



## UNSW Course Outline

# DART9002 VFX Studio - 2024

Published on the 14 May 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** DART9002

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Term 2

**Teaching Period :** T2

**Is a multi-term course? :** No

**Faculty :** Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

**Academic Unit :** School of Art & Design

**Delivery Mode :** In Person

**Delivery Format :** Standard

**Delivery Location :** Paddington

**Campus :** Paddington

**Study Level :** Postgraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

This studio course introduces you to key principles and processes in visual effects. The course focuses on foundational compositing techniques that can be applied to a diverse range of content, providing essential skills for working in this fast-evolving field of practice. As you develop your own composited sequences integrating CG elements and live action, you will be

encouraged to explore visual effects concepts and screen aesthetics. Through practice-based learning in a supportive visual effects studio environment, the course also encourages you to develop your creative skills by experimenting and iterating during the creative process.

## Course Aims

This course aims to provide fundamental creative, conceptual, and technical skills and knowledge for students to develop their practices in animation and visual effects. The course aims to generate a supportive peer environment that assists students in advancing their learning according to their chosen creative and professional journey.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Apply fundamental visual effects skills and processes to create a short composited sequence
CLO2 : Use visual analysis and creative experimentation to explore visual effects principles and concepts
CLO3 : Document and critically reflect on the conceptual and technical processes used in visual effects practice

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Apply fundamental visual effects skills and processes to create a short composited sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-Visualisation Portfolio</li><li>• A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words</li></ul>
CLO2 : Use visual analysis and creative experimentation to explore visual effects principles and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-Visualisation Portfolio</li><li>• A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words</li></ul>
CLO3 : Document and critically reflect on the conceptual and technical processes used in visual effects practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

## Learning and Teaching in this course

This course will make use of online learning resources via Foundry Learn & Linked In Learning. UNSW Sydney subscribes to LinkedIn Learning for free access to their resources via online

learning. To access all that LinkedIn Learning has to offer you will need to log in [via this link](#).

User is your Zid at, ad.unsw.edu.au Use your uni password to enter.

If you have not utilised LinkedIn Learning before, please see [these instructions](#) for logging in with your UNSW account.

Access Foundry Learn [via this link](#)

You will be directed to various online tutorials in class to support you learning.

## Additional Course Information

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes for each course in which they are enrolled. Students are expected to work on their projects both in studios as well as outside class time to meet course expectations. Students must present work in development before the assessment and meet all pre-assessment criteria listed in the assessment brief in Moodle. Class Projects are designed to prepare students for the assessment tasks and enhance skills and conceptual understanding. They are not assessable but add significantly to the successful completion of the course. Students are expected to participate wherever possible.

**Risk of Failure Warnings.** If you are at risk of failing the course, because of lack of attendance, low marks in assignments, failing to submit assignments, or lack of participation or engagement, you may be notified by email. Please ensure you read your university email, and respond to any official risk of failure warning promptly. NOTE - If the warning email is sent to your UNSW e-Mail address, it is considered as being read by you whether you check your UNSW email or not.

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Pre-Visualisation Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Due Date: 28/06/2024 06:00 PM
A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Due Date: 05/08/2024 06:00 PM

# Assessment Details

## Pre-Visualisation Portfolio

### Assessment Overview

For this assessment, you will experiment with compositing tools and workflows to create a pre-visualisation portfolio that showcases your creative response to the provided theme. Your portfolio should include evidence of your conceptual research and development as well as your technical processes and workflows for a composited VFX shot.

This will form the foundation of the second assessment task in this course where you will produce a short VFX shot or sequence that responds to the theme.

Formative feedback will be provided in class and summative feedback will be provided digitally, based on the assessment rubric.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Apply fundamental visual effects skills and processes to create a short composited sequence
- CLO2 : Use visual analysis and creative experimentation to explore visual effects principles and concepts

### Detailed Assessment Description

Compositing is a fundamental workflow in a visual effects (VFX) production pipeline. It involves visualising a concept for a film or tv production by seamlessly integrating visual effects assets from varying sources to create a moving image shot or sequence. It is normally the final workflow in the Visual Effects pipeline and covers a diverse range of stylistic and creative contexts.

In order to streamline the process, a lot of planning, experimenting, testing and preparing takes place prior to production. This research and development phase is known in industry as Pre-Production.

For this task, you will prepare a Research & Development package that responds to a brief for a short, composited visual effects shot requiring live action &/or 3D footage integrated with 2D VFX assets.

You will research and develop a simple narrative & visual style which resonates with the provided theme, and experiment with compositing tools & workflows to produce a concept for a VFX shot or sequence of 10 to 15 seconds duration.

Your VFX research, concepts and tests will be delivered in the form of a research & development journal. This research will be used as a template for the second assessment task in this course.

