

# CS 231: Computer Animation

Syllabus

Spring 2020

## General

- Lecture: MWF 3:00-3:50 PM, through Zoom
- Website: <http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~craigs/courses/2020-spring-cs-231/index.html>
- Textbook: “Computer Animation - Algorithms and Techniques” by Rick Parent (not required)

## Instructor

- Craig Schroeder
- Office: Chung 309 (office hours over Zoom)
- Hours: MWF 4:00-5:00 PM (after class), or by appointment
- Email: [craigs@cs.ucr.edu](mailto:craigs@cs.ucr.edu)

## Zoom

All lectures and office hours for this course will take place over zoom. A zoom link will be posted on iLearn. If you do not have iLearn access at this time, please email the professor or another student in the class for a zoom link. I ask that you refrain from making the zoom link for class widely accessible. Please don't post it anywhere public. It is okay to give the link to other UCR students.

## Website

The course website and iLearn contain all of the information that you should need about the class. All materials will be posted there. Important announcements will also occasionally be made through email as well as in class.

## Projects

This course will have one programming project, which is a project of your choosing. Examples of projects include implementing a SIGGRAPH or SCA paper, developing a game, or simulating something (physics, crowds). This project may be completed individually or with a partner. Although projects related to physically-based simulation are encouraged, this is not required. The project will consist of a proposal, midterm write-up, final write-up, and final presentation. You will have most of the quarter to complete the project. The last two class periods are reserved for project presentations. There is no final exam for the class, but depending on class size, final project presentations may spill over into the final exam slot. There is no language restriction on the project.

## Paper Presentations

Students will present one computer animation paper from the literature during class. You are encouraged to present a paper related to your project. If you are implementing a paper for your project, you may present that paper. Each student must present a different paper, so if you are completing the project with a partner, only one partner may present that paper. The other partner is free to present a related paper, though. Paper presentations should be 30 minutes. In addition, each speaker will be responsible for making a 5-minute status update on the progress of their project after presenting their paper. Each presentation will be followed by 15 minutes of Q/A and discussion. The presenter should be prepared to answer questions about the paper. All students should come prepared to discuss all of the papers (skim the paper before class, even if you are not presenting it). Your preparedness and participation in these discussions will form the basis for the participation component of your grade.

## Midterm exam

This course will have one midterm exam. The exam will tentatively be given over iLearn during the usual class time.

## Exercises

There will be five short (< 100 lines of code) coding exercises. These are designed to help introduce students to basic simulation techniques and skills through hands-on exercises. They are intended to help make simulation a bit less mysterious and to assist students who are doing simulation-related projects for the course. The exercises are (tentatively) in octave/matlab.

## Piazza

This class has a Piazza page: <http://piazza.com/ucr/spring2020/cs231/home>. This is a great place to ask questions. This is also a good place to seek clarifications or point out mistakes on the exercises. Chances are good that if you have a question, someone else has the same question. If you need to post code or other solutions to Piazza, please do so privately.

## Grading

Your grade will be computed according to the grading scheme below. The lowest two quiz scores will be dropped when computing your grade.

| Item                 | Contribution |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Project proposal     | 5%           |
| Midterm report       | 10%          |
| Final report         | 20%          |
| Project presentation | 10%          |
| Paper presentation   | 15%          |
| Participation        | 15%          |
| Midterm exam         | 10%          |
| Exercises            | 15%          |

## **Academic integrity**

Cheating is harmful to other students and the academic environment, and we take it very seriously. Any violations of this policy will result in an 'F' for the course and a referral to the campus academic integrity committee.