

# **Tutorial Letter 101/0/2024**

## **Computer Graphics COS3712**

### **Year Module**

### **School of Computing Department of Computer Science**

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please register on myUnisa, activate your myLife e-mail account and make sure that you have regular access to the myUnisa module website, COS3712-2024-0, as well as your group website.

Note: This is a fully online module. It is, therefore, only available on myUnisa.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

Unisa is a comprehensive open distance e-learning (CODEL) higher education institution. The comprehensiveness of our curricula encapsulates a range of offerings, from strictly vocational to strictly academic certificates, diplomas and degrees. Unisa's "openness" and its distance eLearning character result in many students registering at Unisa who may not have had an opportunity to enrol in higher education. Our CODEL character implies that our programmes are carefully planned and structured to ensure success for students ranging from the under-prepared but with potential to the sufficiently prepared.

Teaching and learning in a CODEL context involves multiple modes of delivery ranging from blended learning to fully online. As a default position, all post graduate programmes are offered fully online with no printed study materials, while undergraduate programmes are offered in a blended mode of delivery where printed study materials are augmented with online teaching and learning via the learner management system – myUnisa. In some instances, undergraduate programmes are offered fully online as well.

Furthermore, our programmes are aligned with the vision, mission and values of the University. Unisa's commitment to serve humanity and shape futures combined with a clear appreciation of our location on the African continent, Unisa's graduates have distinctive graduate qualities which include

- independent, resilient, responsible and caring citizens who are able to fulfil and serve in multiple roles in their immediate and future local, national and global communities
- having a critical understanding of their location on the African continent with its histories, challenges and potential in relation to globally diverse contexts
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the credibility and usefulness of information and data from multiple sources in a globalised world with its ever-increasing information and data flows and competing worldviews
- how to apply their discipline-specific knowledges competently, ethically and creatively to solve real-life problems
- an awareness of their own learning and developmental needs and future potential

COS3712 is an online module

Whether a module is offered either as blended (meaning that we use a combination of printed and online material to engage with you) or online (all information is available via the internet), we use myUnisa as our virtual campus. This is an online system that is used to administer, document and deliver educational material to you and support engagement with you. Look out for information from your lecturer as well as other Unisa platforms to determine how to access the virtual myUnisa module site. Information on the tools that will be available to engage with the lecturer and fellow students to support your learning will also be communicated via various platforms.

You are encouraged to log into the module site on myUnisa regularly (that is, at least twice per week). COS3712-24-Y

Because this is a fully online module, you will need to use myUnisa to study and complete the learning activities for this module. Visit the website for COS3712 on myUnisa frequently. The website for your module is COS3712-24-Y.

We wish you every success with your studies!

## **2 MODULE OVERVIEW**

### **2.1 Purpose**

Students who successfully complete this module will be equipped with knowledge of the fundamental principles and techniques of modern Computer Graphics. They will be able to use these ideas, methods and tools to write and implement graphics applications of medium complexity.

This module presents a top-down, programming-oriented approach to computer graphics with an emphasis on applications programming. Areas covered include Application Programming Interfaces (API's), three dimensional graphics, interactive graphics, as well all aspects of the computer graphics pipeline

### **2.2 Outcomes**

For this module, there are several outcomes that we hope you will be able to accomplish by the end of the course:

**Specific outcome 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of graphics systems, models, architectures and API's.

**Specific outcome 2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles involved in programming two-dimensional graphics applications.

**Specific outcome 3:** Demonstrate an understanding of how to develop user input and interaction in computer graphics applications.

**Specific outcome 4:** Demonstrate an understanding of how geometric objects and transformations can be used in 3-Dimensional Computer graphics.

**Specific outcome 5:** Demonstrate an understanding of 3-dimensional programming techniques and concepts, including viewing, lighting, shading and discrete techniques.

**Specific outcome 6:** Demonstrate an understanding of the four major tasks of the graphics pipeline including modeling, geometry processing, rasterization and fragment processing.

