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**Course Outline**

*Introduction to computer game programming interfaces. Topics may include: game balance and level design; storytelling and narrative; basic game architecture; sprite-based games and isometric games; representation of scenes; user interaction; architecture of game consoles; development tools for game consoles; interaction with game peripherals.*

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**Course Information**
**Instructor Name**  
**Contact Information**
**Robert Collier**  
[robert.collier@scs.carleton.ca](mailto:robert.collier@scs.carleton.ca)
**Lecture Hours**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 01:05 – 02:25  
 University Center, Room 282

**Office Hours**  
 Tuesdays from 09:00 – 11:00  
 Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:00  
 Herzberg Laboratories, Room 5326

**Course Website**  
<https://www.carleton.ca/culearn/>
**Course Forum**  
<https://www.carleton.ca/culearn/>


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**Recommended Textbook**

There is one recommended textbook for this course:

**Schell, J. (2014). The Art of Game Design: A Book of Lenses**

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**Assessment Scheme**

Your performance in this course is assessed using several components. These include a collection of **mandatory weekly tutorials** (beginning the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>), **six (6) assignments**, **two (2) quizzes** (see the tentative calendar for details), a **group project**, and a **final examination** (to be scheduled by the registrar). The grades you achieve on these components will be weighted with the following scheme.

Tutorials	10%
Assignments (6 × 2.5% each)	15%
Quizzes (2 × 10% each)	20%
Project	20%
Final Examination	35%

**Tutorials are mandatory** and you **must attend the tutorial in which you are registered** – you will not receive marks if you attend a tutorial other than the one in which you are registered. While the tutorial is in progress you must be working on the tutorial. You may not work on an upcoming assignment during the tutorial, and **anyone who is not working on the tutorial work will be asked to leave.**

**Assignments are mandatory.** You will use cuLearn to submit your assignments and you must ensure that the marks posted to cuLearn are correct within two weeks of the date the assignment grade was released. Concerns or complaints about the grading must be communicated to the teaching assistant within that time – **after two weeks, no changes to the posted assignment marks will be considered.**

Quizzes are 80 minutes long, are closed-book, and only cover material presented since the most recent quiz. Quizzes are held during the tutorials and must be written in the section in which you are enrolled. **You must ensure that the marks posted to cuLearn are correct within two weeks of the date the quiz grade was released – after two weeks, no changes to the posted assignment marks will be considered.**

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## Course Outline

### Learning Outcomes

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If a student attends every lecture and completes every assignment and tutorial, then by the end of this course that student should be able to:

- Use **Processing** to write **computer games** (using **Java syntax**)
- **Define a game** and **describe the different types of games**
- **Demonstrate** a basic understanding of the following topics:
  - the **game loop**, **model-view-controller architecture**
  - the **taxonomy of fun**
  - **probability** and **statistics**
  - **artificial intelligence**, **finite state machines**
- **Explain the principles of game design**
- **Work effectively in a group** on a **game development project**

### Important Considerations

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**Late assignments are never accepted for any reason. Assignments submissions are handled electronically** (i.e., through cuLearn) and **there is no "grace period"** with respect to a deadline - an assignment that is submitted only one minute **after the deadline is considered late** and **will receive a mark of zero.**

**Technical problems do not exempt you from this requirement**, so if you wait until the last minute and then have connection issues, you will still receive a mark of zero. Consequently, you are advised to:

- **periodically upload you progress** (i.e., upload partially completed submissions)
- attempt to **submit your final submission at least 30 minutes in advance** of the due date and time

**For each assignment you will be submitting** one or more files that contain source code. **These files must be compressed into a "zip" file.** If you do not compress your files or **if you compress into another format** (e.g., "rar", "tar", etc.), **then your assignment will be rejected and will receive a mark of zero.**

**If any of the source code files you submit does not run it will receive a mark of zero.** Consequently, **after you upload your submission to cuLearn you must re-download it immediately** and ensure that you have met the requirements.

You are expected to **demonstrate good programming practices at all times** (e.g., choosing descriptive variable names, provide comments in your code, etc.) and your code may be penalized if it is poorly written.

