This course provides an overview of software and hardware systems for computer graphics including design factors related to human interaction, color perception and other ergonomic considerations. Emphasis is placed on understanding the principles underlying interactive computer graphics: basic software needs, the hierarchical structure of graphics software from low-level device dependent drivers to high-level 3-D modeling systems incorporating rotation, scaling, translation, perspective, 2-D and 3-D clipping, and color shading. More advanced topics include current hardware, visible surface algorithms, reflectance models, anti-aliasing techniques, and mathematical techniques for curve and surface representation. Slides, video tapes and films showing actual systems in use supplement the lecture material.
Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on a combination of homework assignments, a final project, one midterm, and one final exam. The percentages assigned to each of these categories are:

- Assignments 30%
- Project 30%
- Midterm 20%
- Final 20%

Within each category, grading will be done using a point system. Each assignment, test question, and so on, will be worth some number of points. Your score in that category will simply be the number of points earned divided by the total.

Grading will be done on a curve. As a result if you, for example, score 10 points out of 70 on a homework, you should only be concerned if other people tended to score better than that. By the same token scoring 60 out of 70 should concern you if the rest of the class averaged 68. I try to gauge difficulty so that a very good performance is about 90%, but sometimes I under- or overestimate the class. I also will adjust the curve upward or downward to account for the general performance of the class.

There will often be extra credit options on the assignments. Points awarded for those get added in after the curve has been set... so they really are extra.

Prerequisites

A data structures course (e.g., CS 60C), C/C++ programming ability, and knowledge of linear algebra, calculus, and trigonometry. The first homework should be easy. If you find it baffling, you may have a problem and should consult the instructor.

Assignments

You will have a couple of written assignments which will exercise your knowledge of the theoretical basis of computer graphics. They will also be good preparation for the exams. You may discuss problems with other students but all work for written assignments must be strictly your own. Please note that we were not able to hire psychic readers: if your written assignments (or exam answers!) cannot be read they will not receive points. Written assignment should be turned in at the CS-184 drop-box in 283 Soda.

Programming assignments must compile and run on the instructional machines. It is your responsibility to make sure that they do. The first time you have a compile/run problem the grader has the option of allowing you to correct the problem. After the first time, the assignment may not be graded.

Programming assignments may be done in pairs. Of course, you may choose to work alone. If you work in a pair you only need to hand in one copy of any documentation required, but make sure that you indicate clearly who was included in the pair and how the task was divided up. If
you work in a pair make sure that you think carefully about how you are going to divide up the programming effort between you so that you can coordinate your efforts without too much conflict. Instructions for turning in the assignment will be included with each assignment and may vary over the semester. Read them carefully.

Late assignments will be penalized 10% of their value plus an additional 20% for each 24 hour period that elapses before you turn them in. Example: An assignment due Monday at 1pm, turned in Monday at 1:01pm loses 10%, Tuesday at 1pm still loses 10%, and Tuesday at 1:01pm loses 30%.

This course has a reputation for somewhat demanding project work. You have been warned, no whining allowed.

Academic Honesty

I am generally happy for people to use code or ideas that they did not create themselves, but you must clearly declare what you have used from others and what was original from you. If you don’t tell us anything, then we’ll assume that you are presenting work as your own work. Presenting other peoples’ work as your own is academic dishonesty. Collective responsibility applies: if you work in a pair, both of you will be held responsible for the resulting project.

Student who engage in dishonest activities with intent to alter their grade will receive an ’F’ in the course and then be reported to the University.

Text Books

Required Textbook

• P. Shirley. Fundamentals of Computer Graphics

Other Useful Textbooks:


• A. Watt. 3D Computer Graphics, 3r Edition


Communication

You are responsible for reading the newsgroup ucb.class.cs184 — all bug announcements and fixes for assignments and lectures will be distributed there. Routine communication about the course should be sent to cs184@mail.eecs.berkeley.edu or posted to the news group. E-mail sent to the TA’s or professor may be posted on to the newsgroup in redacted form.

If you have some issue that will prevent you from meeting an assignment deadline, or from sitting for an exam, you must let the professor know about it beforehand. I am happy to accommodate
religious or family obligations (within reason). If some emergency arises at the last minute that precludes prior communication, then be prepared to provide supporting documentation.

Dire Warning

Teaching a class to people who sit quietly is boring for the instructor. People who participate tend to learn more. So I would like to encourage class participation. If people appear to be interested and willing to participate then great... if not then I reserve the right to start giving really annoying little quizzes every class.