## **3 CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION**

Unisa has implemented a transformation charter, in terms of which the university has placed curriculum transformation high on the teaching and learning agenda. Curriculum transformation includes student-centred scholarship, the pedagogical renewal of teaching and assessment practices, the scholarship of

teaching and learning, and the infusion of African epistemologies and philosophies. All of these will be phased in at both programme and module levels, and as a result of this you will notice a marked change in the teaching and learning strategy implemented by Unisa, together with the way in which the content is conceptualised in your modules. We encourage you to embrace these changes during your studies at Unisa in a responsive way within the framework of transformation.

## **4 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS**

### **4.1 Lecturer(s)**

Please refer to the module welcome page on Mymodules for your lecturers' contact details.

### **4.2 Department**

You can contact the Department of Computer Science as follows:

Telephone: 011 670 9100

E-mail: [computing@unisa.ac.za](mailto:computing@unisa.ac.za)

### **4.3 University**

Contact addresses of the various administrative departments appear on the Unisa website: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Contact-us/Student-enquiries>.

Please include the student number in all correspondence

## **5 RESOURCES**

### **5.1 Prescribed book(s)**

Prescribed book for COS3712 is:

Angel, Edward. Shreiner, Dave(2018). *Interactive Computer Graphics: A Top-Down Approach with WebGL*. Seventh edition. Pearson Education: Boston

Please consult the list of official booksellers and their addresses in *Study @ Unisa*.

### **5.2 Recommended book(s)**

No recommended books

### **5.3 Library services and resources**

The Unisa Library offers a range of information services and resources. The library has created numerous library guides, available at <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za>

**Recommended guides:**

- For brief information on the library, go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/library/libatglance>
- For more detailed library information, go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library>
- Frequently Asked Questions, visit <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Frequently-Asked-Questions>
- For research support and services such as the Personal Librarian service and the Information Search Librarian's Literature Search Request (on your research topic) service, visit <http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support>.
- For library training for undergraduate students, visit <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Training>
- Lending Services <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Lending-services>
- Services for Postgraduate students - <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Services-for-Postgraduates>
- Support and Services for students with disabilities - <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Services-for-students-with-special-needs>
- Library Technology Support - <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/techsupport>
- Finding and using library resources and tools - [http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research\\_skills](http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_skills)
- A–Z list of library databases – <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/az.php>

**Important contact information:**

- Technical problems encountered in accessing library online services: [Lib-help@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Lib-help@unisa.ac.za)
- General library-related queries: [Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za)
- Queries related to library fines and payments: [Library-fines@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Library-fines@unisa.ac.za)
- Interlibrary loan service for postgraduate students: [libr-ill@unisa.ac.za](mailto:libr-ill@unisa.ac.za)
- Literature Search Service: [Lib-search@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Lib-search@unisa.ac.za)
- Social media channels: Facebook: UnisaLibrary and Twitter: @UnisaLibrary

## 6 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The *Study @ Unisa* brochure is available on myUnisa: [www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies](http://www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies)

This brochure contains important information and guidelines for successful studies through Unisa.

If you need assistance with regard to the myModules system, you are welcome to use the following contact details:

- Toll-free landline: 0800 00 1870 (Select option 07 for myModules)
- E-mail: [myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za)

You can access and view short videos on topics such as how to view your calendar, how to access module content, how to view announcements for modules, how to submit assessment

