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ırse Description

This course provides students with the basic skills needed to develop a virtual environment. This is a tool class that uses Unity as the main software for developing environments. This course will be divided into two sections, environment design, and environment programming. Although programming is essential during the process, the course will be programming minimal and suitable for those who are not familiar with programming.

Course Objectives

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

1- explore major concepts in designing, creating environments.

2- explore available software and engines of VEs.

3- navigate the Unity engine.

4- create terrains and environment objects in Unity.

5- use and build functional characters in Unity.

6- explore the basics of scripting in Unity.

7- build UI elements in Unity.

Instructor

Morgan Diederich

Office: Online scheduled

Email: morgan.diederich@usu.edu

Course Requirements

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ᴇᴀᴄʜ student will be required to:

1. have a decent internet connection.

2. have a computer or a laptop to do their assignment.
3. be able to install the required software (Unity)

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

Below are the assignments you need to complete throughout the semester:

Weekly Mini projects (10X30)

On Monday of each week, I will post instructions for the mini-project. Mini projects aim to test your skills you learn during the corresponding week. The mini-project will be due by the following Sunday.

Online Attendance (14 X 10) (Through weekly self-reflection).

Online attendance is the percentage of completing all the materials posted each week. Canvas tracks students' progress and records their completion of the learning modules. Reading/watching all the assigned materials during the assigned period is mandatory to get the attendance points. Late/no attendance has a specific policy. You can find this policy below.

There will be a weekly self-reflection forum for you to use. by the end of your assignment, you are going to reflect on your week's activities. This shouldn't be formal. In few sentences, you will write a self-reflection mentioning what you learned and what concerns you have during the week. If you have any specific requests for me, please mention it in your self-reflection and I will make sure I answer any request you have.

Final Project (210)

The final project will include most of the skills learned during the semester. Instructions on the final project will be posted around the middle of the semester.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Grading scale

| A | 93 – 100% | C | 73 – 76.9% |
| ❓ | 90 – 92.9% | C- | 70 – 72.9% |

B+	87 – 89.9%	D+	67 – 69.9%
B	83 – 86.9%	D	63 – 66.9%
B-	80 – 82.9%	D-	60 – 62.9%
C+	77 – 79.9%	F	< 60%

Weekly Mini Projects (10X30)

Online Attendance (14 X 10)

Final Project (210)

Total (650)

Bonus (50)

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%
F	< 59.0 % to 0.0%

Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

All students are expected to read/watch/listen to all the posted materials. This is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of two unexcused absences. Missing a module will result in the loss of 10 points from the student's final grade. You are expected to complete the online readings on time and submitting assignments by their due dates. As for the excused absence, you should email a written excuse to your instructor to be considered excused. Not all excuses will be accepted. Acceptable excuses will be determined by the instructor according to the situation. Circumstances that will grant an excused absence are shown below. If the excuse is accepted, the student is still expected to complete their readings/ assignments when they are back from the excused absence.

Late assignments are also unacceptable. A late assignment without an excuse will lead to a zero grade on the assignment. However, submission on time and resubmission after getting the instructor's feedback is allowed and can result in regaining some lost points of the original submission.

Circumstances that grant excused absences:

- Illness that prevents online attendance. The student must have documentation from the health center or another physician that indicates the student cannot or should not attend class. Health center documentation is not acceptable unless is indicates the student is unable to attend class. Schedule your routine medical appointments at times that do not conflict with class time.
- Family emergency. Serious illness or death of an immediate family member. Documentation of this emergency must be provided.
- Participation in a university sponsored activity. Permission for an excused absence must be obtained in advance of the activity and the student must have a letter from the faculty sponsor indicating the student's involvement in the activity.
- Assignments due during a time that a student is participating in a student activity must be emailed to the instructor prior to departure or immediately upon the student's return, with the instructor's permission. Assignments due during a time when a student is excused for other reasons will be due at the beginning of the second class following the student's return unless other arrangements are made with the instructor.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

You are expected to have good behavior throughout your online interaction with classmates/instructor. Any offense after the first warning will result in a 5-points penalty per occasion. Good behavior includes but is not limited to: not being late in your replies, participating with a good attitude, not using F-words, etc. Pay attention to using capital letters in your interaction as it might be interpreted as inappropriate.

OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL

Office hours will be via Zoom. To provide a more flexible schedule for students' appointments, the office hours will be by appointment. Appointments can be scheduled directly on the instructor's calendar: **https://calendly.com/m_diederich/morgan-office-hours** ⤷ **(https://calendly.com/m_diederich/morgan-office-hours)** or can send a Canvas message to schedule a different time. ⤷ **(https://cehsam.usu.edu/ramonline/BookAppt?AG=254)**

Canvas messages is the best way to contact me. I usually reply to emails within a few hours of receiving them. Feel free to send me your questions or requests for assignment revisions via messages and I will guarantee to reply as timely as possible. I also encourage you to send me your draft versions of any assigned project to get my feedback during the process of making the assignment. This habit will result in higher quality, and bonus points for the creative ones. Please don't forget to include your name, and the class you are in in your email.

CANVAS

Canvas is our learning management system and the main platform we will use during the semester. You are required to become familiar with Canvas in order to successfully complete this course. Canvas will also be used to provide the syllabus, assignments, grades, etc. To access Canvas, you should go to **https://canvas.usu.edu** ⤷ **(https://canvas.usu.edu/)** and log in using your USU credentials.

ITLS Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that USU and all in-state USU Institutions reside on the original territory of the eight federally recognized Tribes of Utah. Tribes that have been living, working, and residing on this land from time immemorial. These Tribes are the: Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indians, Navajo Nation, Northern Ute Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, and White Mesa Band of the Ute Mountain Ute. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this land, and we honor and respect the Indigenous peoples still connected to the land on which we gather.

-USU Inclusion Center

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

We Value:

- Inclusion of all races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, sexualities, religions, abilities, ages, and socioeconomic statuses to create a community where everyone feels safe.
- Developing and maintaining a shared understanding of and responsibility for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

- Designing inclusive, equitable, and accessible learning environments where a multiplicity of perspectives, opinions, and beliefs enriches our professional, educational, and personal experiences.
- Respectful, intentional, and purposeful engagement with diverse students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members.
- The continuous improvement of our efforts to recruit and retain students, staff, and faculty from historically minoritized communities and identities.

We recognize that we all have work to do to enact these values. We share a commitment to equitable treatment to all members of our community including faculty, staff, and students. Therefore, we are committed to working toward them by educating ourselves and, in response, taking appropriate action to improve our community. This especially includes teaching, mentorship, advising, and our relationships with one another. We recognize that words and actions matter just as much as the absence of words and actions matter.

SYLLABUS REVIEW

This syllabus may go under several reviews and modifications during the semester. The reviews will aim to insure achieving the objectives of the class. All modifications should be in favor of students' learning process. The instructor must discuss these modifications with students prior to implementation, making sure those modifications are understandable and applicable.

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at **libguides.usu.edu/rc.** **(http://libguides.usu.edu/rc)**

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read **Student Code Article V Section V-3** **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5)** for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. **Faculty Code Policy #403** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/policies/403/)** further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:
"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."
A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating**: using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism**: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: **ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity** ⤷ **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)**

Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

General Overview

USU strives to provide an environment for students and employees that is free from **discrimination** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/non-discrimination)** and **sexual misconduct** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms)** . If you experience sexual misconduct or discrimination at any point during the semester inside or outside of class, you are encouraged to contact the USU Title IX Coordinator via Distance Education room 400 in Logan, **435-797-1266 (tel:1-435-797-1266)** , **titleix@usu.edu (mailto:titleix@usu.edu)** , or at **equity.usu.edu/report** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/report)** . You can learn more about the USU resources available for individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct at **sexualrespect.usu.edu** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/)** . Resources for individuals who have experienced discrimination are listed at **equity.usu.edu/resources** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/resources)** .

