



**CSCI 3370: Intro to Game Development
SYLLABUS
Fall 2024**

Subject to any new Texas legislative mandate changes.

COURSE INFORMATION:

TR 2:00-3:15
EIEAB 1.204

Course Modality: Traditional Face-to-Face Courses (TR)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor Name: Emmett Tomai
Phone: (956) 665-2320
E-Mail: emmett.tomai@utrgv.edu
Office location: EIEAB 3.213
Office hours: M 1:00-4:00, W 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION, PREREQUISITES & MODE OF LEARNING

This is a project based course in which programmers collaborate to create a video game. The course investigates theory and practice of developing computer games from a variety of perspectives. Prerequisites: CSCI 2380; and CSCI 3326/3328/3329 or consent of instructor.

COVID-19 RESOURCES: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

Please visit the [UTRGV COVID-19 protocols web page](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 campus information and resources. The [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) web page](#) offers additional guidance to specific questions. To submit a question for the FAQ, please email WelcomeBack@utrgv.edu.

UTRGV VACCINE PORTAL Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

UTRGV Students are eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Students may access and complete their vaccine profile via the [UTRGV Vaccine Portal](#). For additional information on the COVID-19 Vaccine, please visit the [UTRGV Vaccine web page](#).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES FOR THE COURSE

Student Learning Outcomes	Major Course Requirement/Major Assignment/Examination
Introduce students to the basic techniques of video game development.	Weekly game programming labs and assignments.
Demonstrate the application of software engineering practices in collaborative development.	

Student Learning Outcomes	Major Course Requirement/Major Assignment/Examination
Increase student breadth of development competence through hands-on work with industry-standard languages, libraries, environments and tools.	
Provide a survey of advanced game development topics (3d graphics, networking, AI) and have students pursue depth topics of their choice.	
Encourage and evaluate creative exploration of game systems through experimental development.	

TEXTBOOK, TECHNOLOGY, AND/OR RESOURCE MATERIAL

None. Game development changes constantly, and public internet resources are by far the most effective references and learning tools.

GRADING POLICIES

Class time will be divided between lectures, hands-on lab activities and team exercises. There will be weekly design and development work in and outside of class time.

This first half of the course focuses on the basics of simulation programming with 2d graphics and user interaction. Students will work alone and in teams to complete labs and extend them into small, exploratory games based on 2d physical interaction of moving objects.

The second half of the course focuses on the structure of modern 3d engines. Lab work will be included, but limited, as the majority of student time will be spent on a larger team game project.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. All students will be expected to participate in demonstrations, critiques and code reviews during class time. Credit for participating in lab and other in-class activities cannot be made up. If you are unable to attend, contact the instructor beforehand. Working in teams and using collaboration tools is required.

All lab and project turn-ins will be done through source control. Grades will be heavily influenced by the number and quality of your check-ins. This makes it critical that you:

- 1) Learn to use the source control system right away
- 2) Allow every team member to work on and check-in their own code
- 3) Start early
- 4) Commit often!

Scoring and Grading:

Labs, check-ins, in-class activities	10%
Assignments	70%
Final game project	20%

Total possible score (max):	100%

Final grade:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Note: Grades on assignments and exams may be curved to reflect the overall performance of the class.

Late Work Policy: No work in this course will be accepted late unless specifically extended by the instructor, or arranged beforehand by the student and instructor.

Make-up Policy: No make-up activities will be given except for university sanctioned excused absences. If you miss an activity (for a good reason), it is your responsibility to contact me before class, or as soon after as possible.

BLACKBOARD SUPPORT

If you need assistance with course technology at any time, please contact the [Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology \(COLTT\)](#).

