Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

MA 3DCA Module Guide:

Major Project: (Part 2 of the MA 3DCA)

Code: **ADGD7008**

Module value 60 credits

(Revised 08-05-2019)

From the film "Boster" made by the class of 2015-16

From Programme Document (2018):

AIM(S)

The Part II Project provides an opportunity for the student to undertake a deep and systematic study into particular areas of the agreed team Project. The areas will require knowledge and understanding at the forefront of developments within the field of computer animation and to encourage further team cooperation. It will provide a vehicle to further advance the innovative and creative skills of the student and to integrate the material taught in Part 1. As such it aims to prepare the students for life-long learning, fostering an investigative and analytical approach to solving complex problems in an innovative manner.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- Role & Responsibility Definition:
  Clearly define their role within the team and their and responsibilities towards the production along with definitions of their role categories. Categories should be one or more of the following which are Supervisory, Primary, Support, Standby, and Shadowing.

- Plans & Methodology:
  Devise a sound, detailed methodology to creatively develop and apply by practice the solution/s to the identified problem/s, ensuring integration with the Project as a whole;
  Develop a project plan, apply self-management skills and function as a constituent member of a professional production team

- Design Creatively & Problem Solve:
  Demonstrate the ability to design and create complex elements suitable for inclusion in a 3D computer animated team production, based on coherent and advanced knowledge at the forefront of his/her practice.
  Creatively develop the solution using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of 3D computer practice and reflect advanced scholarship in the discipline;
  Solve problems creatively using linear and lateral thinking techniques and to explain the process and how they were solved.
  Incorporate within the study all pertinent social, ethical, legal and professional issues.

- Critical Analysis and Reflection:
  Undertake a critical review of audio/visual/textual material, analysing the key concepts and current research in their identified area,
  Critically analyse and evaluate his/her solutions as part of the team Project, proposing where or how further improvements can be made;

- Communication:
  Communicate, at a professional level, the findings of the study in a written report or video documentary, using oral presentation and in a written critical reflection document.
  Present in a coherent and meaningful way, all documentation, written or otherwise in a well-constructed and well-presented format to a professional level.

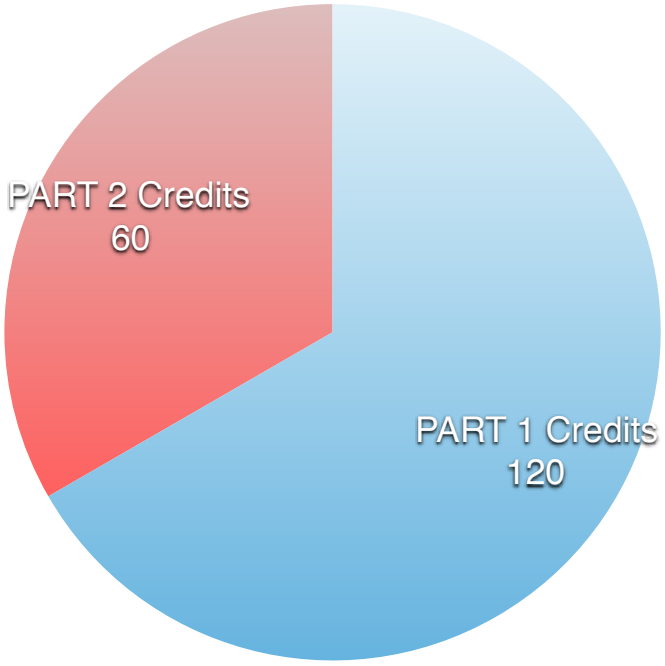
Module Information:
Semester 3:
Thursday 1.00pm to 5.00pm

This module runs from the middle of June through to the middle of September.
Part 2 is where you will execute and finish your group project.
Part 2 is worth 60 credits.
Part 2 is assessed by the following:-