Required Reporting of Sexual Misconduct

The instructor is designated by USU as a "**reporting employee** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/employees#reporting)** ." This means that if you share information about **sexual misconduct** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms)** (sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, relationship violence, or sex-based stalking) with the instructor, they *will report* that information to the USU Title IX Coordinator. The instructor is also required to tell you about **designated confidential resources** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/confidential-resources)** , **supportive measures** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/Supportive-Measures)** , and **how you can file a report** ⤷ **(https://www.usu.edu/equity/report)** with the USU Title IX Coordinator.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring

a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the **Disability Resource Center (DRC)** **(http://www.usu.edu/drc/)** as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, **drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)**). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

Respect for Diversity

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: **https://studentaffairs.usu.edu** **(https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/)**, (435) 797-1712, **studentservices@usu.edu (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu)**, TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: **https://www.usu.edu/involvement/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services** **(https://www.usu.edu/involvement/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services)**, (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: **http://accesscenter.usu.edu** **(http://accesscenter.usu.edu/)**, (435) 797-1728, **access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu)**; TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: **http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture** **(http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture)**, (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: **http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa** **(http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/)**, (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: **https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity** **(https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/)**, (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: **https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode** **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)**

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: **Article VII** **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7)**.

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- **Student Conduct** ⤳ **(http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)**
- **Student Code** ⤳ **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)**
- **Academic Integrity** ⤳ **(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)**
- **USU Academic Policies and Procedures** ⤳ **(http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546)**
- **Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy** ⤳ **(https://www.usu.edu/policies/403/)**

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

General Health Protocols

The cold, flu, COVID-19, and other illnesses can have an impact on the health of our university community. USU welcomes the wearing of masks in all university buildings and encourages taking measures to mitigate risk as recommended by federal and state public health officials: getting vaccinated, staying home if you are sick (even with mild symptoms), and frequent hand washing.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** ⤳ **(https://counseling.usu.edu)** .

Students are also encouraged to download the **"SafeUT App"** ⤳ **(https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app)** to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.

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Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun May 14, 2023	**Self-Reflection - Week 1** (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060564)	due by 11:59pm
	Get to know each other! (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4087374)	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 21, 2023	**Introduction to Unity**	to do: 11:59pm
	Mini Project #1 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060580)	due by 11:59pm
	Self-Reflection - Week 2 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060577)	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 28, 2023	**Self-Reflection - Week 3** (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060576)	due by 11:59pm
	Game Objects	to do: 11:59pm
	Mini Project #2 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060581)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 4, 2023	**Self-Reflection - Week 4** (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060575)	due by 11:59pm
	Mini-Project #3 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060587)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 11, 2023	**Self-Reflection - Week 5** (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060574)	due by 11:59pm
	Mini Project #4 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060582)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 18, 2023	**Self-Reflection - Week 6** (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060573)	due by 11:59pm
	Mini Project #5 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060583)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jun 25, 2023	🗨 **Self-Reflection - Week 7** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060572)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060572)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Mini-Project #6** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060588)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060588)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 2, 2023	🗨 **Mid-Semester Self-Reflection** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060565)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060565)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Mini Project #7** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060584)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060584)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 9, 2023	🗨 **Self-Reflection - Week 8** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060571)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060571)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Mini Project #8** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060585)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060585)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 16, 2023	🗨 **Self-Reflection - Week 9** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060570)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060570)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Mini-Project #9** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060589)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060589)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 23, 2023	📝 **Mini-Project #10: Game Proposal** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060586)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060586)	due by 11:59pm
	🗨 **Self-Reflection - Week 10** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060569)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060569)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 30, 2023	🗨 **Self-Reflection - Week 11** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060568)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060568)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 11, 2023	📝 **Final Project** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060578)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060578)	due by 11:59pm
	🗨 **Final Self-Reflection - Reflect on your experience throughout the semester** [(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060566)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060566)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	📝 **Idea Center Course Evaluation** **(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060579)**	
	💬 **Self-Reflection - Week 12 - Deadline extended due to thanksgiving** **(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/731919/assignments/4060567)**	