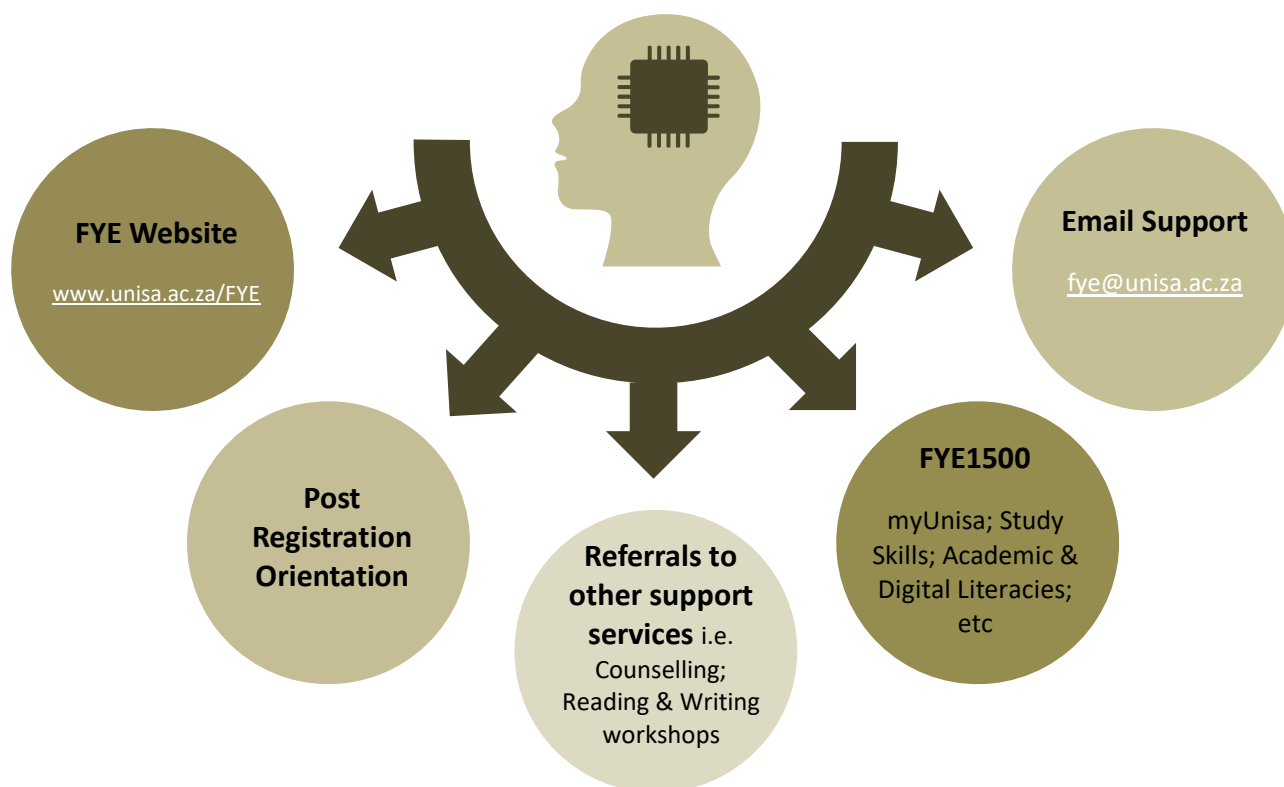
and how to participate in forum activities via the following link: <https://dtls-ga.unisa.ac.za/course/view.php?id=32130>

Registered Unisa students get a free myLife e-mail account. Important information, notices and updates are sent exclusively to this account. Please note that it can take up to 24 hours for your account to be activated after you have claimed it. Please do this immediately after registering at Unisa, by following this link: [myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za)

Your myLife account is the **only** e-mail account recognised by Unisa for official correspondence with the university and will remain the official primary e-mail address on record at Unisa. You remain responsible for the management of this e-mail account.

## 6.1 First-Year Experience Programme

Many students find the transition from school education to tertiary education stressful. This is also true in the case of students enrolling at Unisa for the first time. Unisa is a dedicated open distance and e-learning institution, and it is very different from face-to-face/contact institutions. It is a mega university, and all our programmes are offered through either blended learning or fully online learning. It is for this reason that we thought it necessary to offer first-time students additional/extended support to help them seamlessly navigate the Unisa teaching and learning journey with little difficulty and few barriers. We therefore offer a specialised student support programme to students enrolling at Unisa for the first time – this is Unisa's First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme, designed to provide you with prompt and helpful information about services that the institution offers and how you can access information. The following FYE services are currently offered:







To ensure that you do not miss out on important academic and support communication from the SRU, please check your myLife inbox regularly.

