COMP3150
Games Project A
Session 2, Special circumstances 2021

Department of Computing

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Disclaimer
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Notice
Some on-campus classes have moved online for the first two weeks of Session, before returning to campus in Week 3. If you are studying a unit outside of the primary Session 2 timetable, please contact your teaching staff team for further details.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. To find out if you are enrolled in one of these classes/teaching activities, you can check to see if your unit is on the list of units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities.

Your Unit Convenor will provide more information via an iLearn announcement when your iLearn unit becomes available.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/139245/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Mitchell McEwan
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Malcolm Ryan
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp at 1000 level or above including COMP2150 or COMP260

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Students will work in groups to create a videogame using a commercial-level game engine. This will enable them to apply their previously acquired skills in videogame design and implementation to a substantial project. Teams will be expected to develop their own concept for the game. This will require creative design, the production of supporting documentation, quality control, and other associated skills and concepts. Teams will be expected to produce a compelling game proposal and meet regular agreed milestones as well as producing game documentation and giving a final presentation.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Apply the agile development process (prototyping and playtesting) to a semester-long video game design and development project
ULO2: Contribute to a self-managing team and practise shared accountability to deliver on agreed milestones.
ULO3: Communicate the elements of a game design to a variety of audiences in both oral and written form.
ULO5: Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions
ULO6: Conduct user research to evaluate game prototypes and find areas for improvement
ULO7: Evaluate your own performance through self-reflection.

General Assessment Information
The group-work component of the assessment (Design Plan & Document, Milestones, Playtesting Plan & Document) will be marked in common for all group members, but individual marks will be modulated based on peer assessment feedback regarding contributions and performance.

All work submitted should be readable and presented in a professional format to industry standards.

Policy on Late Assignments
No extensions will be granted except in cases of special consideration. Students who have not submitted any work for the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for special consideration cases. Plan to submit early. As you are working in a team and are expected to perform risk management, sickness or other misadventure needs to be planned for and managed.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elevator Pitch</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4/8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitch</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11/8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Plan</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>18/8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playtesting plan</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weeks 5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final game</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playtesting report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Document</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-mortem</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elevator Pitch

Assessment Type: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task: 4 hours
Due: 4/8/21
Weighting: 6%

Pitch a novel game idea to the class in a 2 minute oral presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Communicate the elements of a game design to a variety of audiences in both oral and written form.
- Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions

Pitch

Assessment Type: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task: 7 hours
Due: 11/8/21
Weighting: 5%

Give a 10 minute group presentation to pitch your idea to an audience of industry professionals and take feedback & criticism.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Communicate the elements of a game design to a variety of audiences in both oral and written form.
- Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions
- Conduct user research to evaluate game prototypes and find areas for improvement

Design Plan

Assessment Type: Report
Indicative Time on Task: 7 hours
Due: 18/8/21
Weighting: 5%
Write a design plan that iterates on your pitch, incorporating feedback from industry, and also including details of how you plan to work together as a group to achieve your vision.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the agile development process (prototyping and playtesting) to a semester-long video game design and development project
- Contribute to a self-managing team and practise shared accountability to deliver on agreed milestones.
- Communicate the elements of a game design to a variety of audiences in both oral and written form.
- Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions

**Milestones**

**Assessment Type**: Project  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 40 hours  
**Due**: Weeks 5-13  
**Weighting**: 24%

A series of milestone reports describing allocation of tasks to individual team members and reporting on your progress both as individuals and as a team.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the agile development process (prototyping and playtesting) to a semester-long video game design and development project
- Contribute to a self-managing team and practise shared accountability to deliver on agreed milestones.

**Playtesting plan**

**Assessment Type**: Qualitative analysis task  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 10 hours  
**Due**: 8/9/21  
**Weighting**: 5%
A report describing your plans for the playtests you intend to conduct on your game.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Conduct user research to evaluate game prototypes and find areas for improvement

Final game
Assessment Type 1: Creative work
Indicative Time on Task 2: 0 hours
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 10%

Final game demonstrated to industry representatives. Mark is determined by these representatives.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions

Playtesting report
Assessment Type 1: Qualitative analysis task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 10%

A report describing the outcomes of the playtesting process and how the results influenced the design.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Conduct user research to evaluate game prototypes and find areas for improvement

Design Document
Assessment Type 1: Design Task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 15%
A report thoroughly describing of the final game mechanics of the game, justified in terms of the effect they are intended to achieve.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Communicate the elements of a game design to a variety of audiences in both oral and written form.
• Independently reflect on and research game design and development roadblocks in order to overcome production challenges with creative solutions

Post-mortem
Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 20%

A reflective report describing what went well and what went badly in both the final game design and in the process of working as a team.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Apply the agile development process (prototyping and playtesting) to a semester-long video game design and development project
• Contribute to a self-managing team and practise shared accountability to deliver on agreed milestones.
• Evaluate your own performance through self-reflection.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
  • the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
  • the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation
Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

Classes will largely focus on a mix of presentations/pitches, Scrum-style consultations with the lecturers, milestone demonstrations and playtesting. The class schedule will be published on iLearn.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

There is no prescribed text for this unit. However we recommend:


UNIT WEBPAGE

Please login to iLearn at [http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/)

TECHNOLOGIES USED AND REQUIRED

The technology you use will depend on the needs of your project. You will have access to the games lab computers and the software on them. Extra required software may be added if a good case can be made for it.

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agile project management for game development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Elevator pitches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pitches to industry sponsors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Milestone 1 demonstrations (A Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Milestone 1 demonstrations (B Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Milestone 2 demonstrations (A Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Milestone 2 demonstrations (B Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid semester break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Milestone 3 demo's &amp; playtesting (A Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Milestone 3 demo's &amp; playtesting (B Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Milestone 4 demo's &amp; playtesting (A Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Milestone 4 demo's &amp; playtesting (B Groups)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills
Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

• Getting help with your assignment
• Workshops
• StudyWise
• Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

• Subject and Research Guides
• Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering
No major changes from previous offerings.