

Creative Problem Solving – THE4930
Spring 2023
Class meetings: Tu/Th 12:50-1:40
Classroom: Con 0212 (conference room)

Instructor: Eben Alguire
Office: CON-G-016
Office Hours: M/W, 10AM-12PM
Phone: 352-273-0524
E-mail: eben.alguire@ufl.edu

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course is a hands-on exploration of problem-solving techniques. It will revolve around a small amount of direct instruction, a fair amount of discussion, and project work. Experimentation, iteration, and participation are key to success in this course.

As this is a new course, feedback is welcome and encouraged, and the schedule may change to accommodate and incorporate suggestions. Please have shop attire available in the event that we end up in the shop

Required material:

- Clothing that is appropriate for work
 - These clothes may get dirty or damaged
- Long pants
- Closed toed shoes

Useful (but not required) texts:

- Carter, Paul and George Chiang
 - The Backstage Handbook: An Illustration Almanac of Technical Information
 - 3rd Edition
 - ISBN: 9 780911 747393
 - Note: This is a reference book, filled largely with diagrams, terminology, and formula, and it may be extremely helpful to take a glance at it as necessary
- The Imagineers – Edited by Jody Revenson
 - The Imagineering Way – Ideas to Ignite Your Creativity
 - ISBN 0 7868 5631 9
 - Note: This book is a collection of stories and anecdotes from current and former Disney Imagineers about overcoming creative and practical roadblocks.
- The Imagineers – Edited by Peggy Van Pelt and Jody Revenson
 - The Imagineering Workout – Exercises to Shape Your Creative Muscles
 - ISBN 1 7868 5554 1
 - Note: This book is a collection of creative exercises and anecdotes from current and former Disney Imagineers.

Attendance Policies:

The success of this course is based on class participation. Attendance is vital, and as such we will be following standard department guidelines for attendance for a participation based course. Your first unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. The second unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. The third unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 15%. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 30%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence.

Meetings and office hours:

- I will be available for office hours from 10AM-12PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. If I am not actually *in* the office at those times, check in the shop or on the stages. The best way to reliably meet with me is to email me and set up a time or use [this Calendly link](#):



Communications:

- Email and Canvas will be the primary means for communicating with the class as a whole
 - Events such as class cancellation will be sent as soon as possible when a cancellation is decided

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment	Notes	
1	1/10	Introduction, goals, questions			
	1/12	GDTK film and Exercise			
2	1/17	Principals of troubleshooting			
	1/19	Troubleshooting exercises			
3	1/24	NO CLASS		Eben at URTA	
	1/26	NO CLASS		Eben at URTA	
4	1/31	Introduction to logic controllers			
	2/2	Working with logic controllers			
5	2/7	Deeper dive into logic controllers			
	2/9	Working with logic controllers			
6	2/14	Introduction to circuits			
	2/16	Working with circuits			
7	2/21	Introduction to pneumatics			
	2/23	Working with pneumatics			
8	2/28	Final project discussion			
	3/2	Project planning			
9	3/7	Throwing ideas around	Come up with a rough list of materials		
	3/9	Tossing spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks			
10	3/14	NO CLASS		SPRING BREAK	
	3/16	NO CLASS		SPRING BREAK	
11	3/21	Project work	Come up with theming and art direction		
	3/23				
12	3/28		Prototyping and iteration		
	3/30				
13	4/4				
	4/6				
14	4/11		Finalizing		
	4/13				
15	4/18		Testing		
	4/20				
16	4/25		Project finish date	Project finish date	

Grading:

- Participation 80
- Final project 20
- **TOTAL 100**

A	90-100
A-	87-89
B+	85-86
B	80-84
B-	77-79
C+	75-76
C	70-74
C-	67-69
D+	65-66
D	60-64
D-	55-59
E	0

Shop participation:

- You must follow the rules of the shop, which includes
 - Proper attire (see below)
 - Use of proper PPE
 - Following direction from shop staff and supervisors
 - Zero-tolerance for discriminatory or derogatory language or action
 - Disregard of shop rules or general safety may result in eviction from the shop
- Be prepared for work!
 - Closed toed shoes
 - Long pants
 - Clothes that can get dirty, painty, or damaged
 - No jewelry
 - If you have long hair, tie it back
 - No headphones
 - If you aren't prepared for work, you cannot work, and you cannot get hours
- Read, understand, and sign a shop participation form
- If you feel uncomfortable with any job or tool, seek out a staff member or supervisor immediately

ADA Policy:

- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resource Center
 - Disability Resource Center – Reid Hall
 - (352) 392-8565
 - drc@ufsa.ufl.edu
- Do this as early as possible in the term so accommodations can be made
- I cannot help you if I do not know you need help

Statement on Classroom Recording

- Students may record lectures, discussions, or activities, but recordings may only be used for the individual student's own private use
- Scene shop and stage work may be recorded in photographs or video by the department as a teaching or marketing tool

Course Evaluations

- 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/>."

UF Honor Pledge

- 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. UF Conduct Code link: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

Campus Resources:
Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

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Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).