

ATEC 4371.001 Topics in Animation: 3D Character Sculpting
Elizabeth Boyd
Term: Fall 2016
Meeting Time: Friday 4:00pm – 6:45pm
Classroom: ATEC 3.101

Contact Info
Phone: n/a
Email: elizabethboyd@utdallas.edu
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00pm – 3:30pm
Office: ATEC 3.613
Class web reference: <http://atec.io/animation>

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the basic principles and techniques of digital sculpting for characters. An in depth examination of Zbrush digital sculpting software will also be covered.

Course Requirements:

ATEC Digital Imaging
ATEC Modeling and Texturing I

Course Structure:

This class will consist of lectures, demonstrations, constructive critiques and class discussions.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Generate digital character sculptures using Pixologic's Zbrush, a digital sculpting software.
- Develop the skill to identify and create appealing works of art for commercial use.
- Create and interpret 3D digital sculpts based on 2D reference art.
- Develop realistic looking character anatomy for high quality sculpts.
- Evaluate critically the quality of digital sculptures by others.
- Construct a Zbrush digital sculpted characters portfolio.

Optional Textbooks:

Maya Fundamentals

Materials Needed:

Lined Notebook and writing utensil

Portable Computer Storage Device – example: flash drive, external hard drive.

Optional: skull model

Points Required for Grade:

A	94% – 100%	C	74% – 77%
A-	90% – 93%	C-	70% – 73%
B+	88% – 89%	D+	68% – 69%
B	84% – 87%	D	64% – 67%
B-	80% – 83%	D-	60% – 63%
C+	78% – 79%	F	Below 60% is failing

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 26): Introduction to character sculpting

Assignment 1A – Skull

Week 2 (Sept 2): Facial Anatomy

Assignment 1B – Head

Week 3 (Sept 9): Appealing Characters

Assignment 2A – Character design

Week 4 (Sept 16): Giving Critiques

Week 5 (Sept 23): Exploring Details

Assignment 2B – Flesh out character design

Week 6 (Sept 30): Anatomy of the body

Assignment 3A – Skeleton

Week 7 (Oct 7): Anatomy Continued

Assignment 3B – Torso

Week 8 (Oct 14): Anatomy Details

Assignment 3C – Extremities

Week 9 (Oct 21): Dynamic poses

Assignment 3D – Pose realistic character

Week 10 (Oct 28): Interpreting 2D art for 3D sculpting.

Assignment 4 – Cartoon character

Week 11 (Nov 4): Critiques & Final Project Introduction

Assignment 5 – Final Project

Week 12 (Nov 11): Polypainting in Zbrush

Continue Final Project

Week 13 (Nov 18): Critiques

Continue Final Project

Week 14 (Nov 25): Fall Break – No class!

Continue Final Project

Week 15 (Dec 2): Final Project Presentations

***All descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

Grading Policy:

Students must demonstrate satisfactory achievement of course objectives through fulfillment of course assignments and by contributing to class discussions and critiques. Course assignments will require students to use software and equipment available in the ATEC computer labs. Course evaluation will be based upon the following:

Assignment Point Values:

Assignment01A = 10 pts
Assignment01B = 10 pts
Assignment02A = 10 pts
Assignment02B = 10 pts
Assignment03A = 10 pts
Assignment03B = 10 pts

Assignment03C = 10 pts
Assignment04 = 10 pts
Assignment05 = 50 pts
Critique Participation = 20 pts
Total: 150 pts

Homework Assignments:

Students will use their UTD Box.com accounts (CometSpace) to turn in homework assignments. The instructor will send an invitation to the student's UTD email the first week of class that will include further instructions regarding turning in homework. **Students MUST bring a copy of their homework to class each week.** Homework assignment instructions, rubrics, and grades are posted on eLearning. More information about eLearning can be found here: <https://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/>. Information about UTD students Box.com accounts can be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/cometspace/>

Taking Notes:

Students are expected to take detailed notes during in-class demonstrations and lectures. There will be times the student will be asked to turn off all computers and electrical devices, so students should be prepared to take notes with a notebook and pen/pencil.

Late Assignments:

Adherence to deadlines is expected. Late assignments will not be accepted. It is the individual student's responsibility to keep track of the goals and deadlines and to present the work to the class and instructor on the specified dates.

Class Attendance:

This course heavily depends on in-class demonstration and lectures. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. If a student has more than three unexcused absences, that student's grade will drop a full letter grade. Continued unexcused absences will result in a full letter drop for each absence.

Making up missed work:

Makeups are available only to students who have a legitimate excuse for missing an exam, such as illness, scheduled job interview out of town, athletic team event out of town, death in the immediate family, etc. If you know in advance that you must miss an exam, give a **written notice to the instructor in advance, and bring documentation to support your anticipated absence.** If you miss an exam unexpectedly because of last minute illness or accident, submit a note to the instructor when you return to campus (or as e-mail attachment if you will be away for some time) with documentation of your situation.

Class Participation and Classroom Citizenship:

- Cell phones and pagers must be packed up and out of sight during formal class hours.
- Do not talk when others (the instructor, guests, and fellow students) are talking.
- Students will not use the computers for personal reasons (e.g, check personal email, surf web) during class time.

- Participate in critique sessions and class discussions. You can learn a great deal from critique on other students' work as well on yours.

Email Use:

Students are responsible for regularly checking their UTD email.

