



Course title and number	VIST 131-500 First Year Seminar
Term	Fall 2019
Meeting times and location	M 4:10pm–5:25pm, Langford Architecture Center, Bldg. C, Room 105

Course Description and Prerequisites from the Graduate Course Catalog

Seminar on various contemporary topics related to Visualization; introduction to college instruction and experiences; focus on writing, exploration, discussion, and research.

Subject Matter Philosophy Specific to this Offering of the Course

This seminar course provides an opportunity to explore the building blocks for success in the Bachelor of Science in Visualization program, at Texas A&M University, in the professions of Visualization, and in life. The journey of university life is a time of personal growth. Change begins with the identification and clarification of values around how you present yourself to the world. It is critical to establish a sense of identity as an artist, designer, technologist, and scientific inquirer. Change also includes developing the foundation for life-long learning built upon methods of critical thinking.

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

By the end of this course it is expected that students will have a broad understanding of the Bachelor of Science in Visualization program, expectations of students in the major, career opportunities in the fields of Visualization, and knowledge of different kinds of problem solving skills. Specific learning objectives and course outcomes include:

- Identify study and life skills associated with the transition to college.
- Recognize opportunities for personal exploration within Texas A&M University, the College of Architecture, and Department of Visualization.
- Practice behaviors that promote personal development, well-being, and responsibility.
- Compare the differences between the academic expectations of high school relative to university.
- Give examples of career paths within Visualization and the general academic opportunities and expectations aligned with them.
- Recognize and practice personal skills and behaviors aligned with academic and professional expectations in Visualization.
- Describe methods of problem solving and critical thinking that are necessary to succeed in Visualization and continue as a self-directed lifelong learner.
- Relate a sense of community and belonging among first year students.
- Identify and seek out campus resources.
- Model skills that lead to the achievement of personal and academic goal.
- Practice skills that contribute to a diverse and inclusive environment.

Instructor Information

Name	Tim McLaughlin, Associate Professor and Department Head
Telephone number	(979) 845-3465
Email address	timm[at]viz.tamu.edu
Office hours	Upon request by email to Stasha Kraguljac (stasha[at]tamu.edu)
Office location	Langford Architecture Center, Building C, Room 418
Teaching Assistant	Emily Edwards

TA Email:	eedwards15[at]tamu.edu
Course Communication	
The primary communication channel used outside of the classroom will be to your TAMU email address. Other forms of communication will be used, including E-Campus and social media, to draw attention to special events, but these are secondary sources. Additionally, please communicate any questions you have that concern course content or events via email to the instructor with a Cc to the TA (unless privacy required). Please indicate "VIST 131" in the subject heading.	
Required Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet access • Hardcover journal, size: 8" x 5"; minimum page count: 100. Example: https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/home-gift-moleskine-classic-notebook-large-ruled-black-hard-cover/30826233?ean=9788883701122 	
Grading Policy	
Grading in this course is determined by participation, engagement, and reflection. Participation is measured by your attendance in this class. Engagement is measured by the number of sanctioned Visualization-related extracurricular you attend. Reflection is measured by your frequency and eloquence in writing about your experiences this semester.	
A small number of opportunities to earn extra credit will be offered during the semester. Each opportunity will be available to all students and will involve an activity, task, or participation that is related to the subject matter of this course.	
Each project's value in relationship to the composition of the final grade is:	
10 points - Initial journal check 30 points - Mid-term journal check 50 points - Final journal check 10 points - Attendance/Participation <hr/> 100 Total Points Possible	
A final letter grade is determined as follows:	
A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 D = 60 – 69 F = below 60	
Attendance Policy	
Class attendance and participation is an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments by stated due dates. Attendance equates to showing up on time for class, listening and participating in class discussions. Being late for class, sleeping during class, reading or working on materials other than those required for class, talking or texting on cell phone, and not attending will result in loss of attendance/participation points. Excused absences will be granted according to guidelines stated in Rule 7 of the Texas A&M University Student Rules: https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/	
Late Turn-in Policy	
Journals are due at the beginning of class on the due dates. Journals are accepted late, but will be penalized. Journals are not accepted outside of class times. If turned in at the next class after the due date the penalty is 10%. If turned in at the second class after the due date the penalty is 25%. If turned in at the third class after the due date the penalty is 50%. Following the third class after the due date journals will not be accepted for credit.	