## 7. STUDY PLAN

The table below reflects a possible study plan you could use during the semester. For each week there is a specific lesson on myunisa.

Please note that this is a continuous assessment module. You will have to complete 3 practical assignments and two tests that will consist of theory and practical questions. Each lesson on myunisa will have exercises associated with it. For assignments 1 and 2 you will have to submit some of those exercises. Go to myunisa for more information.

Week	Study Lessons
1	Introduction to C++ and Qt 6
2	Classes
3	Lists
4	Functions
5	Inheritance and Polymorphism
6-7	Mid-course Test
8	Introduction to Design Patterns
9	QObject
10	Generics and Containers
11	QT GUI Widgets
12	Online Assignment 3
13-15	End of Year Test

## 8 HOW TO STUDY ONLINE

### 8.1 What does it mean to study fully online?

Studying fully online modules differs completely from studying some of your other modules at Unisa.

- **All your study material and learning activities for online modules are designed to be delivered online on myUnisa.**
- **All your assignments must be submitted online.** This means that you will do all your activities and submit all your assignments on myUnisa. In other words, you may **NOT** post your assignments to Unisa using the South African Post Office.
- **All communication between you and the University happens online.** Lecturers will communicate with you via e-mail and SMS, and use the **Announcements**, the **Discussion Forums** and the **Questions and Answers** tools. You can also use all of these platforms to ask questions and contact your lecturers.

### 8.2 myUnisa tools

The main tool that we will use is the **Lessons tool**. This tool will provide the content of and the assessments for your module. At times, you will be directed to join discussions with fellow students and complete activities and assessments before you can continue with the module.

It is very important that you log in to myUnisa regularly. We recommend that you log in at least once a week and preferably more times to do the following:

- **Check for new announcements.** You can also set your myLife e-mail account so that you receive the announcement e-mails on your cellphone.
- **Do the Discussion Forum activities.** When you do the activities for each learning unit, we want you to share your answers with the other students in your group. You can read the instructions and even prepare your answers offline, but you will need to go online to post your messages.
- **Do other online activities.** For some of the learning unit activities you might need to post something on the **Blog tool**, take a quiz or complete a survey under the **Self-Assessment** tool. Do not skip these activities because they will help you complete the assignments and the activities for the module.
- **Attend the online lectures.** Online lectures are offered by the e-tutors once their contracts have been activated. These lectures are also recorded for students who cannot attend when the lectures are offered, and for revision purposes. This can help you to master the study material.

We hope that by giving you extra ways to study the material and practise all the activities, this will help you succeed in the online module. To get the most out of the online module, you **MUST** go online regularly to complete the activities and assignments on time.

## 9. ASSESSMENT

### 9.1 Assessment criteria

The assignments and examination in this module will test the following:

- Explain all computer graphics concepts using examples.
- Implement two and three-dimensional computer graphics applications using Unity
- Translate computer graphics problems into solutions using concepts learned.
- Provide advantages and disadvantages of computer graphics theories and concepts.
- Differentiate between computer graphics concepts learned.

### 9.2 Assessment plan

In this course you will be assessed through 2 compulsory practical assignments form part of a final project and a final theory examination. The assignments contribute towards a year mark. Assignments 1 and 2 contribute 50% each towards the year mark. Your year mark will then contribute **50%** towards your final mark and the examination mark **50%**.

### 9.3 Assessment due dates

- There are no assignment **due dates** included in this tutorial letter.
- Assignment due dates will be made available to you on the myUnisa landing page for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.
- Please start working on your assessments as soon as you register for the module.
- Log on to the myUnisa site for this module to obtain more information on the due dates for the submission of the assessments.

