

Computer Graphics

CS 420
Fall 2020

Instructor Tom Kelliher, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science
Pronouns: he/him/his
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Course Textbook and Other Resources:

1. S. J. Gortler, *Foundations of 3D Computer Graphics*. MIT Press, 2012. Required.
2. F. Dunn and I. Parberry, *3D Math Primer for Graphics and Game Development*, 2nd edition. CRC Press, 2011. Recommended.
3. See the course web site for additional resources:
<http://phoenix.goucher.edu/~kelliher/f2020/cs420/>

Meetings Synchronous Online, TuTh 9:10–11:05 am.

Description An application-oriented introduction to computer graphics. Graphics devices and their programming interfaces. Fundamentals of two-dimensional graphics: rendering, object and view transformations, and interactive animation. Introduction to three-dimensional graphics: clipping, lighting, and hidden-surface removal. Large programming projects in a modern graphics API are an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite CS 205.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain and use the mathematical foundations of transformations.
2. Describe the function of the graphics pipeline, the camera model, and viewing.
3. Describe and use the various tools available for coloring pixels in 3D graphics.
4. Apply the model-render paradigm to the design of graphics programs.
5. Design and implement significant 2D and 3D graphics programs using the C++ programming language and the shader-based OpenGL API.

Expectations You are expected to give CS 420 the attention it deserves as a college-level computer science course. In particular, you are expected to:

- Spend an average eight hours per week outside of class working on the course. This includes the entire range of activities from preparing for class, to completing assignments and projects, to attending office hours.
- Attend class each time it meets, with all assigned preparation activities completed. During each class meeting, you are expected to pay attention respectfully, work productively, and not interrupt the learning of your classmates.
- Take initiative to seek out help in a combination of forms and channels when needed, and to be honest about when help is needed.

Registering for a four-credit class is a 12-hour-per-week commitment, four hours of which take place during our class meetings. The other eight hours are to be spent in productive, engaged work in individual and group study and in attending office hours.

You have the right to expect quality instruction. I will work my hardest to return graded work promptly and include helpful feedback designed to help you improve; respect your questions; enforce the grading standards and policies of this syllabus fairly; be organized and effective in planning our class meetings; and show you respect as learners. We will have several informal course evaluations throughout the semester designed to give you frequent opportunities for feedback on how the course is going.

Grading:

Grade Distribution

At the conclusion of the semester, your grades will be weighted as detailed below, rounded up, and converted to a letter grade as follows: A = [92–100], A- = [90–92), B+ = [88–90), B = [82–88), B- = [80–82), etc.

Graded Work

As necessary, grades will be scaled to a [0–100] scale.

1. Assignments — There will be a number of written assignments during the semester, accounting for 15% of your final grade.
2. Projects — There will be several projects during the semester, accounting for 50% of your final grade.
You may work alone or with partners on the projects, as specified in each project. If you work with a partner, keep in mind that have responsibilities to your partner — you must perform your share of the work, and be present during class when we're working on the projects.
3. Exams — There will be two semester exams, accounting for 35% of your final grade. The first exam will be scheduled for Oct. 8. The second exam, which is not cumulative, will be scheduled during the Final Experience Period.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is detrimental to the integrity of our learning community and will not be tolerated. All of us, including me, are bound by the Academic Honor Code. The College's Academic Honor Code is available at www.goucher.edu/documents/General/AcademicHonorCode.pdf. I expect you

to be familiar with its obligations and requirements. I have also written a statement that applies the Honor Code to this course. This statement is available on the course web site (see *Integrity in My Computer Science Courses*).

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability you should contact the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) to arrange for academic accommodations for the course. Carefully follow all of ACE's policies and procedures. Once you have coordinated with ACE, email me to make me aware of your accommodation. I will receive official correspondence from ACE; however, I would also like to receive an email from all students requiring accommodations for the semester. If your accommodation involves taking exams at ACE, it is your responsibility to schedule your exams with ACE. When scheduling exams with ACE, be sure to carbon copy me on any emails with ACE so that I have confirmation that everything is in order. This process is to be repeated for all exams throughout the semester.

Achieving Academic Success

If you are struggling in this or other courses, I strongly encourage you to reach out for help sooner rather than later. Proactive strategies could include contacting me directly, attending office hours, and/or taking advantage of the multitude of academic services that the Academic Center for Excellence offers. The responsibility is upon you to recognize when you need help and to take the steps necessary to succeed. Goucher College has a variety of resources available to help you succeed in your classes; use them!

Office hours are perhaps the most effective and immediate way to get help. My goal in office hours is to answer your questions in such a way that you will not only get your question answered, but also strengthen your ability to answer your own questions.

If you don't need an immediate answer to a question, you may submit it by email. I check email several times during the day, and usually during the evening. Please note, however, that I am not available on a 24x7 basis, and don't check email very frequently the weekends.

The first 10 minutes of each class may be reserved for addressing the most common issues I see occurring from all of our interactions.

Student-Athletes

According to the Goucher College policy on Student-Athlete Responsibilities, if you are a student-athletes, you are expected to contact me at the beginning of the semester to request approval for absences associated with athletic events (or scheduled departure times for such events) that conflict with the regularly scheduled class meeting time. The approved absences will then be listed on a contract signed by both me and you. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to complete all assignments covered in class during the approved absences and to obtain all handouts, assignments, and notes from the missed class(es). Student-athletes who fail to coordinate with me prior to any class absences will not be permitted to make-up missed assignments.

Student Responsibilities in Academic Conflicts (Field trips, Performances, etc.)

According to the Goucher College policy on Academic Conflicts, if you are in a

situation in which you are confronted with obligations or responsibilities (ranging from participation in field trips in the visual arts or the sciences or rehearsals or performances in the performing arts to extra-curricula activities at which students are representing the College such as model senate events or varsity athletic contests) that conflict with regularly scheduled academic classes, you are expected to contact me at the beginning of the semester, or as soon as the conflict is known, to request approval for absences that conflict with the regularly scheduled class time. The approved absences will then be listed on a contract signed by both me and you. Additionally, it is your responsibility to complete all assignments covered in class during the approved absences and to obtain all handouts, assignments, and notes from the missed class(es). Students who fail to coordinate with me prior to any class absences will not be permitted to make-up missed assignments.