

# CTIN 555 b: Advanced Interactive Project Course Syllabus

(final version 1/15/06)

**Semester:** Spring 2006  
**Professor:** Michael Naimark <michael@naimark.net>  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 4-6pm or by appointment <mobile: 646 643 6421>  
**Location:** Zemekis Media Lab  
**Time:** Mondays 6:30pm-9:30pm

## Course Description and Goals

CTIN 555b is the second half of CTIN 555ab, a two semester sequenced course in which third year Interactive MFA students are to complete the concept development, production, final documentation and testing of an advanced interactive project culminating in a final show, presentation and paper. While each project may have several students working in different production or programming capacities, all final controls and decision making will be the responsibility of the enrolled third year Interactive MFA candidate. Along with the faculty supervisor, each MFA candidate student is to secure an approved Thesis Committee. This advanced project is not only a portfolio project which demonstrates the student's technical, creative and managerial skills in creating an interactive project, but also should provide a significant contribution to the body of existing interactive media works.

Final deliverables include:

- Completion of their thesis project including full functionality and final content
- Exhibition of their thesis project in a project-specific venue
- One internal and one public presentation of their thesis project in an auditorium environment
- Final draft of a paper suitable for publication

The thesis project is expected to both a technical achievement and a creative achievement but both, integrating the exploration of new and novel media technologies with compelling and expressive content. Although the lines between technology and content are complex, students are expected to be mindful of both elements and will be assessed accordingly.

Students are further expected to be responsible for documentation and articulation of their thesis project into the corpus of academic scholarship, to both demonstrate "on whose shoulders" their work is built and to "leave a trail" for others pursuing similar work. Students will accordingly be assessed for the contribution in the field through their ability to exhibit, present, and write about their thesis project.

Students are expected to have regular contact with each member of their Thesis Committee, sending them email updates at least once a month through the course of the semester.

Students are expected to meet together weekly for production updates and for sharing common information. They are also expected to attend the weekly 511 seminars.

## Unit Value

2 units

## Prerequisite

CTIN 555a

## Grading Structure

Grades will be assigned after completion of the project at the end of the second (b) semester as follows:

Creative Execution	25%
Technical Execution	25%
Contribution to Field	25%
Assignments, Exercises & 511 Seminars	25%

## Class Schedule

The class schedule is based on a film-style pre-production, production, post-production model. Students are welcome to stretch this model as needed, though the milestone dates are to be considered not negotiable.

class 1 - Jan 9 - Syllabus 0.9, Logistics, Status Checks  
[holiday - Jan 16] \*  
class 2 - Jan 23 - Syllabus 1.0, **Production Document Due**  
class 3 - Jan 30 - **Contribution to the Field Assignment Due**  
class 4 - Feb 6- **Papers Outline Due, Exhibition Specs Due**  
class 5 - Feb 13 - Production Updates  
[holiday - Feb 20] \*  
class 6 - Feb 27 - Production Updates  
class 7 - Mar 6 - Production Updates  
[spring break - Mar 13-18]  
class 8 - Mar 20 - **Base Production Completed** [GDC San Francisco]  
class 9 - Mar 27 - Presentation Outline  
class 10 - Apr 3 - Presentation Dry Run  
class 11 - Apr 10 - **Formal Presentation**  
class 12 - Apr 17 - Lock Down Exhibition Details  
class 13 - Apr 24 - (last class) - **Papers Due**  
[study days - Apr 29 - May 2]  
**Exhibition Opening** - Sat May 6  
**Public Presentation/Closing** - Thu May 11  
Commencement - Fri May 12

\* Students are expected to arrange a private 40-minute meeting with Professor Naimark during the course of the semester as a way to collectively compensate for the two missing classes due to holidays.

## Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Punctuality is also expected. Two unexcused absences may lower one's grade a full point while three unexcused absences may lower one's grade two full points. Four or more unexcused absences may result in a request by the instructor for the student to withdraw from the course.

## Class Meetings

Students will initially meet weekly as a group during the allocated class time, for lectures, presentations, and discussion. As the semester progresses, the allocated class time may be tailored more for one-on-one meetings and for studio-style work.

## USC Supplied Facilities

USC will supply lab space and facilities as available. Generic computer hardware and software and internet access will be provided as available. Students will be required to secure and supply at his or her own expense all project specific hardware, software, bandwidth, etc. as well as non-USC supplied facilities if required

## **Ownership**

Consistent with the policies of USC and The School of Cinema and Television.

## **Additional Crew Members**

Students may use additional crew members not enrolled in CTIN 555 subject to the approval of faculty. It is specifically intended that students seek out qualified students in other Programs and other Schools of USC who might bring unique and needed skill to the creative process. It is also intended that students seek out a first or second year Interactive MFA student. All projects are required to keep an updated approved crew list which will determine access to USC supplied facilities and equipment.

## **Missing an Exam, Incompletes**

The only acceptable excuses for taking an incomplete in the course are personal illnesses or a family emergency. Students must inform the professor before the exam and present verifiable evidence in order for a make-up to be scheduled. Students who wish to take incompletes must also present documentation of the problem to the instructor before final grades are due.

## **Academic Integrity**

The School of Cinema-Television expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from USC students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, submitting a paper to more than one instructor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. If you have any doubts or questions about these policies, consult "SCAMPUS" and/or confer with the Professor or Department Chair.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to the Professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.