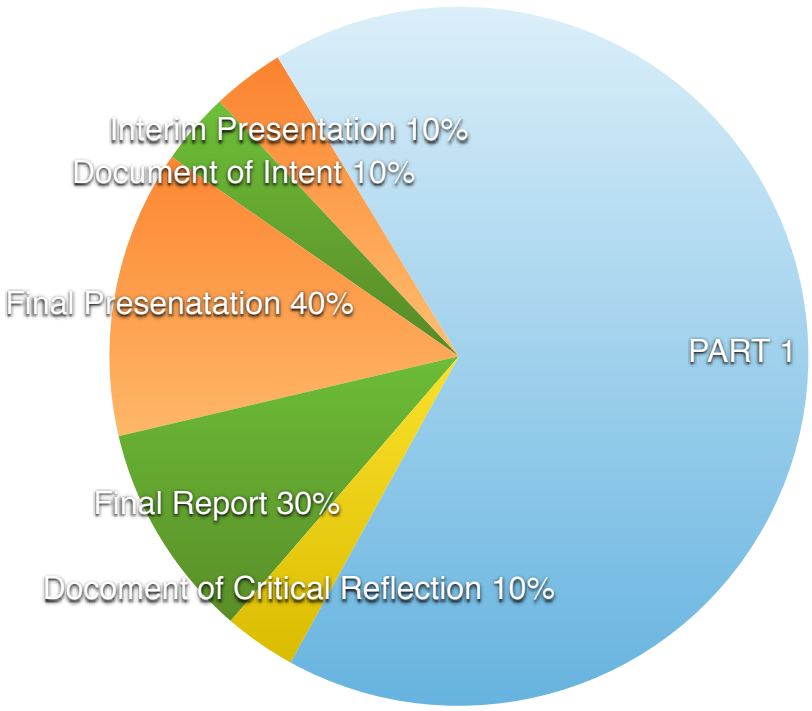
An Document of Intent,
An Interim Presentation,
then,
A Final Presentation.
A Final Report
And a Document of Critical Reflection.

Module Content:

Relationship of Part 2 with Part 1 & Credit Weighting



Assessment Components Weighting in Part 2



Working During the Summer:
You are required to work, starting in the middle of June, working around 35 hours a week on your group project until approximately the end of August, when the group project will be completed.
The hours you work each day can be decided by the group but it should be at least 7 hours a day.
You will be joined by your tutor for 4 hours, usually, on a Thursday. You will be given notice if this day or if the starting time should change. This is when you can show your work to the tutor, ask for help or advice with regard to your work or any issue regarding the project or production team.
Do not take days off or take leave without permission from your tutor. Taking days off without permission is very disruptive to the rest of your team and is not fair to those that are continuing to work.
If you are ill or poorly then let your tutor know via email. If you need a day off then talk to your tutor or send an email.

Your Group Project:
For many of you, this may be your final opportunity to develop your creative and technical skills within an academic environment. It is important therefor, to enjoy the experience as much as possible by working hard and being inquisitive. You should consider taking some creative or technical risks with your work as part of your education. It not always possible to do this once you are outside the academic environment.

Part 2 of the MA is assessed by five submissions, two are presentations and the rest are written. The Assessment component weightings are represented in the pie chart above.

What is the Document of Intent?
This document is rather like a contract. It should be prepared at the very start of the group project and handed in on the same day as the Interim Presentation. It should describe what you intend to do with regard to which production processes you are going to execute and which processes you are going to supervise.
This Document of Intent is a declaration of the individual roles that you have elected to execute with regard to the implementation of the major project. These roles must have been negotiated and agreed with the rest of the team members and must include a reason why these roles were chosen. Reasons may include matching skill sets, matching aspirations, a need for further exploration or research in a certain areas of creativity or technique. Each role has to be categorised into one of the four types which are Supervisory, Primary, Secondary and Standby.
In each case you should explain why you have decided to take on the role, how the group will benefit from this and what you expect to gain with regard to personal aims and objectives. These reasons will help you when you finally prepare your "Critical Reflection" document towards the end of your course.
Some explanations may seem obvious to you but you still need to give solid reasons why you are taking on a role and or responsibility.
You may find yourself with a role that you don't really want. If this is the case then stay positive and look for the good things that the role could or will yield.

What is the Document of Critical Reflection?
The Critical Reflection submission can be started at anytime during the group project but should be finished after the Final Presentation. It should cover the success or failure of processes and how you thought your overall roles implemented by you, affected the team and the project output.
There is no need to explain the technical or creative processes themselves because this can be included in your final report.
There should always be a direct relationship between the Document of Critical Reflection and the Document of Intent by the former referencing the later.
Below is an table of what the relationship is. In this example, the Document of intent to the left, starts with an introduction in which can layout your general approach to the project. Then you should list your roles along with its classification. In this example the student intends to have three roles. The first is "Process A" for which he or she has primary responsibly. The second is "Process B" for which he or she has secondary responsibility. The third is "Process C" for which he or she has to supervise other crew members and has primary responsibility.
The Document of Intent could then include some general observations or facts but then end with a conclusion.
The Document of Critical Reflection in this example is to the right. It also should have an introduction which might refer to the introduction in the Document of Intent but doesn't have to.
Each role, which was defined by the Document of Intent, should then be examined and analysed by you, with regard to your views on how successful you thought you performed. Although it is sometimes hard to have a clear view of ones self, you should be honest and objective when discussing your roles.

