

Computer Graphics Rendering - Course Outline

COMP 408: 2013 Trimester 1

This document sets out the workload and assessment requirements for COMP 408. It also provides contact information for staff involved in the course. If the contents of this document are altered during the course, you will be advised of the change by an announcement in lectures and/or on the course web site. A printed copy of this document is held in the School Office.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. understand and use the computer graphics pipeline to generate photo realistic rendering images (BE [3\(a\)](#); BSc COMP [4](#));
2. understand core structures of photo-realistic renderers (e.g. PBRT) for implementing rendering algorithms (BE [3\(f\)](#); BSc COMP [1](#));
3. understand important concepts and theory of physically based rendering algorithms and be able to construct programs that use the algorithms (BE [3\(a\)](#), [3\(b\)](#), [3\(f\)](#); BSc COMP [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

The course focuses mostly on algorithms to create photo-realistic rendering images; it is not a course on creative content creation. We will explore how final images are produced once a 3D model has been created or acquired. Topics include: the graphics rendering pipeline, radiometry, reflection models, texture, lighting, acceleration structures, ray tracing, path tracing, and other global illumination algorithms.

The course is based on the belief that Computer Graphics is best learned by doing. Implementing programs is a significant component of the course because many of the subtleties and difficulties encountered in Computer Graphics only become apparent when one actually tries to write programs and show the results on the display. All projects are strongly related to computer programming and they serve to both increase your understanding of the relevant concepts and techniques, and also to give you confidence in being able to apply the techniques to real applications.

The lectures will assume that students understand the basic computer graphics pipeline (e.g. COMP 308), linear algebra, and have sufficient programming skill.

Textbook

There is no set textbook for COMP 408, but the following books contain most of the relevant materials covered from the course and are on reserve in VUW library:

- Matt Pharr, Greg Humphreys, "Physically Based Rendering: From Theory to Implementation, 2nd Edition". (E-Book version is also available)
- Peter Shirley, R. Keith Morley, "Realistic Ray Tracing, 2nd Edition". (3-day loan)

Lectures, Tutorials, Laboratories, and Practical work

COMP 408 is a trimester 1 course. The trimester starts on 4 Mar. The examination period at the end of the course is 14 June - 3 Jul

A [schedule](#) of lecture topics, readings, and assignment due dates is available online.

Lectures for COMP 408 are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00am - 10:50am in Mulphy 301.

The Friday lecture time may be used for tutorials and guest lectures. Details will be announced during lectures.

Help desks will be provided for assisting with the projects. The details will be announced in lectures.

Assignments and Projects

Computer graphics is best learned by doing and showing the results. There will be three projects involving computer programming. Work for marking should be submitted electronically using the [ECS Submission System](#). The details of the assignments and projects will be provided in the lectures. The due dates for the projects will be 11:59pm

- Project 1: 12th April
- Project 2: 17th May
- Final Project: 7th Jun

Workload

In order to maintain satisfactory progress in COMP 408, you should plan to spend an average of at least 10 hours per week on this paper. A plausible and approximate weekly breakdown for these hours would be:

- Lectures and tutorials: 3 hours
- Readings: 3 hours
- Projects: 4 hours

Note: A 15 point course maps to 150 hours over 15 weeks, where this includes the 12 weeks of lectures, 1 week of mid-trimester break, and 2 weeks of study & exams period.

School of Engineering and Computer Science

The School office is located on level three of the Cotton Building ([Cotton 358](#)).

Staff

The course organiser for COMP 408 is Taehyun Rhee. The contact details are:

Taehyun Rhee:

- [Cotton 225](#)
- +64 4 463 5233 x7088
- taehyun.rhee@ecs.vuw.ac.nz

The tutor for COMP 408 is Craig Spence:

Craig Spence:

- [Cotton 241](#)
- craig.spence@ecs.vuw.ac.nz

Announcements and Communication

The main means of communication outside of lectures will be the COMP 408 web area at http://ecs.victoria.ac.nz/Courses/COMP408_2013T1/. There you will find, among other things, this document, the [lecture schedule](#) and [assignment handouts](#), and the [COMP 408 Forum](#). The forum is a web-based bulletin board system. Questions, answers, and comments can be posted to the forum. We highly recommend using it for discussion. The staff will read and occasionally respond to the posts.

