FIT9029
Developing multimedia systems

Unit guide

Semester 1, 2009

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FIT9029 Developing multimedia systems - Semester 1, 2009

Unit leader :
Lindsay Smith

Lecturer(s) :
Caulfield
  • Ruben Hopmans

Introduction

Welcome to FIT9029 Developing Multimedia Systems. This 6 point unit is offered as part of the Faculty of Art and Design Master of Multimedia/Multimedia Design. The unit is also available as an open elective to all postgraduate students. The unit has been designed to introduce the fundamental systems analysis and design skills necessary for the design of larger multimedia projects. In addition the unit introduces basic programming constructs needed for multimedia scripting.

Unit synopsis

ASCED Discipline Group classification: 029999 Information Technology not elsewhere classified

This unit will examine the activities integral to the development of a multimedia systems, detailing the techniques of systems analysis and design used in the development process. Fundamental programming concepts will be introduced within a multimedia scripting language framework as a mechanism for system development. Students will be involved in a mixture of individual and group-based work which will require application of the theoretical knowledge gained in lectures to a series of practical problems in multimedia systems development.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

• Knowledge of a range of systems analysis and design methodologies and their associated tools that can be used in the development of multimedia systems
• Knowledge of the main participants in the development of multimedia systems and the roles which they perform
• Knowledge of the key tasks in the multimedia systems development process
• Knowledge of quality assurance techniques for the analysis, design, implementation and maintenance of a quality multimedia system

Attitudes, Values and Beliefs

• An appreciation of the importance of a thorough understanding of the principles of systems analysis and design so as to support successful development of multimedia systems
• Broadminded awareness of the the advantages and disadvantages of alternative approaches in systems analysis and design
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Practical Skills

- Undertake a requirements analysis for a business application
- Convert requirement analysis models to design models that represent a workable solution system
- Prepare analysis and design documentation for a Multimedia System
- Apply sound programming principles to the use of a multimedia scripting language such as ActionScript
- Apply knowledge to prepare and build using development software such as Flash CS4

Relationships, Communication and TeamWork

- Develop skills to work as part of a project team

Workload

For on campus students, the **weekly** workload commitments are:

- two hours of lectures,
- two hours of laboratory (requiring advance preparation), and
- eight hours of self directed study - this will include reading and computer based activities.

Unit relationships

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this unit.

Relationships

FIT9029 is a unit in the Technology stream of the Faculty of Art and Design Master of Multimedia/Multimedia Design postgraduate degrees.

There are no prerequisites for this unit.

You may not study this unit and

CSE1401, GCO1813, IMS1403, IMS2401, IMS5401, IMS9001, MMS1403, MMS2201, FIT2001 Translation Set: MMS9405

in your degree.

This unit may be followed with further study in the area of specific multimedia tools via FIT9027 Website Authoring and FIT9028 Digital Media Authoring.

Continuous improvement


To monitor how successful we are in providing quality teaching and learning Monash regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Unit Learning outcomes
Evaluation Surveys. The University’s Unit Evaluation policy (http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/unit-evaluation-policy.html) requires that every unit offered is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys as they are an important avenue for students to “have their say”. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

Faculties have the option of administering the Unit Evaluation survey online through the my.monash portal or in class. Lecturers will inform students of the method being used for this unit towards the end of the semester.

Student Evaluations

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/cheq/evaluations/unit-evaluations/

Improvements to this unit

We have added a software development assessment to allow students to apply the theory they have learnt. This is to help students feel that the material they are learning is more relevant and to allow students to maintain interest in the subject.

Unit staff - contact details

Unit leader

Mr Lindsay Smith
Deputy Head of School
Phone +61 3 990 47201
Fax +61 3 990 47089

Lecturer(s):

Mr Ruben Hopmans
Postgraduate Student
Phone +61 3 990 47127

Additional communication information

Ruben Hopmans
Ph: 99047268
Email: ruben.hopmans@infotech.monash.edu.au
Room 1024
Building 903, BSIT
Clyde Road, Berwick Campus, Berwick, 3802

Teaching and learning method

The unit will be delivered via lectures and laboratories.

Lecture: During the lecture, your lecturer will introduce key theoretical concepts and demonstrate various approaches to multimedia design tasks. The time in lectures is quite brief, please ensure you gain the best advantage from this time by:
Prior to the lecture
- downloading and reading the lecture notes,

During the lecture
- annotate a printed set of lecture notes as the lecture proceeds, and
- participate, question, seek clarification

After the lecture
- read over you notes and make sure you understand the concepts
- seek help if you are unsure

The labs consist of a set of exercises which allow you to put the theory presented in the lecture to work in designing and creating multimedia systems. The labs will also include issues that you will need to discuss with your fellow classmates and tutors. Before the lab you should carefully read through the lab activities. The teaching staff will presume that you have completed all the posted lab tasks each weekend and build subsequent activities on this assumption.