The relationship between the Document of Critical Reflection and the Document of Intent.

Document of Intent Examples of Roles	**Reference back to Intent**	**Document of Critical Reflection** Examples of Critical Reflection Questions
Introduction		Introduction
An Example, **Process A** Primary Role		An Example, **Process A** What did I achieve? What did I learn? Was it more difficult than I thought?
An Example, **Process B** Secondary Role		An Example, **Process B** Was this a good choice? Should I have researched this further? Could some else have done this better?
An Example, **Process C** Supervision Role & Primary Role		An Example, **Process C** Was this a good choice? Did the team respond positively? How far did I have to assist others?
General Observations about the production and/or team		General Observations. Did the project get finished? How I feel about the end result. How did my colleagues fair?
Conclusion		Conclusion

What is a role classification?
This is a way of categorising your roles. within the project There are four basic categories listed below:-

Role Classification	Role Classification Description
Supervisory	Classified as managerial and who tasks, schedules, monitors and/or mentors others. A “Director” or “Project Manager” are examples of typical supervisory roles. Not all students would be expected to take on a supervisory role.
Primary	One that is critical to the successful completion of the project. All students would be expected to take on at least one primary role but some could have more than one.
Secondary or Support	One that is not critical to the successful completion of the project but increases quality, reduces production time or both. All students would be expected to take on a least one secondary or support role depending on their commitment to the two categories above but some could have more than one.
Standby	One already allocated to other members of the team but could be replaced if absent or sick. All students would be expected to take on at least one Standby role depending on their commitment to the three categories above but some could have more than one

What is the Final Report?
The Final Report can be started at anytime during the group project but should be finished after the Final Presentation. It describes the individual’s process involvement and the contribution that these processes made to the final output of the project. A typical process could be or include modelling geometry, texturing geometry, testing animation, final choreography, render wrangling, compositing and others. You may have had many processes to execute within the major project and so a description of how these processes were implemented, both in terms of the technical, creative and organisational aspects is the main content of this report. Success or failure of process implementation and how best to rectify this in future can be documented in this report but NOT how success or failure affected the team and the project overall. This should be covered in the “Document of Critical Reflection”.

Distinctions between the Final Report and the document of Critical Reflection.
Document of Critical Reflection is about you and how you interacted with your colleagues and the work flow.
The final Report is about the processes themselves and how you researched, planned, experimented and implemented them.

Weekly Activities:

Week No:	Lecture / Tutorial	Practical Studio Work
	The lecturer demonstrations are on demand. Practical help also given to individuals,	**Your own Group Studio Practice**
Week 1: **22nd June**	Group Project. Preparing the Document of Intent.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 2:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 3:	Group Project. Checking the Document of Intent. Checking the Interim Presentation.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 4:	**Interim Presentation & Document of Intent**	
Week 5:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 6:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 7:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 8:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 9:	Group Project.	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 10:	Group Project. Checking the Final Presentation	Your own Group Studio Practice
Week 11:	**Final Presentation**	
Week 12	Individual Tutorials. Checking the Final Report. Checking the Document of Critical Reflection.	Writing your Final Report & Critical Reflection.
Week 13 FINAL	**Hand In Final Report and Document of Critical Reflection**	Writing your Final Report & Critical Reflection.

Reading Lists:

Essential Texts

Author	Date	Title	Publisher
		As appropriate to individual projects	

Finally:
Don't forget to ask your tutor if you are not sure about any issue or topic on this Module Guide or any issue arising from the Assignment Specification.

Can I ask a question at any time?
Yes, even during assessments.

I don't like asking questions because:-
I will look stupid in front of my Colleagues.
Your colleagues may want to ask the same question but are too shy to do so.
Although it is nice to demand the respect of your colleagues, it doesn't really matter what they think of you at this stage of the programme.

I don't like asking questions because:-
I will look stupid in front of my Tutor and he /she will not give me good marks.
Not true. If you ask questions it means that you are awake and are listening.