility Support

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act(ADAAA) covers
issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom
(all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:
Trudy Luken, Director
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
Corbett Center, Rm. 208
Phone: (575) 646-6840

E-mail: sas@nmsu.edu
Website: : http://sas.nmsu.edu/

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information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal
affiliation and protected veterans status.
Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment and
retaliation.
For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE act, NMSU policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's Complaint
process, or to file a complaint contact:

Gerard Nevarez, Title IX Coordinator Agustin Diaz, title IX Deputy Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)-O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Ave
Phone: (575) 646-3635
E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
Website: http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/

Technical Support

        The ICT Customer Service Center is equipped to deal with all of your information technology (IT) and
        telecommunications needs at NMSU. The ICT Customer Service Center hours of operation are from 8:00 am until
        5:00 pm Monday through Friday Mountain Time. Please feel free to contact them at 646-1840 or via e-mail at
        helpdesk@nmsu.edu.

Syllabus Modification

The syllabus is the "road map" for this course. It allows both the student and the
instructor to have an idea where we are going, as well as allowing us to see where we
have been. Dates and topics may shift, depending on class discussions and pacing. I make
every effort to stay with the syllabus, but I do reserve the right to take the occasional
"side trip" as way of enhancing the class. Any major changes, especially changes for due
dates, quizzes or exams will show up as an announcement on the canvas homepage for this
class and will be noted in class.