For this reason it is very important that you complete all the posted tasks (please note you will not be able to complete them in the allocated 2 hours, these will be completed in your self study 8 hours). Given the cumulative nature of the learning, it is easy to fall behind if either you do not complete the required work or fail to understand key tasks/concepts. If you are having problems with lab exercises, please ensure you speak to your tutor and gain some assistance.

Tutorial allocation


Communication, participation and feedback

Monash aims to provide a learning environment in which students receive a range of ongoing feedback throughout their studies. You will receive feedback on your work and progress in this unit. This may take the form of group feedback, individual feedback, peer feedback, self-comparison, verbal and written feedback, discussions (online and in class) as well as more formal feedback related to assignment marks and grades. You are encouraged to draw on a variety of feedback to enhance your learning.

It is essential that you take action immediately if you realise that you have a problem that is affecting your study. Semesters are short, so we can help you best if you let us know as soon as problems arise. Regardless of whether the problem is related directly to your progress in the unit, if it is likely to interfere with your progress you should discuss it with your lecturer or a Community Service counsellor as soon as possible.

Unit Schedule

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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Successful Projects</td>
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<td>Data Flow Diagrams</td>
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**Unit Resources**

**Prescribed text(s) and readings**

No prescribed text

**Recommended text(s) and readings**

Details available from the Unit website

**Required software and/or hardware**

Students will use software which is installed in the Monash computing labs, details about the various items of software will be available on the unit website. Information about computer use for students is available from the ITS Student Resource Guide in the Monash University Handbook.

Recommended Software Includes:
Flash CS4
Dreamweaver CS4
Photoshop CS4
Illustrator CS4

**Study resources**

Study resources we will provide for your study are:

- Weekly detailed lecture notes outlining the learning objectives, discussion of the content, required readings and exercises;
- Weekly laboratory tasks and exercises with sample solutions provided two weeks later;
- Assignment specifications and sample solutions;
- A sample examination and suggested solution
- Discussion groups;
- This Unit Guide outlining the administrative information for the unit;
- The unit web site on Moodle, where resources outlined above will be made available.

**Library access**

The Monash University Library site contains details about borrowing rights and catalogue searching. To learn more about the library and the various resources available, please go to [http://www.lib.monash.edu.au](http://www.lib.monash.edu.au).
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The Educational Library and Media Resources (LMR) is also a very resourceful place to visit at http://www.education.monash.edu.au/library/

Monash University Studies Online (MUSO)

All unit and lecture materials are available through MUSO (Monash University Studies Online). Blackboard is the primary application used to deliver your unit resources. Some units will be piloted in Moodle. If your unit is piloted in Moodle, you will see a link from your Blackboard unit to Moodle (http://moodle.monash.edu.au) and can bookmark this link to access directly. In Moodle, from the Faculty of Information Technology category, click on the link for your unit.

You can access MUSO and Blackboard via the portal: http://my.monash.edu.au

Click on the Study and enrolment tab, then Blackboard under the MUSO learning systems.

In order for your Blackboard unit(s) to function correctly, your computer needs to be correctly configured.

For example:

- Blackboard supported browser
- Supported Java runtime environment

For more information, please visit: http://www.monash.edu.au/muso/support/students/downloadables-student.html

You can contact the MUSO Support by phone: (+61 3) 9903 1268

For further contact information including operational hours, please visit:
http://www.monash.edu.au/muso/support/students/contact.html

Further information can be obtained from the MUSO support site:

Assessment

Unit assessment policy

The unit is assessed with three assignments and a two hour closed book examination. To pass the unit you must:

- attempt all assignments and the examination
- achieve no less than 40% of the possible marks in the exam
- achieve no less than 50% of possible overall unit marks

Assignment tasks

- Assignment Task

  Title : Assignment 1: Multimedia System Design Document

  Description :

  Create an application/multimedia system idea that will solve a common issue, create entertainment, or provide useful information to the user.
Weighting : 15%

Criteria for assessment :

These will be supplied as part of the assignment task.

Due date : 1st April 2009

Remarks (optional - leave blank for none) :

This is an individual task

• Assignment Task

Title : Presentation of Assignment 1

Description :

Present your idea to the class. You will be trying to sell your idea, so present in a persuasive manner.

Weighting : 10%

Criteria for assessment :

These will be supplied as part of the assignment task.

Due date : 1st April 2009

Remarks (optional - leave blank for none) :

This is an individual task

• Assignment Task

Title : Assignment 2: Development Project

Description :

Create a application prototype based on the chosen Multimedia System Design Document from assignment 1. You will work in groups of 3 or 4 with individual roles assigned.

Weighting : 30%

Criteria for assessment :

These will be supplied as part of the assignment task.

Due date : 3rd June 2008

Remarks (optional - leave blank for none) :

This is a group task

• Assignment Task

Title : Presentation of Assignment 2: Development Project

Description :

This will be a two part presentation.

1. Discuss your project it's successes and failures.
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2. Present and demonstrate your product.

**Weighting : 5%**

**Criteria for assessment :**

**Due date :** 3rd June 2009

**Examinations**

- **Examination 1**
  
  **Weighting : 40%**
  
  **Length :** 2 hours
  
  **Type (open/closed book) :** Closed book

**Assignment submission**

Most assignment submissions will be done through the subject website, alternatives will be provided with the assignment briefs.

