



# COMP3150

## Games Project A

Session 2, Special circumstances 2021

*Department of Computing*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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#### **Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update**

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Elevator Pitch</u>	6%	No	4/8/21
<u>Pitch</u>	5%	No	11/8/21
<u>Design Plan</u>	5%	No	18/8/21
<u>Milestones</u>	24%	No	Weeks 5-13
<u>Playtesting plan</u>	5%	No	8/9/21
<u>Final game</u>	10%	No	Week 13
<u>Playtesting report</u>	10%	No	Week 13
<u>Design Document</u>	15%	No	Week 13
<u>Post-mortem</u>	20%	No	Week 13

## Elevator Pitch

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Project

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 teams.

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 <sup>1</sup>: Qualitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Qualitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Design Task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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 <sup>1</sup>: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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:

- **Agile Game Development with Scrum**, by Clinton Keith. Addison-Wesley Professional; 1 edition (June 2, 2010) ISBN-13: 978-0321618528
- **The Game Production Toolbox**, by H. M. Chandler, CRC Press, ISBN-13: 978-1-138-34170-8

### UNIT WEBPAGE

Please login to iLearn at <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

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Agile project management for game development
2	Elevator pitches
3	Pitches to industry sponsors
4	Milestone 1 demonstrations (A Groups)
5	Milestone 1 demonstrations (B Groups)
6	Milestone 2 demonstrations (A Groups)
7	Milestone 2 demonstrations (B Groups)
	Mid semester break
8	Milestone 3 demo's & playtesting (A Groups)
9	Milestone 3 demo's & playtesting (B Groups)
10	Milestone 4 demo's & playtesting (A Groups)
11	Milestone 4 demo's & playtesting (B Groups)



12	Milestone 5 demo's & playtesting (All Groups)
13	Group demonstration of game to sponsors

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## 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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://stu>

[dents.mq.edu.au/support/](https://dents.mq.edu.au/support/)

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](https://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](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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.