### 9.4 Submission of assessments

- Unisa, as a comprehensive open distance e-learning institution (CODeL), is moving towards becoming an online institution. You will therefore see that all your study material, assessments and engagements with your lecturer and fellow students will take place online. We use myUnisa as our virtual campus.
- The myUnisa virtual campus will offer students access to the myModules site, where learning material will be available online and where assessments should be completed. This is an online system that is used to administer, document, and deliver educational material to students and support engagement between academics and students.
- The myUnisa platform can be accessed via <https://my.unisa.ac.za>. Click on the myModules 2024 button to access the online sites for the modules that you are registered for.
- The university undertakes to communicate clearly and as frequently as is necessary to ensure that you obtain the greatest benefit from the use of the myModules learning

management system. Please access the announcements on your myModules site regularly, as this is where your lecturer will post important information to be shared with you.

- When you access your myModules site for the module/s you are registered for, you will see a welcome message posted by your lecturer. Below the welcome message you will see the assessment shells for the assessments that you need to complete. Some assessments may be multiple choice, some tests, others written assessments, some forum discussions, and so on. All assessments must be completed on the assessment shells available on the respective module platforms.
- To complete quiz assessments, please log on to the module site where you need to complete the assessment. Click on the relevant assessment shell (Assessment 1, Assessment 2, etc.). There will be a date on which the assessment will open for you. When the assessment is open, access the quiz online and complete it within the time available to you. Quiz assessment questions are not included in this tutorial letter (Tutorial Letter 101) and are only made available online. You must therefore access the quiz online and complete it online where the quiz has been created.
- It is not advisable to use a cell phone to complete the quiz. Please use a desktop computer, tablet or laptop when completing the quiz. Students who use a cell phone find it difficult to navigate the **Online Assessment** tool on the small screen and often struggle to navigate between questions and successfully complete the quizzes. In addition, cell phones are more vulnerable to dropped internet connections than other devices. **If at all possible, please do not use a cell phone for this assessment type.**
- For written assessments, please note the due date by which the assessment must be submitted. Ensure that you follow the guidelines given by your lecturer to complete the assessment. Click on the submission button on the relevant assessment shell on myModules. You will then be able to upload your written assessment on the myModules site of the modules that you are registered for. Before you finalise the upload, double check that you have selected the correct file for upload. Remember, no marks can be allocated for incorrectly submitted assessments.

#### **9.4.1 Types of assignments and descriptions**

All assignments are defined as either optional, mandatory, compulsory, or elective.

- **Elective assignments**
  - If not submitted, the student gets no mark for this item.
  - The best of the required submissions will count.
- **Mandatory assignments**
  - If not submitted, the student gets no mark for this item.
- **Compulsory assignments**
  - If not submitted, the result on the student's academic record will be *absent*.
- **Optional assignments** – You are encouraged as a student to do optional assignment so that it may benefit your learning.

**I. Elective assignments**

- a. the student is given a choice of which assignments within an identified group to submit, only the best result(-s), the number of which is specified in advance, will contribute towards the year mark.
- b. elective assignments must also be grouped into an elective group.
- c. for the student to select which assignment to submit, the elective assignments must be grouped together. For such an elective group, relevant information must be provided to the student, such as how many of the assignments must be submitted and how many of the assignment marks should be combined into the year mark.
- d. The selection criteria define how marks received for assignments in an elective group are to be combined into the year mark. Three different criteria may be used for calculating the year mark:
  - The best mark should be used, or
  - If the student submits fewer than the required number of assignments per group or no assignment in a group, a mark of 0% will be used.
  - 0% is awarded to all non-submitted or unmarked assessments. A best mark is then calculated from all items.

**II. Mandatory assignments**

- a. contribute to the year mark.
- b. If a student fails to submit a mandatory assignment, no mark is awarded and the year mark is calculated accordingly. The student will therefore forfeit the marks attached to this assignment when the final mark for the module is calculated.

**III. Compulsory Assessment**

- a. when not submitted, the student will fail a Continuous Assessment module but will be shown as absent from the examination in the case of other modules.