**Assignment coversheets**

Refer to your unit web site for details

**University and Faculty policy on assessment**

**Due dates and extensions**

The due dates for the submission of assignments are given in the previous section. Please make every effort to submit work by the due dates. It is your responsibility to structure your study program around assignment deadlines, family, work and other commitments. Factors such as normal work pressures, vacations, etc. are seldom regarded as appropriate reasons for granting extensions. Students are advised to NOT assume that granting of an extension is a matter of course.

Requests for extensions must be made to the unit lecturer at your campus at least two days before the due date. You will be asked to forward original medical certificates in cases of illness, and may be asked to provide other forms of documentation where necessary. A copy of the email or other written communication of an extension must be attached to the assignment submission.

**Late assignment**

Assignments received after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day, including weekends. Assignments received later than one week (seven days) after the due date will not normally be accepted. In some cases, this period may be shorter if there is a need to release sample solutions.

The only exception to this is in the case of illness or other serious cause. In any such cases, proper third party documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) will have to be supplied.
This policy is strict because comments or guidance will be given on assignments as they are returned, and sample solutions may also be published and distributed, after assignment marking or with the returned assignment.

**Return dates**

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later.

Assessment for the unit as a whole is in accordance with the provisions of the Monash University Education Policy at [http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/](http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/)

**Plagiarism, cheating and collusion**

Plagiarism and cheating are regarded as very serious offences. In cases where cheating has been confirmed, students have been severely penalised, from losing all marks for an assignment, to facing disciplinary action at the Faculty level. While we would wish that all our students adhere to sound ethical conduct and honesty, I will ask you to acquaint yourself with the University Plagiarism policy and procedure ([http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-procedures.html](http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-procedures.html)) which applies to students detected plagiarising.

In this University, cheating means seeking to obtain an unfair advantage in any examination or any other written or practical work to be submitted or completed by a student for assessment. It includes the use, or attempted use, of any means to gain an unfair advantage for any assessable work in the unit, where the means is contrary to the instructions for such work.

When you submit an individual assessment item, such as a program, a report, an essay, assignment or other piece of work, under your name you are understood to be stating that this is your own work. If a submission is identical with, or similar to, someone else's work, an assumption of cheating may arise. If you are planning on working with another student, it is acceptable to undertake research together, and discuss problems, but it is not acceptable to jointly develop or share solutions unless this is specified by your lecturer.

Intentionally providing students with your solutions to assignments is classified as "assisting to cheat" and students who do this may be subject to disciplinary action. You should take reasonable care that your solution is not accidentally or deliberately obtained by other students. For example, do not leave copies of your work in progress on the hard drives of shared computers, and do not show your work to other students. If you believe this may have happened, please be sure to contact your lecturer as soon as possible.

Cheating also includes taking into an examination any material contrary to the regulations, including any bilingual dictionary, whether or not with the intention of using it to obtain an advantage.

Plagiarism involves the false representation of another person's ideas, or findings, as your own by either copying material or paraphrasing without citing sources. It is both professional and ethical to reference clearly the ideas and information that you have used from another writer. If the source is not identified, then you have plagiarised work of the other author. Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that is insulting to the reader and grossly unfair to your student colleagues.

**Register of counselling about plagiarism**

The university requires faculties to keep a simple and confidential register to record counselling to students about plagiarism (e.g. warnings). The register is accessible to Associate Deans Teaching (or nominees) and, where requested, students concerned have access to their own details in the register. The register is to serve as a record of counselling about the nature of plagiarism, not as a record of allegations; and no provision of appeals in relation to the register is necessary or applicable.
Non-discriminatory language

The Faculty of Information Technology is committed to the use of non-discriminatory language in all forms of communication. Discriminatory language is that which refers in abusive terms to gender, race, age, sexual orientation, citizenship or nationality, ethnic or language background, physical or mental ability, or political or religious views, or which stereotypes groups in an adverse manner. This is not meant to preclude or inhibit legitimate academic debate on any issue; however, the language used in such debate should be non-discriminatory and sensitive to these matters. It is important to avoid the use of discriminatory language in your communications and written work. The most common form of discriminatory language in academic work tends to be in the area of gender inclusiveness. You are, therefore, requested to check for this and to ensure your work and communications are non-discriminatory in all respects.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities that may disadvantage them in assessment should seek advice from one of the following before completing assessment tasks and examinations:

- Faculty of Information Technology Student Service staff, and / or
- your Unit Coordinator, or
- Disabilities Liaison Unit

Deferred assessment and special consideration

Deferred assessment (not to be confused with an extension for submission of an assignment) may be granted in cases of extenuating personal circumstances such as serious personal illness or bereavement. Information and forms for Special Consideration and deferred assessment applications are available at http://www.monash.edu.au/exams/special-consideration.html. Contact the Faculty's Student Services staff at your campus for further information and advice.