

## *ATEC 6V81 Course Syllabus*

### **Course Information**

ATEC 6V81 Special Topics in Emergent Communication (3 semester hours) Fall 2006

Course Website: <http://emac6v81.blogspot.com>

*This course is part of the Emerging Media & Communications (EMAC) Initiative in ATEC.*

### **Professor Contact Information**

Dean Terry

OFFICE: ATEC 1.602

972.883.6285

Office Hours: Thursdays 10 am – 11 am

Virtual Office Hours: Most weekday evenings after 9pm on the ATEC Island in SL

[dean.terry@utd.edu](mailto:dean.terry@utd.edu)

skype ID: dean-terry

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

No pre-requisites for Fall 2006

### **Course Description**

This creative project based course will focus on developing Internet based video content, podcasts, and blogs. We will work in small teams to write, produce, edit, and publish Internet shows and related content.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will be able to create short form content for the Internet.

Students will learn to create projects intended for the multiple development platforms.

Students will learn to value individual voices in emerging media

Students will learn to evaluate media intended for participatory 3D spaces.

## **Required Textbooks and Materials**

*The Long Tail* by Chris Anderson

*Synthetic Worlds* by Edward Castronova

*Naked Conversations* by Robert Scoble

Blank DVD disks

## **Suggested Course Materials**

*NA*

## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

Assignments & Calendar will be developed dynamically by instructor.

### *Topics*

- The “metaverse” and the evolving Internet
- User created participatory 3D environments and virtual worlds
- Blogging & Podcasting
- Concept Generation & Creative Thinking
- Teamwork and Collaboration

## **Grading Policy**

This is an interactive course. Interface, feedback, and communication with Professor Terry and other students is part of the process. Students are evaluated on their projects, participation, effort, attendance and overall continuous development. Response to critical feedback and contribution to group critiques is required.

### *Grading Criteria*

- Participation & Class Contribution: 30%
- Final Project: 40%
- Other projects & in class work: 30%

Individual projects are evaluated based on various factors, including but not limited to concept, planning, consistency, artistic innovation, technical competency, team and collaboration skills, and successful execution.

In order to receive full credit for projects they must be received on time, complete, and be technically competent. Project and course grades will be significantly reduced for late or incomplete projects. A late or incomplete final will not be accepted.

Grades of “Incomplete” are rarely given and are entirely at the discretion of the professor. A minimum of 70% of course work must be completed for this grade to be assigned.

## Course & Instructor Policies

### *Attendance*

Consistent class attendance and active participation are mandatory for success. Project grades will be significantly lowered for assignments that are late or incomplete. It is essential that students be present for all video screenings and class critiques. Two non-excused absences will automatically result in the lowering of the student's final semester grade by one full grade level, four will result in automatic failure

### *Lab Issues*

Storage space: There is a good deal of storage space on the Lab machines – but no guaranteed storage. Project files are often deleted by other students or lab assistants. To make sure your files are secure, back them up and take them with you either on CDR, DVD-R, or a firewire drive (recommended). Late or missing projects related to missing, deleted, or damaged files will not be accepted.

Regarding the Mac & OSX: This course requires an intensive use of the Macintosh platform. If you are unfamiliar with Mac OSX it is highly suggested you spend time early in the semester to familiarize yourself with the OSX environment. Unfamiliarity with the platform will not be accepted as an excuse for any problem.

### *Equipment Checkout*

Video Cameras, Microphones, Tripods, and learning materials such as DVD's and books are available from the lab attendants.

Checkout Rules:

- Take care of the equipment. If you are unsure how to use something, ask Professor Terry or the lab attendant.
- Return the equipment on time personally to a lab attendant or your check out privileges may be revoked for up to 2 weeks.
- Return cameras with batteries fully charged.
- You may not take equipment off campus without prior permission of the professor.
- See lab attendants for other requirements.

## Field Trip Policies

NA

## Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, univer-

sity regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The deci-

sion of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of

TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

**Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. ([http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))

*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*