DIG6906 Graduate Level Independent Study

Instructor
Dr. Kyle Bohunicky

Phone
(352) 294-2000

Email
Canvas Mail

Office Location
Online

Office Hours
Wednesdays 10 AM – 12 PM

Course Number
DIG6906

Semester/Year
Fall 2020

Course Credits
3 credits

Course Location
REVE 118

Course Meeting Times
TUE 3:30 – 4:30

Course Description
This independent study will draw on the intersection between musicology and game studies to examine collaborative acts of music production within video games. The study will provide both a general introduction to the major ideas in game studies and musicology, proposing methods and techniques for understanding video games as instruments.

Pre-Requisites
Consent of faculty member supervising the study.

Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:
• Blend game studies and musicology approaches
• Apply methods for studying video game music
• Invent methods for studying video games as instruments
• Outline key theories in game studies
• Pitch a dissertation-worthy project on the topic

Required Materials
Course Schedule

This schedule is only a guide and is subject to change. Unless otherwise indicated, assignments and readings are due the day they are listed on the syllabus, not the following day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Assignment/Quizzes</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Discuss Schedule and Course Goals/Projects</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Video Game Music Foundations</td>
<td>Read: Summers pt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>World Building and Characterization in Video Game Music</td>
<td>Play: Splatoon 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Video Game Music Foundations Continued</td>
<td>Read: Summers pt. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Video Game Music and Politics</td>
<td>Play: Streets of</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rage 2 and 3/ Jet Set Radio + Jet Set Radio Future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Music and Game Design</td>
<td>Read: Cheng pt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Musical Storytelling</td>
<td>Play: Wandersong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Music and Game Design Continued</td>
<td>Read: Cheng pt. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Instrument Interfaces and Genre</td>
<td>Read: Deemo</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Performing Music</td>
<td>Read: Miller pt. 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Becoming through Beat</td>
<td>Read: Beat Saber</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Performing Music Continued</td>
<td>Read: Miller pt. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Rhythm of Roleplaying</td>
<td>Read: Crypt of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Necrodancer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Music as Gameplay</td>
<td>Read: Collins pt. 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Remaking</td>
<td>Play: Cadence of</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hyrule</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Music as Gameplay Continued</td>
<td>Read: Collins pt. 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation of Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reports – Weekly reports that provide an update on project progress and readings (300 words minimum)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance – Weekly meetings to discuss readings and progress</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project – A draft of a dissertation chapter</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale
## Letter Grade % Equivalency GPA Equivalency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% Equivalency</th>
<th>GPA Equivalency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83%</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73%</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 – 66%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 63%</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E, I, NG, S-U, WF</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information on grades and grading policies is here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/)

**Materials and Supply Fees**

Material and supply and equipment use fee information is available from the academic departments or from the schedule of courses (Florida Statutes 1009.24). The total course fee for this class is $0.00.

The total course fee for each course is listed on the UF Schedule of Courses. ([https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/](https://registrar.ufl.edu/soc/)).

## Course Policies

### Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

In our course, attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed **one unexcused absence**. If you miss more than **one class** during the semester, each additional absence will lower your overall grade by **100 points**. If you miss more than **three classes**, you will fail the course. Exempt from this policy are only those absences involving university-sponsored events, such as athletics and band, and religious holidays, family emergencies, and health issues for which you must provide appropriate documentation in advance of the absence.

Additionally, tardiness will not be tolerated. If you are tardy for three class periods, you will receive an unexcused absence.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)

### Course Technology

The students will be required to have access to and use a personal computer with the access to the Internet. Word editing software will be required for written assignments.
The University of Florida and Digital Worlds requires that students have access to and on-going use of a laptop/mobile computer for DIG courses in order to be able to function in the current learning environment. Digital Worlds requires each student’s laptop computer to meet certain minimum specs for heavy graphics use, the requirements documented below must be met.

**DW Technology Requirements:** [https://digitalworlds.ufl.edu/programs/ba-in-digital-arts-sciences/technology-requirements/](https://digitalworlds.ufl.edu/programs/ba-in-digital-arts-sciences/technology-requirements/)

**Course Communications**
Students can communicate directly with the instructor regarding the course material through the course management system (CANVAS) using “Canvas Mail”.

**Course Technology Support**

The [Technology Support Center](http://digitalworlds.ufl.edu/support) provides computer support for Digital Worlds students who access Zoom, lecture recordings, student equipment, facilities and other technology-based resources.

For computer assistance related to Zoom, lecture recordings, student equipment, and facilities request please [Submit a Help Ticket](mailto:support@digitalworlds.ufl.edu) or email support@digitalworlds.ufl.edu.

For support related to account services, technical consulting, mobile device services, software services, administrative support, application support center, and learning support services, please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 352-392-4357 or helpdesk@ufl.edu.

**UF Policies**

**University Honesty Policy**
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Class Demeanor**
Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.
**Students Requiring Accommodations**
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Netiquette Communication Courtesy**
All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats, more information can be found at: http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

**Software Use**
All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

**Student Privacy**
There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html

**Course Evaluation**
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

**Campus Resources**

**U Matter, We Care:**
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or http://www.police.ufl.edu/

**E-learning Technical Support**
352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning- learning-support@ufl.edu

Career Connections Center
Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. https://career.ufl.edu

Library Support
Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask

Teaching Center
Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio

Student Complaints Campus

Online Students Complaints
http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the instructor’s current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.