Campus:	Brownsville	Edinburg
Location:	Casa Bella (BCASA) 613	Education Complex (EEDUC) 2.202
Phone:	956-882-6792	956-665-5327

Toll Free: 1-866-654-4555

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Support Tickets Submit a Support Case via our [Ask COLTT Portal](#)

24/7 Blackboard Support

Need Blackboard assistance after hours? You can call our main office numbers, 956-882-6792 or 956-665-5327, to speak with a support representative.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCE/SICK POLICY, Makeup Work:

Most class periods will include interactive activities and labs contributing to your participation grade. If you miss these, it will affect your grade.

Most reasonable absences can be accommodated with advance notice. After the fact, except in the case of emergencies, there is no guarantee of accommodation.

The use of classroom recordings is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), UTRGV's acceptable-use policy, and UTRGV HOP Policy STU 02-100 Student Conduct and Discipline. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTRGV, in accordance with FERPA and UTRGV policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session.

You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action under UTRGV HOP Policy STU 02-100 Student Conduct and Discipline.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Members of the UTRGV community uphold the [Vaquero Honor Code](#)'s shared values of honesty, integrity and mutual respect in our interactions and relationships. In this regard, academic integrity is fundamental in our actions, as any act of dishonesty conflicts as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an

examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). **All violations of Academic Integrity will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities through [Vaqueros Report It](#).**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive reasonable academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student must apply using the [mySAS portal](#). and is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS. Students are required to participate in an interactive discussion, or an intake appointment, with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive, meaning they are valid once approved by SAS. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) should submit the request using the form found at <https://www.utrgv.edu/pregnancyandparenting> for review by **Student Accessibility Services**.

Student Accessibility Services:

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are encouraged to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Spring Module 1 (7 weeks)	February 23 – March 1, 2022
Spring Regular Term 2022	April 15 – May 4, 2022
SpringModule 2 (7 weeks)	April 20 – 26, 2022

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (OIED@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR (drop) until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students

considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Student Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (956) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

Center Name	Brownsville Campus	Edinburg Campus
Advising Center AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu	BMAIN 1.400 (956) 665-7120	EITTB 1.000 (956) 665-7120
Career Center CareerCenter@utrgv.edu	BINAB 1.105 (956) 882-5627	ESTAC 2.101 (956) 665-2243
Counseling Center Counseling@utrgv.edu Mental Health Counseling and Related Services List	BSTUN 2.10 (956) 882-3897	EUCTR 109 (956) 665-2574
Food Pantry FoodPantry@utrgv.edu	BCAVL 101 & 102 (956) 882-7126	EUCTR 114 (956) 665-3663
Learning Center LearningCenter@utrgv.edu	BMSLC 2.118 (956) 882-8208	ELCTR 100 (956) 665-2585
Writing Center WC@utrgv.edu	BLIBR 3.206 (956) 882-7065	ESTAC 3.119 (956) 665-2538

Calendar of Activities (subject to change)

Every weekly topic includes an assignment and some sort of activity or lab.

1. Setup and Move
2. Microgame: Bounce/Avoid
3. Microgame: Platformer
4. Microgame: Space Shooter
5. Microgame: Tile-based Overhead
6. Intro to 3d
7. 3d interactions
8. Scripted entities
9. Final game project (3 weeks)

DEAN OF STUDENTS RESOURCES:

The Dean of Students office assists students when they experience a challenge with an administrative process, unexpected situation such as an illness, accident, or family situation, and aids in resolving complaints. Additionally, the office facilitates student academic related requests for religious accommodations, support students formerly in foster care, helps to advocate on behalf of students and inform them about their rights and responsibilities, and serves as a resource and support for faculty and campus departments.

[Vaqueros Report It](#) allows students, staff and faculty a way to report concern about the well-being of a student, seek assistance in resolving a complaint, or report allegations of behaviors contrary to community standards or campus policies.

The Dean of Students can be reached by emailing dos@utrgv.edu, by logging into [Virtual Office hours](#) in which a representative is available Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m, or by visiting one of the following office locations: Cavalry (BCAVL) 204 or University Center (EUCTR 323). Phone: 956-665-2260.