### **Submission notes**

Electronic Submission of Journal in PDF format & related test files in .Mov format to Moodle, 6pm Monday 28th June (Week 5)

## **A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words**

### **Assessment Overview**

For this assessment, you will build on your research & development from assessment 1 to create a short, composited sequence that explores concepts and techniques introduced throughout the course, accompanied by a journal that documents your creative and technical processes.

Formative feedback will be provided in class and summative feedback will be provided digitally, based on the assessment rubric.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CL01 : Apply fundamental visual effects skills and processes to create a short composited sequence
- CL02 : Use visual analysis and creative experimentation to explore visual effects principles and concepts
- CL03 : Document and critically reflect on the conceptual and technical processes used in visual effects practice

### **Detailed Assessment Description**

Drawing on your research & concept development from assessment 1, you will produce a final composite with all visual effects elements seamlessly combined and which resonates with the theme 'A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words'.

Your final shot should be a 10-15 second composite containing live action &/or 3D footage, background and simple effects elements. This can be one or more shots combined.

To undertake this assessment, you should build on the skills and concepts developed in class, as well as incorporate VFX techniques you have developed through the online resources and work undertaken outside class. You are encouraged to approach this task creatively and iteratively, seeking and responding to feedback along the way.

Your assessment submission should include a process journal containing a 300-word written reflection of your testing, technical and creative process, with supporting annotated imagery.

### **Submission notes**

Electronic Submission of Journal in PDF format, Nuke & .Mov file to Moodle, 6pm Monday 5th

August (Week 11)

## General Assessment Information

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

50% or more

## Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Other	Orientation Week
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Studio	Introduction to Compositing for Visual Effects
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Studio	Camera Induction & Introduction to the Greenscreen space Compositing Foundations Part 1 - Interface & merge operations Assessment 1 - Initial Concepts
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Studio	Compositing Foundations Part 2 - Basic Matte Creation Assessment 1 - Review & Feedback
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Studio	Compositing Foundations Part 3 - Basic Matte Creation cont. Assessment 1 - Review & Feedback
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Presentation	Assessment 1 Due: Presentation in class Week 5 and Moodle submission 6pm Friday, Week 5 (Monday 28th June) Shoot test footage for A2
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Study Week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Studio	Motion Tracking 1
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Studio	Motion Tracking 2 Assessment 2 : Review & Feedback
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Studio	Colour Correction & Grading Assessment 2 : Review & Feedback
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Studio	Polishing the shot - Lighting & Effects Assessment 2 : Review & Feedback
Week 11 : 5 August - 11 August	Assessment	Assessment 2 Due: 6pm Monday, Week 11 (Monday 5th August)

## Attendance Requirements

### Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes for each course in which they are enrolled. Failure to attend and participate in at least 80% of learning activities such as discussions, peer feedback, studio sessions, online activities, group work, etc., may result in you being flagged as at risk of failing the course. By punctually attending and actively participating in your classes you not only increase your own opportunities for developing your skills and knowledge, but will also help build a rigorous and engaged creative community with other students. If you are unable to attend classes, please inform your relevant Course Convenor. If the absence is for medical reasons, you

will be required to present a medical certificate. If absences impact your ability to undertake assessment, then you should apply for [Special Consideration](#).

## General Schedule Information

Key Assessment Dates:

Assessment 1: 6pm Friday, Week 5 (Friday 28th June)

Assessment 2: 6pm Monday, Week 11 (Monday 5th August)

## Course Resources

### Course Evaluation and Development

It is important that students complete the myExperience course and teaching surveys for this course. This is completely anonymous and provides important student observations and suggestions to ensure that the course is continually improved. To see how the course convenor has responded to student feedback from these surveys, please see the View Feedback on Student Surveys section in the course Moodle site.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Nicole Mather				By appointment	No	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;

- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- **Copying:** Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- **Collusion:** Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- **Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- **Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for



research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

### **Use of AI for assessments**

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au)

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with

any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

## **Late Submission Penalty**

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

## **School-specific Information**

### **Risk of Failure Warnings**

If you are at risk of failing the course, because of lack of attendance, low marks in assignments, failing to submit assignments, or lack of participation or engagement, you may be notified by email. Please ensure you read your university email, and respond to any official risk of failure warning promptly. NOTE – if the warning email is sent to your UNSW e-Mail address, it is considered as being read by you whether you check your UNSW email or not.

### **Late Submission Penalties**

If you believe that circumstances will prevent you from submitting an assessment on time, please notify your course convenor as soon as possible. There will be penalties applied for being late and a clear 'no later than' date beyond which submission won't be accepted. Where a Special Consideration is not applied for, and a student assessment is late, the following guidelines apply:

1. Up to 5 days after due date, a penalty of 5% (of maximum mark for assignment) will be applied for each day late (e.g. an assignment that is 3 days late would have its mark reduced by 15%). Please note - for the purpose of deduction calculation, a 'day' is each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission within the calendar year (including weekends and public holidays). Task with a percentage mark - If the task is marked out of 100%, late submission will attract a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. A 3 day late penalty will be applied ( $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ ). The essay receives a mark of 68%. The student's mark will therefore be reduced to 53% ( $68\% - 15\%$ ).

