

GNA
UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS
MA ENGLISH

BAM505: History of Visual Effects

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Course Description: The course aims to equip the students with knowledge of early stages and Evolution of visual effect.

The course includes Birth of cinema, optical year to digital year, Fall Optical to coming age.

Course Outcomes (CLO):

Upon successful completion of the course, the students should be able to:

CO1: Combine early techniques with modern and create artistic results.

CO2: Analyze future of VFX in 3D, 4D, 5D and gaming industry.

CO3: Learn about contributions of people like George Melies and Edwin Porter in VFX industry.

Course Content

Unit I

Introduction & Early stage: Introduction: Introduction to Visual Effects, Birth of Cinema.

The Early years (1829-1959): Life of George Melies, The Creation of Travelling Mattes, The Shufftan Process, Blue Screen Color Separation, Key Movies (King Kong, Metropolis, When Worlds collide and Ten Commandments.)

Unit II

Optical Year to Digital Realm: The Optical Year (1960-1976): Life of Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen, History of Matte Painting, Key Movies (Jason and the Argonauts, Mary Poppins, 2001- A Space Odyssey and Westworld).

The Golden years (1982-1983): Work of James Blinn, Techniques of Go-Motion, Key Movies (Star Wars, Tron and Blade Runner.

Intro the Digital Realm (1983-1988): Key Movies (Return of Jedi, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, The Terminator, Back to the Future).

Unit III

Fall Optical to Coming Age: The Fall Optical (1989-1993): Key Movies (The Abyss, The Terminator 2, RoboCop, Death Becomes Her, Backdraft and Total Recall.

(1994-1999): Key Movies (Forest Gump, True Lies, Babe, Apollo 13, Twister, Dragon heart, Titanic, What Dreams May Come and the Matrix).

The Coming Age(2002-2009): The first move from celluloid to digital capture, Steve 'Spaz' Williams hugn contribution to the VFX industry, Evolution of Digital Camera, Key Movies(Gladiator, Hollowman, Lord of the Rings, Van Helsing, The Island, Poseidon, Transformers, Iron man, District 9).

Unit IV

Beyond the Impossible (2010-2013): Key Movies (ron: Legacy, Thor, Rango, The Avengers and Gravity).

Recommended Books / Suggested Readings:

Text Books:

1. Richard Rickitt, **Special Effects: The History and Technique**
2. Thomas G. Smith, Industrial Light & Magic: The Art of Special Effects