

# STUDIO PRACTICE

Version 1.0  
BA Game Development  
GAM320

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*"Nobody in this industry knows what they're doing, we just have a gut assumption."*

- Cliff Bleszinski

## Introduction

For this assignment you will develop a game as part of a team and be assessed both in terms of your individual contribution and your team's performance. From the rubrics (below), the *collaborate* learning objective is used to assess how you work as a member of an agile game development team. Conversely, the *process* learning objective is used to assess how your team delivers its product.

This assignment is comprised of multiple parts:



## Part A

**Attend the scheduled weekly team meeting with your project supervisor.** Your supervisor meeting details will be stored on the Falmouth timetable, make sure to attend these. There are two types of project meeting: a project review / planning session and an individual review. In the review / planning session, your team will showcase work undertaken on the most recent sprint and present the forthcoming sprint. For the individual review, you and your teammates will review each other's approaches to work over the last sprint. For more information, please read appendix A of the Games Academy Agile Guidebook.

In these sessions you will be able to ask for and receive informal feedback concerning the status and implementation approaches of your project.

*"Golden rule of level design - Finish your first level last."*

- John Romero

## Part B

**Work with your team to develop your game during the first semester.** Between timetabled supervision meetings, your team will have allocated space in the Academy to work together and you will have access to staff through the supervised studio practice sessions and tutorials, which can be arranged by email if required, who will be able to give informal feedback concerning the status and implementation approaches of your project.

Please remember to 'TAP' your card in for the sessions you attend to ensure that your attendance is recorded.

In these sessions you will be able to ask for and receive informal feedback concerning the status and implementation approaches of your project.



cont...

*"You can make an amazing game,  
but you can't make a success. Your  
players make the success."*

*- Irme Jele*



*"Lets optimize for player  
experience rather than what we  
think will make more money."*

*- Ron Carmel*

## Part C

### Attend the Demo Day

During week 13, a day will be scheduled for Demo Day. Each team will need to make a demo of their game available in the Games Academy for staff to play and assess and for other students to play and give feedback on.

You will receive informal feedback from staff during the Demo Day and you will receive formal feedback through Learning Space within three weeks of the Demo Day.

### Additional Guidance

Working as part of a creative team is a very difficult activity and it should come as no surprise that there are likely to be some bumps in the road – as you probably discovered in your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year group projects. The Agile Bible contains some advice for dealing with common issues and creating and maintaining a working environment where it's possible to get meaningful creative work done and still remain on good terms with each other.

If you are having any problems, do not hesitate to talk with your project supervisor.

Generally, successful projects tend to come from the development team respecting each other and being able to make progress (no matter how small). Remember, that a lot of the things you want to create in your games either won't work or won't be enjoyable to play. It is the core advantage of Agile development that using an iterative approach to development allows you to have multiple attempts to get things right.

Make sure you always have a working build and that everyone on the team is using version control. We have a large repository in the Academy, so there's always somewhere to store builds.

### FAQ

- **What is the deadline for this assignment?**  
Falmouth University policy states that deadlines must only be specified on the MyFalmouth system.
- **What should I do to seek help?**  
You can email your tutor for informal clarifications.

# Marking Rubric

## Assignment 1 – Studio Practice

Learning Outcome Name	Learning Outcome Description	Criteria	Weighting	Clear Fail	Near Pass	3rd	2:2	2:1	1st	>1st
Collaborate / Collaborate	Produce work as part of a multidisciplinary team critically appraising practices, approaches, and tools; applying them to enhance development pipelines.	Effective team worker	20%	Student has missed a large number of team meetings / SSP sessions  Teammates concerned with lack of presence  Student tends to be highly disruptive / chaotic	Student attends less than 50% of team sessions  Student tends to be disruptive / chaotic	Student attends most sessions.  Delivers acceptable work with occasional major issues  Has issues dealing with some teammates	Student attends most sessions.  Delivers acceptable work without major issues  Has occasional issues dealing with some teammates	Student attends most sessions.  Delivers generally good work with only minor issues	Student attends most sessions.  Inspires some teammates  No noticeable issues dealing with teammates. Tends to promote team harmony	Student is driving the team to achieve great things  Team is highly supportive of leadership direction and approach
		Agile Practitioner	10%	Very low attendance  Team has little to no idea what's going on with student  Not involved in planning activities	Low attendance  Work always slips Delivers assets for integration only at end of sprint  Minor involvement in planning activities	Average attendance  Some tendency for work to slip, reluctance to share development issues with team or supervisor	Good attendance  Work is generally delivered, with only occasional slippages. Team is often, but not always made aware of issues.  Often contributes to planning	Good attendance  Work is generally delivered, with only occasional slippages. Team is generally made aware of issues.  Able to provide some support to teammates  Good contributor to planning	Good attendance  Work is delivered, with very few slippages. Team is generally made aware of issues and progress.  Able to provide support to teammates  Very good contributor to planning	Good attendance  Work is delivered, team is generally made aware of issues and progress.  Able to provide a lot of support to teammates  Exceptional contributor to planning
		Version control practitioner	10%	Student ignores version control  Only delivers assets outside of version control	Student uses VC with many significant problems for the team  Mainly delivers assets outside of version control	Student uses VC with few problems	Student generally works off mainline of project.  Integration is often problematic	Student is generally working in a single branch with fairly successful integration to mainline  Integration generally works well	Student is generally working across multi-branches to deliver features  Integration works well	Student is successfully working across multiple branches  Student is an enthusiastic adopter of other 'advanced' version control concepts
		Reflective Practitioner	10%	Student fills in few, if any peer review forms for teammates	Student comments are generally lightweight platitudes  Student generally ignores feedback	Student submits feedback that leads to unproductive conflict between team members  Student often ignores feedback, but does take some onboard	Student submits generally reasonable feedback that leads to occasional conflict, which is sometimes productive  Student acts appropriately in response to some feedback	Student submits generally meaningful feedback  Student tends to act appropriately to feedback given	Student submits meaningful and emotionally intelligent feedback  Student reacts appropriately to feedback given	Student submits conscientious and generous feedback that team members are highly appreciative of.  Student seeks out opportunities for self-improvement