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. All official student email correspondence will be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and UT Dallas will only consider email requests originating from an official UT Dallas student email account. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of each individual's corresponding via email and the security of the transmitted information. The University of Texas at Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other email accounts. To activate a student UT Dallas computer account and forward email to another account, go to <http://netid.utdallas.edu>.

Technical Support:

If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas account, contact the UT Dallas Information Resources Help Desk: assist@utdallas.edu or call 972-883-2911.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Support Center: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>.

Field Trip Policies, Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, foreign instruction/travel, and course-related field trip activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities.

Detailed information regarding this policy, in accordance to Texas Education Code, Section 51.950, can be accessed at the UT Dallas Policy Navigator, <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdbp3023>, and at <http://www.utdallas.edu/administration/insurance/travel>. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

Student Conduct and Discipline:

The University of Texas System (Regents' Rule 50101) 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 UT Dallas online catalogs (<http://catalog.utdallas.edu>).

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 Student Discipline and Conduct, UTDSP5003 (<http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>). 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 (SSB 4.400, 972-883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents>.

A student at the University neither loses their 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, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating its 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:

Academic Dishonesty: 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 demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/maintain/>.

Copyright Notice:

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Dallas to adhere to the requirements of the United States Copyright Law of 1976, as amended, (Title 17, United States Code), including ensuring that the restrictions that apply to the reproduction of software are adhered to and that the bounds of copying permissible under the fair use doctrine are not exceeded. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted material may infringe upon the copyright owner's rights. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject students to appropriate disciplinary action as well as civil and criminal penalties. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://copyright.lib.utexas.edu/copypol2.html>. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow UT Dallas' copyright policy (UTDPP1043 at <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1043>) and the UT System's policy at <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copyrighthome.htm>.

Withdrawal from Class:

The administration at UT Dallas has established deadlines for withdrawal from any course. These dates and times are published in the Comet Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar>) and in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar>). It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or other instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student unless there is an administrative drop such as the following:

- Have not met the prerequisites for a specific course
- Have not satisfied the academic probationary requirements resulting in suspension
- Judicial affairs request
- Have not made appropriate tuition and fee payments
- Enrollment is in violation of academic policy
- Was not admitted for the term in which they registered

It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate forms to the Registrar's Office and ensure that he or she will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if he or she chooses not to attend the class after being enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures:

Procedures for student grievances are found in university policy UTDSP5005

(<http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5005>). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding disputes over grades, application of degree plan, graduation/degree program requirements, and thesis/and dissertation committee, adviser actions and/or decisions, evaluations, and/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 originated.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

As per university policy, incomplete grades may be given, at the discretion of the instructor of record for a course, when a student has completed at least 70% of the required course material but cannot complete all requirements by the end of the semester. An incomplete course grade (grade of 'I') must be resolved completed within the time period specified by the instructor, not to exceed eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. Upon completion of the required work, the symbol 'I' may be converted into a letter grade (A through F). If the grade of Incomplete is not removed by the end of the specified period, it will automatically be changed to F.

AccessAbility Services:

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable disability-related accommodations and/or services for students with documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required (see <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>). If you are eligible to receive disability-related accommodations and/or services and to ensure accommodations will be in place when the academic semester begins, students are encouraged to submit documentation four to six weeks in advance. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The Office of Student AccessAbility provides:

1. Academic accommodations for eligible students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability
2. Facilitation of non-academic and environmental accommodations and services
3. Resources and referral information, and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at 972-883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Religious Holy Days

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

Students are encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment.

Excused students will be allowed to take missed exams or complete assignments 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 President of UT Dallas or from the President's designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of Texas Education Code 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Resources to Help You Succeed:

The Office of Student Success operates the Student Success Center (SSC, <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess>), which offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, reading, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual and small group appointments, workshops, short courses, and a variety of online and instructional technologies. All students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible for these services.

The **Math Lab** gives short-term and semester long support for a variety of introductory and advanced mathematics courses. Students may drop in to visit with a math tutor on a regular basis. Comet card is required.

The **Writing Center** offers a collaborative learning environment for one-to-one and small group assistance with general and advanced writing assignments and overall writing skills. Scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended, but walk in appointments are possible if a tutor is available.

The **Peer Tutoring** program offers free tutoring assistance in multiple locations for many of the historically challenging undergraduate subjects at UT Dallas. Tutoring sessions, offered every weekday on a drop-in basis, are one-on-one or in a small group format. The sessions are designed to meet students' individual questions and needs related to course/subject concepts. All peer tutors are current UT Dallas students who made an A- or better in the course and have a strong faculty/staff recommendation. Students should check the Student Success Center website each semester for subject offerings and session times.

The **Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)** program provides an active, engaged learning experience for students who meet in small groups once a week with a Peer Leader who helps guide them through potentially difficult gateway course. Students that attend sessions regularly typically earn a half to a whole letter grade higher than students that do not participate in the PLTL program.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides free, peer-facilitated weekly study sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. SI sessions encourage active, collaborative learning based on critical thinking and transferable study skills. SI leaders attend lectures, take notes, and read assigned material just like the enrolled students. Students should check the SSC website for subject and session times.

The **Communication Lab (CommLab)** offers one-on-one and group consultations where you will gain practical feedback for improving oral and group presentations.

Success Coaches are available for individual student appointments to discuss study skills, time management, note taking, test taking and preparation, and other success strategies.

The Student Success Center's main office is located in the McDermott Library Building and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6707 or by sending an email to ssc@utdallas.edu.

***All descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**