Assessment

Your grade for COMP 408 will be determined based on the following assessment weightings:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Project 1	15%
Project 2	15%
Final Project	30%
Final Examination	40%

Tests and Exams

The [timetable for final examinations](#) will be available from the University web site and will be posted on a notice board outside the faculty office. The final examination will be three hours long. Non-programmable, non-graphical calculators without a full alphanumeric keyboard, and paper non-English to English dictionaries will be permitted in the final examination. The examination period for trimester 1 is 14 June - 3 July.

Practical Work

All the materials for the projects should be submitted electronically using the [ECS Submission System](#). Other methods (e.g. email) are not accepted. Marked projects will be available at lectures, or from the School Office ([Cotton 358](#)). All projects must be submitted on time.

The policy on late submission is as follows:

- Each project that is late (ie, submitted on the submission system after the deadline) will be penalised by 20 marks if it is up to 24 hours late, and penalised by 40 marks if it is between 24 hours and 48 hours late. Any work submitted more than 48 hours after the deadline **will receive 0 marks**.
- Each student will have 3 "late days" which you may choose to use for any project or projects during the course (except the final project). There will be no penalty applied for these late days. You do not need to apply for these - any late days you have left will be automatically applied to projects that you submit late.
- The late days are intended to cover minor illnesses or other personal reasons for being late. You should only ask for extensions in the case of more significant or longer lasting problems (and you may need documentation). Do not waste "late days" on procrastination!

All submitted code must be compiled and run on the ECS Linux system or on a Mac. You can work on any other platforms, but programs that do not compile and run on the ECS Linux system or Mac will not be marked. Since computer graphics is all about showing results on the screen, projects are marked based primarily on the final output on the display.

Plagiarism

Working Together and Plagiarism

We encourage you to discuss the principles of the course and assignments with other students, to help and seek help with programming details, problems involving the lab machines. However, any work you hand in must be your own work.

The [School policy on Plagiarism](#) (claiming other people's work as your own) is available from the course home page. Please read it. We will penalise anyone we find plagiarising, whether from students currently doing the course, or from other sources. Students who knowingly allow other students to copy their work may also be penalised. If you have had help from someone else (other than a tutor), it is always safe to state the help that you got. For example, if you had help from someone else in writing a component of your code, it is not plagiarism as long as you state (eg, as a comment in the code) who helped you in writing the method.

Mandatory Requirements

Both the practical work and an understanding of the concepts and principles of rendering are essential to the course. Therefore, there is a mandatory requirement that you obtain at least 40% on the total of the three projects and at least 40% on the exam.

Passing COMP 408

To pass COMP 408, you must satisfy the mandatory requirements and gain at least a **C** grade overall.

Withdrawal

The last date for withdrawal from COMP 408 with entitlement to a refund of tuition fees is Friday 15 March 2013. The last date for withdrawal without being regarded as having failed the course is Friday 17 May 2013 -- though later withdrawals may be approved by the Dean in special circumstances.

Rules & Policies

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study>.

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress>.

The University's statutes and policies are available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic>

All students are expected to be familiar with the following regulations and policies, which are available from the school web site:

[Grievances](#)

[Student and Staff Conduct](#)

[Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities](#)

[Student Support](#)

[Academic Integrity and Plagiarism](#)

[Dates and Deadlines including Withdrawal dates](#)

[School Laboratory Hours and Rules](#)

[Printing Allocations](#)

[Expectations of Students in ECS courses](#)

The School of Engineering and Computer Science strives to anticipate all problems associated with its courses, laboratories and equipment. We hope you will find that your courses meet your expectations of a quality learning experience.

If you think we have overlooked something or would like to make a suggestion feel free to talk to your course organiser or lecturer.

[Course Outline as PDF](#)