**IV. Optional assignments** – You are encouraged as a student to do optional assignment so that it may benefit your learning.**9.5 The assessments**

As indicated in section 9.2, you need to complete 4 assessments for this module.

**There are no assignments included in this tutorial letter.** Assignments and due dates will be made available to you on myModules for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.

**9.6 Invigilated Examinations**

Examination information and details on the format of tests will be made available to you online via the myUnisa site. Look out for information that will be shared with you by your lecturer and e-tutors (where relevant) and for communication from the university.

**9.7.1 Invigilation/proctoring**

Since 2020 Unisa conducts all its assessments online. Given stringent requirements from professional bodies and increased solicitations of Unisa's students by third parties to unlawfully assist them with the completion of assignments and examinations, the University is obliged to assure its assessment integrity through the utilisation of various proctoring tools: Turnitin,

Moodle Proctoring, the Invigilator App and IRIS. These tools will authenticate the student's identity and flag suspicious behaviour to assure credibility of students' responses during assessments. The description below is for your benefit as you may encounter any or all of these in your registered modules:

**Turnitin** is a plagiarism software that facilitates checks for originality in students' submissions against internal and external sources. Turnitin assists in identifying academic fraud and ghost writing. Students are expected to submit **typed** responses for utilisation of the Turnitin software.

The **Moodle Proctoring tool** is a facial recognition software that authenticates students' identity during their Quiz assessments. This tool requires access to a student's **mobile or laptop camera**. Students must ensure their camera is activated in their browser settings prior to their assessments.

The **Invigilator "mobile application-based service** does verification" of the identity of an assessment participant. The Invigilator Mobile Application detects student dishonesty-by-proxy and ensures that the assessment participant is the registered student. This invigilation tool requires students to download the app from their Play Store (Google, Huawei and Apple) on their **mobile devices** (camera enabled) prior to their assessment.

**IRIS Invigilation** software verifies the identity of a student during assessment and provides for both manual and automated facial verification. It has the ability to record and review a student's assessment session. It flags suspicious behaviour by the students for review by an academic administrator. IRIS software requires installation on students' **laptop devices** that are enabled with a webcam.

Students who are identified and flagged for suspicious dishonest behaviour arising from the invigilation and proctoring reports are referred to the disciplinary office for formal proceeding.

**Please note:**

Students must refer to their module assessment information on their myModule sites to determine which proctoring or invigilation tool will be utilised for their formative and summative assessments.

## **10. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

### **10.1 Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas and thoughts of others and presenting them as your own. It is a form of theft. Plagiarism includes the following forms of academic dishonesty:

- Copying and pasting from any source without acknowledging the source.
- Not including references or deliberately inserting incorrect bibliographic information.
- Paraphrasing without acknowledging the original source of the information.

### **10.2 Cheating**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Completing assessments on behalf of another student, copying the work of another student during an assessment, or allowing another student to copy your work.
- Using social media (e.g. WhatsApp, Telegram) or other platforms to disseminate assessment information.
- Submitting corrupt or irrelevant files, this forms part of examination guidelines
- Buying completed answers from so-called “tutors” or internet sites (contract cheating).

**10.3** For more information about plagiarism, follow the link below:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Study-@-Unisa/Student-values-and-rules>

## **11. STUDENTS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

The Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) provides an opportunity for staff to interact with first-time and returning students with disabilities.

If you are a student with a disability and would like additional support or need additional time for assessments, you are invited to contact (name and e-mail address of the lecturer must be inserted) to discuss the assistance that you need.

## **12. IN CLOSING**

Do not hesitate to contact your e-tutors or lecturers by email if you are experiencing problems with the content of this tutorial letter or any aspect of the module.

We wish you a fascinating and satisfying journey through the learning material and trust that you will complete the module successfully.

Enjoy the journey!

COS3712 Team

Computer Science Department

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE: SCHOOL OF COMPUTING**

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