

**Computer Science 815**  
**Special Effects Production**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Syllabus**

**Instructor**

Dr. Timothy Davis  
303 McAdams Hall  
656-0309  
Office hours: T 5:00-6:00, W 3:00-4:00  
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**Class Meeting Times**

TTh 3:30-4:45 McAdams 118C

**Class Cancellation**

Students are expected to wait for 15 minutes after the beginning of class before leaving if the instructor is late.

**Textbooks**

Marco Paolini, *Shake 4: Professional Compositing and Special Effects (Apple Pro Training Series)*, Peachpit Press, 2005. (required)

Ron Brinkman, *The Art and Science of Digital Compositing*, Morgan Kaufmann, 1999. (optional)

**Grading**

Final grades will be based on programming and homework assignments, a midterm test, and a final exam with appropriate weights based on difficulty. The midterm and/or final may be an in-class test, a programming assignment, or an in-class presentation.

Projects	60%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

Letter grades will be based on a 10-point scale. These ranges may be changed somewhat, but only to your advantage.

## Assignments

Assignments will constitute a significant portion of your grade for the course. Each of these assignments should follow the guidelines listed below.

- **Webpage** A webpage with your solution to the assignment must include:
  - description of the problem
  - description of the solution
  - images produced by your code
- **Source Files** For each assignment, you will be notified on the method for submitting source files, if required.
- **Late Work** Late assignments will be accepted with penalty deemed appropriate.
- **Independent/Team Work** You must work on projects independently, unless specifically authorized to work in teams. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in significant penalties.

## Course Description

The course will cover topics in compositing, with a strong emphasis in Apple Shake. A rough outline of topics appears below:

- Introduction
- Techniques for Compositing
- Apple Shake: Interaction, Compositing, Chroma-Keying, Color Correction, Match-Moving, Rotoscoping, Advanced Topics
- File Formats and Compression
- Image Processing Techniques