

Modelado Visual

Guidelines for your presentation

The presentations consist on a (approximately) 15-minute-long talk, most likely accompanied by a Powerpoint / Keynote presentation. It can be given in pairs or individually, but I'd suggest working in pairs. It's always more fun, and it helps you learn to work in groups. Larger groups need to be agreed in advance with me; so far nobody has approached me with this, which is fine.

The topic of the presentation is open, provided you discuss it with me and we agree. I have presented a large and varied enough range of topics in class, and will continue to do so until the end of November. I have uploaded plenty of additional material in the web. There's also Google. If you can't find a topic related to the class that suits you, I give up.

The material you'll need to turn in is also open. At a minimum, I expect the Powerpoint / Keynote files. Send me those by e-mail. Not by USB key, not on a CD. By e-mail. Now, nothing prevents you from giving me whatever additional material you create. Do not send me tons of links to webpages, or download half the internet. Be selective. I have internet too. And no matter what they say, size does not matter: it's quality that matters. You can get an A (sobresaliente) with a simple presentation, no additional material, or you can get a lowly C (aprobado) with tons of material. When in doubt, talk to me.

How will I grade the presentations? Well, let's contextualize first: if you remember correctly, the number of credits you're getting for this class assumes seven two-hour-long lab sessions. I announced at the beginning of the course that I wanted you to invest those 14 hours (and then some) learning what is being taught in class and (most importantly) working on your final assignment (this presentation). I do not expect a PhD Thesis, but I don't want to see half-hearted efforts where it's obvious that you've discussed the topic with your partner over coffee, then googled some keywords and copied some web site. I expect that you take this seriously, period. Last year in the Geometric Modeling class I was too easy, and gave a couple of 5's (over 10) to people that did just that. This year, I'll be much more strict.

But of course nobody's going to do that, huh? So, back to the question: how do I grade? Well, the grade is obviously subjective, and that's something you'll need to live with. The minimum requirements that will guarantee you a passing grade is that you have A) agreed a suitable topic with me, B) provided a mature presentation which covers more material than what has been taught in class for that specific topic and C) have sent me the material by e-mail. I of course do not want you to repeat one of my classes: I want you to select a topic and dig a bit deeper here and there. Remember this is a supervised work, so work with me during my office hours to iron out whatever issues you may encounter.

After your presentation, you'll be asked some related questions from the audience (hopefully) and from me (certainly). My questions may also span topics covered in class, outside your presentation topic. But no worries about those: if you have done an honest job at attending the classes, or have tried to read the corresponding class notes from my

web, you're in no danger. I'm only trying to avoid people ignoring 90% of the class contents and focusing only on their presentation topic. You cannot, repeat cannot, pass this class if you have no idea what raytracing is, for instance. And if you get caught off-guard, again no worries: I will ask something different: I just want to make sure you have learnt something! (Of course, if I run out of questions and you still have failed to deliver one single correct answer... well, you may be in trouble then)

Important note: extra credit will be given for intelligent questions asked after the presentations. So I do encourage those. I want you to also develop the ability to listen to a talk and come up with questions, as opposed to simply zoning out until it's your turn to speak.

How to deliver a nice presentation? If I could only give you one advice, it'd be this: choose your message. Again: Choose. Your. Message. Let your presentation tell a story. Do not try to impress us with lots of data, that's meaningless in a talk. There's a knee-jerk reaction in inexperienced speakers in trying to tell too much, too quick. You have 15 minutes: time your presentation, and make sure there's a take-home message at the end. If needed, don't be afraid to refer to additional material in your talk. For instance, download our latest paper: Evaluation of Reverse Tone Mapping through Varying Exposure Conditions. Go to Fig. 7. The paper (the equivalent of your presentation) only shows two series of images. But in reality we had 50 complete series, needed to run some solid statistics on them. We showed two in the paper, enough to tell the story, then referenced off the rest to the additional material (not shown in the paper).

Synthesize. This is related to the "choose your message" advice. Another knee-jerk reaction is to simply say "but this topic is too wide to fit in 15 minutes, I need more". No, you don't. You have 15 minutes, period. And trust me, life can be harder than that. During my associate prof. job interview I had to summarize 8 years of academic career in 30 minutes. The trick is to find the right take-home message. What is it that you really want me to learn from this? Add too many details and down goes the SNR (signal-to-noise ratio). Find the sweet spot. Enhance your SNR.

Practice. Then practice again. Even more so if you're not very experienced. That's what boyfriends and girlfriends are for: to hear you practice your talks. Use them. I'll be happy to organize a practice session if needed (and you ask me!). And again: work with me. My office hours (available at the top of my Teaching page) are meant for this too, so leverage that.

My last advice: have fun preparing this. If you're taking this class, it's because you found the contents interesting (I hope). Now you have the chance to explore at will whatever topic you found most interesting. No pressure to pass an exam, just the joy of learning something new that interests you. That's priceless.

I believe that just about covers it. Any doubts? Again: talk to me :)

Cheers!
Diego

PS: shameless sales pitch here: I'm always looking for some good, motivated students to do research (final career project, master's thesis, PhD...). You know how to find me!