2. Beyond 5 days late, no submission will be accepted.

### **Special Consideration**

Please note that the University's Special Consideration process allows students to apply for an extension within 3 days of the assessment due date. This provides for more extensive extensions, subject to documentation, and Course Convenor approval. You can apply for special consideration online through my.UNSW.edu.au. More information about special consideration can be found here: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

NOTE: If you are experiencing issues related to your access to class material or difficulty with technology, make sure you notify your lecturer as soon as possible, well before any assessment due date. Last minute requests for extensions due to computer failure, file corruption, printing problems etc. do not qualify students for special consideration or extensions. Students are expected to maintain regular backups of their work at all times.

### **Educational adjustments**

Educational adjustments can be applied to assessments if you are living with a disability, a long term medical condition, a mental health condition, and/or are a carer of individuals with a disability. The Equitable Learning Service (ELS) determines adjustments based on medical documentation and communicates these via an Equitable Learning Plan (ELP). To receive educational adjustments for equitable learning support, you must first register with Equitable Learning Services (ELS). More information about Equitable Learning Services can be found here <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>

## Supplementary Assessment

Supplementary assessments are available to students in this course who have failed an assessment but have subsequently had an application for Special Consideration approved by the university. The supplementary assessment may take a different form than the original assessment and will be defined by the course convenor - but it will address the same learning outcomes as the original assessment. If Special Consideration has not been awarded, the maximum mark that may be awarded for a supplementary assessment is 50% of the full assessment mark.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking the ideas, words, images, designs or objects of others and passing them off as your own. Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. Plagiarism can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. Plagiarism can have serious consequences, so it is important that students be aware of what it is, and how to avoid it. All written submissions are automatically checked for plagiarism using the Turnitin site. For further information, please see the Academic Integrity & Plagiarism website <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

## Referencing Requirements for Assessments

Your course convenor will inform you what referencing system this course follows. Useful guidelines on how to reference according to various systems can be found at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>.

You may follow these guidelines in your assessment tasks, or seek additional advice from your lecturer. Styles for Endnote are downloadable from the Endnote website. Accurate and correct referencing is an important academic prerequisite at University level, and if your work does not meet these requirements, it may be marked down, or in more serious cases, it may be treated as an instance of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

## Use of Generative AI

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Your work must be your *own* and where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, have been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work. In cases

where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply. If in doubt, please seek advice from the Course Convenor prior to using generative AI tools.

<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/assessment/ai>

## Health and Safety

Ensuring student and staff health and safety is very important at UNSW Art & Design. Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. As a student, you have a responsibility not to do anything that risks your own health and safety, or the health or safety of your fellow students, staff members or visitors. This means, for example, exiting the building during a fire drill; wearing personal protective equipment and clothing (PPEC) when staff or signage instructs you to do so; undertaking induction to using equipment or carrying out processes that require specific knowledge; and reporting hazards or incidents to your lecturer or supervisor as soon as you become aware of them. For more information, please see <https://safety.unsw.edu.au/>.

## Additional Support and Resources

At UNSW you can also find support and resources if you need help with your personal life, getting your academic success on track or just want to know how to stay safe. See <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>.

Additional support for students is available by contacting the following centres:

- Student Support and Development <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Student Support Advisors: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/advisors>
- Mental Health Support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/mental-health-support>
- Academic Skills and Support <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/skills>
- UNSW IT Service Centre <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>
- Student Gateway: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>
- Faculty Resources and Support: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support>
- Arc: <https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/>

## After Hours Access to the Paddington Campus

The core operating hours for the Paddington Campus are below. All students have access to the campus during these hours:

- Monday to Friday 0800 – 2100
- Saturday 0900 – 1700

Some students are permitted to have “After Hours Access” (AHA) to the campus upon completion of a series of inductions. The inductions are dependent on location, as well as the types of activities undertaken in those locations. The first of these is this Primary Induction, and this must be completed online <https://my.artdesign.unsw.edu.au>. All students requiring AHA are required to complete this induction. The Primary Induction gives access to the following Low Risk areas:

#### Post Graduate Students

- PG Research students – Level 4 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Master of Design students – Level 3 D Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Master of Curating and Cultural Leadership students – D207, Computer Labs and Learning Commons

#### Honours Students

- Fine Arts – Level 3 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Design – Level 1 E Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Media Arts – Level 3 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons

Subsequent inductions are workshop and lab specific, and are conducted face-to-face by the UNSW Art & Design Technical staff. Students and staff must first successfully complete the Primary Induction before requesting a Workshop/Lab specific Induction.

## School Contact Information

### UNSW School of Art & Design

#### Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture

#### Paddington Campus

Cnr Greens Rd & Oxford Street

Paddington NSW 2021

[ad.generaladmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ad.generaladmin@unsw.edu.au)