## Assignment 1 – Product Evaluation

Learning Outcome Name	Learning Outcome Description	Criteria	Weighting	Clear Fail	Near Pass	3rd	2:2	2:1	1st	>1st
Process / Deliver	Produce prototypes based on your own intellectual property that deliver distinguished experiences, justifying how and why it could engage, immerse an audience, and/or lead to innovation.	Conceptual Coherence  (game mechanics, settings, theme, aesthetics, interface & platform)	10%	No game presented  No game presented  Game is too unstable / non-functional to be played enough to evaluate.	A small subset of the game components work well together to create a coherent experience, but they are stymied by the overall experience of discordance between components leading to a generally awkward experience for players.	A core of the game components work well together to create a coherent experience. However, there are some components that break the overall coherence leading to a conceptually awkward experience for players.	Generally, the game components work well together to create a coherent experience. However, there are some aspects of components that break the overall coherence	The game components work together to produce a coherent experience	The game components work well together to produce a coherent experience which players can respond positively to	There is a clear harmony of design between game components creating a highly coherent experience which players can respond extremely positively to
		Creative innovation	10%	No game presented  Game is too unstable / non-functional to be played enough to evaluate.	Game is generally a rehash/homage of an existing game with little, if anything to distinguish it.	Game developed from an existing game or genre with the addition of innovative convergence / extensions.  Resulting game concept is of questionable engagement	Game developed from an existing game or genre with the addition of innovative mashups / extensions.  Resulting game concept is reasonably engaging	Game developed as a generally organic concept drawing components that make some sense for game.  Resulting game concept is reasonably engaging	Game developed as a generally organic concept drawing components that make much sense for the game.  Resulting game concept is clearly engaging	Game is genuinely novel and extremely engaging and experience
		Quality	20%	No game presented  Game is too unstable / non-functional to be played enough to evaluate.	Some parts of the game are of acceptable quality, but the game gives the overall impression that much of it is not finished or working.  The game runs, but may have obvious and significant stability issues	The game is of acceptable quality but feels like it would benefit from more development time to develop and refine gameplay, aesthetic and other components.  The game runs, but may have obvious or significant stability issues	The game is of reasonable quality but feels like it needs more work to balance and refine gameplay and/or aesthetic components.  The game has no major issues but there are clear small-scale bugs and glitches	The game is of good quality and feels like a game that could be published given more QA.  The game has no major issues but there are clear small-scale bugs and issues	The game is of high quality, looks and feels like a published game with no noticeable issues  There are no major issues and only slight and largely imperceptible bugs and issues	The game is of extremely high quality, looks and feels like a published game with no noticeable issues
		Player Engagement	10%	No game presented  Game is too unstable / non-functional to be played enough to evaluate.	The game generates some moments of engagement and enjoyment for players, though it is generally not an engaging experience  The overall game presentation looks and feels functional.	The game generates some engagement and enjoyability for players, though there is feeling of endurance rather than enjoyment.  The overall game presentation looks and feels fairly functional rather than solid.	The game generates some clear engagement and enjoyability for players, though there is clear scope for improvement.  The overall game presentation looks and feels fairly solid rather than slick.	The game is generally engaging and enjoyable for players, though there is some scope for improvement.  The overall game presentation looks and feels fairly slick with just a few noticeable issues to detract from it.	The game is generally highly engaging and enjoyable for players.  The overall game presentation generally looks and feels slick with few issues to detract from it.	The game is highly engaging and enjoyable for players.  The overall game presentation both looks and feels slick.  Players want to play the game beyond reasonable expectations