Extra Credit
<p>Extra credit can be earned in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 points – Enroll in a TAMU minor by last class day. Student must notify instructor or TA via email and the minor must be visible on student’s transcript) 5 points – Join a Viz-oriented student organization by last class day. In alphabetical order: Aggie Graphic Storytellers, AIGA, A&M Photography Club, SIGGRAPH Student Chapter, TAGD, TAMUVR, or WIA Student Chapter. Student must notify instructor or TA via email and membership must be verified by the student group. <p><u>10 Extra Credit Points Possible</u></p>

Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates
(All information below is subject to change)

Week	Date	Topics
1	Mon. 8/26	Course introduction; Student surveys
2	Mon. 9/2	Initial journal check ; Overview of Visualization; Developing a critical eye
3	Mon. 9/9	Student groups; Well-being: physical and mental health
4	Mon. 9/16	CARC Research Symposium (verified attendance counts for class attendance)
5	Mon. 9/23	Problem solving skills and creativity; Alcohol and drugs
6	Mon. 9/30	Overview of department events; Sophomore gate
7	Mon. 10/7	Mid-term journal check ; Managing stress, RSI; Academic success strategies
8	Mon. 10/14	Viz Lab, College and university resources
9	Mon. 10/21	Career Paths; Studio Sequence
10	Mon. 10/28	Minors; Graduate Programs; Healthy relationships
11	Mon. 11/4	Process in Design Development; UG Research; Spring Semester Registration
12	Mon. 11/11	Study Away, Internships, and Study Abroad; Bystander intervention
13	Mon. 11/18	Hard and Soft Skills Development
14	Mon. 11/25	Final Journal Check

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>

Academic Integrity
<i>“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”</i>

For additional information please visit: <https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules>

Defacement of Property
"It is unlawful for any person to damage or deface any of the buildings, statues, monuments, trees, shrubs, grasses, or flowers on the grounds of any state institutions of higher education (Texas Education Code Section 51.204)"
The words damage or deface refer specifically to any and all actions, whether direct or indirect, that either diminish the value or mar the appearance of the physical environment.

Mental Health and Counseling
We are here for your success in school, and that goes beyond grades. Even in the best circumstances, school can be isolating, frustrating, or demoralizing. Depression and anxiety are a) more common than you might realize, b) not something to be ashamed of, and c) can be helped with the right tools. Please know that staff at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS, https://caps.tamu.edu/) are available to provide those tools or help connect you to other offices or community resources that would be the best fit for your unique situation. The University Advancement Fee covers the majority of services at CAPS. Please reach out before you feel overwhelmed or get behind in your studies.
If you or someone you know is ever in a crisis situation, CAPS has crisis counselors available. M-F 8:00-5:00 Call 979-845-4427 or visit CAPS at White Creek (Bus Route 03 "Yell Practice") After business hours and on weekends, call the Helpline at 979-845-2700 (V/TTY).

Information Sources	
Texas A&M University	Animation, Visual Effects, Games, VR
https://viz.arch.tamu.edu	https://www.awn.com/
http://successcenter.tamu.edu	http://www.asifa.net/
https://studentlife.tamu.edu	http://www.cgsociety.org
https://lynda.tamu.edu (LinkedIn Learning)	http://www.gamasutra.com
	https://uploadvr.com
Maker and DIY	https://theasc.com/ac_magazine/digital_edition.html
http://makezine.com	http://cinefex.com
https://playground.arduino.cc/Projects/Ideas	http://vfxvoice.com/
https://processing.org/exhibition/	
http://www.creativeapplications.net/	Graphic/UX/UI/Info Design
	http://www.howdesign.com
Contemporary Art	https://www.interaction-design.org
http://www.contemporaryartdaily.com/	https://www.uxmatters.com
http://glasstire.com/	https://eagereyes.org/
https://www.artforum.com/	https://alistapart.com/
https://www.leonardo.info/	http://www.uxbooth.com/
http://www.fondation-langlois.org/html/e/	http://gdusa.com/
https://www.historyoftechnology.org/	http://www.aiga.org/
http://artjournal.collegeart.org/	http://motionographer.com/
https://www.afterall.org/online/	
http://www.e-flux.com/	