



DAGV 4550 Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: *Spring*

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: *DAGV*

Course and Section # 001 and:301

Course Title: *Performance Animation*

Credits: 3

Course Description

This course focuses on advanced techniques in performance animation, combining acting principles, motion capture, and technical workflows to create compelling animated performances. Students will learn to direct and animate characters in dynamic and emotional scenes, utilizing industry-standard tools and technologies to develop skills applicable to animation and game production pipelines.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

Discipline Core Requirements in the Program

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Larry Esmay or *Anthony Romrell*

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Apply acting and performance principles to animated characters.*
 - 2. Use motion capture systems to record, edit, and refine animation data.*
 - 3. Direct animated performances that convey emotion, personality, and intent.*
 - 4. Integrate performance animation into animation or game production pipelines.*
 - 5. Critically analyze and refine animated performances based on feedback.*
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Course Requirements

Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- Acting Exercises:** Weekly exercises focusing on character performance through acting and animation principles (20%).

- **Motion Capture Assignments:** Recording and refining motion capture data (30%).
- **Scene Development:** Creation of animated scenes showcasing emotional and dynamic performances (30%).
- **Final Project:** A polished performance animation integrating all techniques learned in the course (20%).

Late Policy

- Assignments are subject to a 10% late penalty per day, with a cut-off at one week after the due date.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Week

Weeks 1-2: Foundations of Performance Animation

- Week 1: Acting for animators – principles of movement and expression.
- Week 2: Introduction to motion capture systems and workflows.

Weeks 3-6: Motion Capture and Data Processing

- Week 3: Recording motion capture data – capturing emotional performances.
- Week 4: Cleaning and refining motion capture data.
- Week 5: Combining motion capture and keyframe animation techniques.
- Week 6: Milestone 1: Submit a short performance animation clip using motion capture.

Weeks 7-10: Directing Animated Performances

- Week 7: Storytelling through performance – directing characters in scenes.
- Week 8: Animating dialogue and body language.
- Week 9: Iterating on performances based on feedback.
- Week 10: Milestone 2: Submit a complete scene with animated performances.

Weeks 11-14: Finalization and Presentation

- Week 11: Refining animation – polishing and adding nuance to performances.
- Week 12: Preparing final animations for presentation.
- Week 13: Submission of final project for review.
- Week 14: Final presentations and course wrap-up.

Weekly Deliverables

- **Acting Exercises:** Videos, sketches, or animation tests based on acting principles.
- **Motion Capture Deliverables:** Cleaned and processed motion capture data.
- **Scene Deliverables:** Drafts and iterations of performance animation scenes.
- **Final Project:** A polished animated scene or sequence showcasing character performance.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

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Using Remote Testing Software

- This course does not use remote testing software.

 - This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.
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Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.

Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.