

Syllabus: Technical Theatre Media (TD314M)

Instructors: Jackson Cobb (he/they) Sydney Sousa (she/her)

Media Section Description

The Media technology section of TD314M is an introductory survey of the media design process.

In this section, we will focus on three primary areas:

1. How media is created.
2. How media is displayed.
3. How media playback systems function.

Through the creation, understanding, and execution of a simple design and system, each student will gain practical experience as an assistant designer, animator, and programmer.

The goal of this section is to provide you with a basic appreciation for the technical and design needs of a media design. Should you choose, it will also provide you with the fundamental knowledge and skills to be an effective crew member in the future.

This course is conducted in a **Face-to-Face** instructional mode. That is to say, this course is scheduled to meet in-person during scheduled course times. All students are expected to attend in person and according to the attendance policies specified in this syllabus.

Section Expectations

Be on time. We will start class promptly at 2 p.m. If you know you're going to be late for a class, we ask that you get in touch with one of us on Discord or Canvas first as a courtesy.

Come to class ready. Your success (and grade) in this section will correlate directly with how prepared you are for class each day. You will have access to WIN 1.138 in between classes to complete your work, so make sure to utilize that resource. We have a lot of ground to cover in a short amount of time, so come ready to participate fully and collaborate with your peers!

Ask for help. If you find yourself struggling with an assignment, send one of us a message on Canvas and/or come to our office hours as soon as you can. We're more than happy to help one-on-one.

Say yes. This class is about exposing you to new technologies, and that's easier when you say yes to new experiences! If you ever doubt your work, remember: We're grading you on your progress, effort, and growth in learning new technical skills. Not everything will be perfect. Most things probably won't be. That's okay. Just show us your best effort.

Class 1: Introductions, 10 pts

Lecture: Intro to Media Design

Assignment: Share notes on media designs, Introduce Final Project Complete: Technology Survey, 5 pts (due at midnight, same day as Class 1); Media Quiz #1: The Basics, 10 pts; Choose Scene for Final

Class 2: Content Creation: Photoshop, 10 pts

Lecture: Getting to Know Photoshop

Assignment: Photoshop Demo; Begin creating still graphics for final project; Creating still graphics for final (graphics due before Class 5)

Class 3: Content Creation: After Effects, 10 pts

Lecture: Getting to Know After Effects

Assignment: After Effects Demo, Begin creating motion graphics for final project, Creating motion graphics for final (graphics due before Class 5)

Read: Reading a System Diagram

Class 4: Diagrams, Cables, and Show Control, 10 pts

Lecture: Cables and System Diagrams, Behind-the-Scenes Tour 1

Complete: Media Quiz #2: Cables, 10 pts; Graphics for final project

Class 5: Programming with QLab, 10 pts

Assignment: QLab Programming Demo, Begin programming final project Complete:

Programming for final project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9t91hAXs0o>

Class 6: Final Project Presentations, 20 pts

Activity: Mapping Model Boxes

Assignment: Final Project Presentations

Complete: Decompress! Breathe! Party! You did it!!

Complete: Section Reflection (anonymous), 5 pts

Required Hardware

For this course, you'll need access to two things:

1. A device you can use to complete Canvas quizzes.
2. A flash drive with 32 GB storage or greater.

If access to either of these items presents a significant financial hardship for you, please reach out. I'm more than happy to help find a solution.

Class Software

This is the software we'll be using during our time together. **You do not need to purchase any software for this course.** You'll have access to everything you need on the computers in WIN 1.138.

Photoshop CC: Content Creation, Mac, PC, Still Graphics, iPadOS
<https://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop.html>

This is the industry-standard application used to create still raster graphics.

After Effects CC: Content Creation, Mac, Motion Graphics, PC
<https://www.adobe.com/products/aftereffects.html>

This is the industry-standard application used to create motion graphics.

QLab: Mac, Media Server

<https://qlab.app>

This is the industry-standard media server used for audio (at all levels) and for video (at small-to-medium sized houses).

Course Grading

This course will utilize the grading system as prescribed by the University of Texas at Austin. Grades will not be rounded up.

Breakdown

- Quizzes: **20 pts** *Quiz 1: The Basics – 10 pts Quiz 2: Cables – 10 pts*
- Classwork/Homework: **60 pts** *Technology Survey – 5 pts Class 1: Intro – 10 pts Class 2: Photoshop – 10 pts Class 3: After Effects – 10 pts Class 4: Systems – 10 pts Class 5: QLab – 10 pts Section Reflection – 5 pts*
- Final Project: **20 pts** *Class 6/Final – 20 pts*

Scale

A 92.5–100 **A-** 89.5–92.49 **B+** 86.5–89.49 **B** 82.5–86.49 **B-** 79.5–82.49 **C+** 76.5–79.49 **C** 72.5–76.49 **C-** 69.5–72.49 **D+** 66.5–69.49 **D** 62.5–66.49 **D-** 59.5–62.49 **F** 0–59.49

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

Absences

Attendance is critical in the professional world and in this class. Each section has a limited amount of time to cover a lot of information. Please do your best to come to class on time and ready to learn. The absence policy for this class is available on the larger 314M course syllabus, available on Canvas.

Late Work

As professionals in the industry, production deadlines are of utmost importance to the quality and execution of a show. Therefore, late work will generally not be accepted in this class.

If, for any reason, you need an extension, you must contact one of us via email no fewer than 24 hours before the due date to request one.

Technology

This is a section focused on media design, a discipline that involves the use of many different technologies. Therefore, the use of personal electronic devices during class is not only encouraged – it's required!

That being said, the use of personal electronic devices for activities not related to class will not be permitted. We ask that you to set devices to "Do Not Disturb" during scheduled class hours.

If extreme circumstances require your attention to a phone call, text message, or email, please let me know prior to the beginning of class.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Plagiarism

Presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences.

As always, you are required to give credit where credit is due; this includes Internet sources, drama/theatre activities, and paraphrasing. Violations will be handled according to university policies.

Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. According to the 2006-2007 General Information Catalog, "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act." More information is available at the [Dean of Students' website](#).

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Other Information

Names and Pronouns

We will gladly honor your request to address you by your chosen name and/or gender pronouns. Please advise us of this at any point in the semester so that we may make appropriate changes to our records.

If we ever use an incorrect gender pronoun when addressing you, please feel free to let us know, in whatever manner makes you comfortable, what pronouns you use so that we can correct that error.

Resources for students looking to change their chosen name and gender marker in UT's internal systems are available here: <http://tinyurl.com/UTNameAndGenderMarker>

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

Documented Disability Statement

Please let me know if you need accommodations of any kind during this course. I'm more than happy to work with you to create accommodations that can facilitate your learning in accordance with university policy:

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866- 329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible. (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).

Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.). Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

Behavior Concerns and COVID Advice Line (BCCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Q Drop Policy

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231: "Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify instructors of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Changes

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.