Students with an **illness on the day of a quiz might be granted an exemption** if and only if they provide a **Carleton University Medical Certificate** ([http://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/med\\_cert.pdf](http://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/med_cert.pdf)) that has been completed and signed by a physician. **No other forms will be accepted.**

**Please note that a student cannot, for any reason, be exempted from more than two quizzes.**

Furthermore, because assignment specifications are posted well in advance of their due dates, **illness does not excuse a student from completing an assignment. No provision is made for missed assignments, and no extra credit assignments will be available.**

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## Course Outline

### University Policies

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#### **Student Academic Integrity Policy**

Every student should be familiar with the Carleton University student academic integrity policy. A student found in violation of academic integrity standards may be awarded penalties which range from a reprimand to receiving a grade of F in the course or even being expelled from the program or University. Some examples of offences are: plagiarism and unauthorized co-operation or collaboration. Information on this policy may be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

#### **Plagiarism**

As defined by Senate, "plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". Such reported offences will be reviewed by the office of the Dean of Science.

#### **Unauthorized Co-operation or Collaboration**

Senate policy states that "to ensure fairness and equity in assessment of term work, students shall not cooperate or collaborate in the completion of an academic assignment, in whole or in part, when the instructor has indicated that the assignment is to be completed on an individual basis". Please refer to the course outline statement or the instructor concerning this issue.

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines>

#### **Religious Obligation**

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>.

#### **Pregnancy Obligation**

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>.

#### **Medical Certificate**

The following is a link to the official medical certificate accepted by Carleton University for the deferral of final examinations or assignments in undergraduate courses. To access the form, please go to <http://www.carleton.ca/registrar/form>.

#### **Undergraduate Academic Advisor**

The Undergraduate Advisor for the School of Computer Science is available in Room 5302C HP, by telephone at 520-2600, ext. 4364 or by email at [undergraduate\\_advisor@scs.carleton.ca](mailto:undergraduate_advisor@scs.carleton.ca). The undergraduate advisor can assist with information about prerequisites and preclusions, course substitutions or equivalencies, understanding your academic audit and the remaining requirements for graduation. The undergraduate advisor will also refer students to appropriate resources such as the Science Student Success Centre, Learning Support Services and the Writing Tutorial Services.

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## Course Outline

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### Additional Notes

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**Including** the time spent attending lectures and completing tutorials, students can expect to spend **at least ten (10) hours per week on this course**. **Students are responsible for all course materials**, including lecture notes, tutorial exercises, and all materials discussed in class and on any of the official discussion boards.

Students are asked to **pose all questions related to course content using the official discussion boards** on cuLearn; **students should not email** the instructor directly **unless the question contains confidential information** or is of a personal nature.

The instructor will **attempt to answer every student email received within three business days** of the time the message was received, **unless the email requests information already posted** on the official discussion boards, in the course outline, or in the lecture notes on cuLearn.

To ensure that all announcements are received, **students must check their email on a daily basis**.

**All materials created for this course** (including, but not limited to, lecture notes, in-class examples, tutorial exercises, assignments, examinations, and posted solutions) **remain the intellectual property of the instructor**. These materials are intended for the personal and non-transferable use of students registered in the current offering of the course. **Reposting, reproducing, or redistributing any course materials**, in part or in whole, without the written consent of the instructor, **is strictly prohibited**.

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### Plagiarism Policy

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**There is a separate plagiarism policy document for this course** that is located on cuLearn under the heading of Course Information. **Students must read this document thoroughly and must agree to adhere to this policy** (and to all policies stated in this course outline) **before the assignment resources will be made available**.

In the event that a student has been **found to have committed an instructional offence**, a penalty will be applied to that student's final grade. **If the penalty applied** by the Office of the Associate Dean is **less than the total value of the assignment**, the **remaining weight** associated with that assignment is **shifted onto the weight of the final exam**. Consider the following case as a clarifying example: if the course has an assignment worth 10% and a final worth 40% and a student plagiarizes and receives a 50% deduction to his or her assignment, their final exam would be worth 45% of their final mark and **the plagiarized assignment would be worth nothing**. To clarify, 50% of the 10% allocated to the assignment was lost and the remaining 50% of the 10% allocated to the assignment was shifted to the final.

**Students are invited to discuss any concerns with the instructor at the earliest opportunity.**

**Students are also required to have read:**

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>