

**DePaul
CIM**

ANI 326

Visual Concept Development

Winter 2016 | Tues/Thurs 1:30 – 3:00pm | location CDM 527

Instructor: Devin Bell

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Office hours: Tues 12:00-1:00pm

Thurs 3:15-5:15pm

Course Description:

This course focuses on visual development and style guides for animation, cinema and game projects. Coursework involves character design, environmental design, prop design, lighting, color, texture and layout. Students will practice visual research, drawing and an array of digital tools to build the skills necessary to create an immersive world with a cohesive look and feel. PREREQUISITE(S): ILL 200 and ANI 230

Learning Outcomes:

- 1)** Increase knowledge of traditional and digital tools needed to create visual development for animation, game and cinema.
- 2)** Research humans, animals, locations, objects, color theory and lighting to create comprehensive character and environment sketches
- 3)** Analyze historical and contemporary examples of production design
- 4)** Create a comprehensive “production bible” for a potential animation, game or cinema project

Attendance Policy:

After two absences, your final grade for the course will automatically be lowered by one-letter grade per absence. Any student missing five or more classes will receive the grade of "F" for the quarter. Contact me before class if you are unable to attend. Being late to class two times counts as one absence. You are responsible for any missed lectures and assignments. If you miss a class, it is still your responsibility to turn in the assignment on time. We have very tight deadlines that are in place to benefit you and your projects. Lecture notes alone will not make up for missed work.

You may not miss the midterm or final class date. Doing so will equal an automatic two letter grade reduction of your final grade. If for some reason you cannot make one of these dates you must contact me BEFORE the class meets. Excuses given after the fact will not be accepted.

No incompletes will be given without documented proof of circumstances beyond your control.

Important dates:

- **January 10- last day to add classes**
- **January 17- last day to withdraw with no tuition penalty**
- **February 21- last day to withdraw**

Critiques and Participation

One of the best ways to learn in a classroom environment is through *active* participation in discussions and critiques. In general, we will be following a pattern of creating concept art and then discussing it in critique in the following week. When I open up the floor for you to speak, please make the effort to voice your honest and constructive opinion. This will help you learn from your mistakes and progress in your character/world-building skills.

There may be certain circumstances when we do not have enough time to critique each student's work in the class. I encourage students to volunteer their assignment early when a critique begins, or if time does not allow, make an appointment with me during my office hours for a thorough discussion of the work. Late submissions miss the benefit of the in-class critique, so it is always better to turn in a work in progress than nothing at all.

Class Work

Assignments

- Must be completed and fully uploaded through D2L one hour BEFORE class starts. Late assignments will be accepted with teacher discretion only. For most of the projects, you will submit scanned files such as multi-page Word docs, pdfs or jpegs. For all time-based projects I request that you use **QuickTime** format unless discussed with me previously. Class time is for working with the material at hand, not finishing late assignments.
- Late work will not be accepted unless approved of PRIOR to the class in which it is due or accompanied by a valid medical excuse.
- Written Assignments: Must be typed.
- Digital Assignments: All animation assignments handed in digitally must be QuickTime movies in the following format (please note upper and lower case usage)
 - lastnameFirstname_projectname.extension
 - example: bellDevin_doubletake.mov

* **BACK UP YOUR WORK**: Failure of computer software and or Hardware will not be accepted as an extenuating circumstance for late projects or incomplete grades so back up your work daily.

Grading

Assignments	75% of grade
<u>Final Project</u>	<u>25% of grade</u>
Total	100%

	A = 100-93	A- = 92-90	
B+ = 89-88	B = 87-83	B- = 82-80	
C+ = 79-78	C = 77-73	C- = 72-70	
D+ = 69-68	D = 67-63	D- = 62-60	F = 59-0

Standards for Achievement:

Grade A:

Student performs in an outstanding way. Student exhibits achievement and craftsmanship in all work. Design criteria is exceeded and student challenges him/herself in project design. Student exhibits commitment to expanding ideas, vocabulary and performance.

Grade B:

Student performs beyond the requirement of the project. Student exhibits above average progress and craftsmanship. A design criterion is exceeded. Student exhibits above average interest in expanding idea, vocabulary, and performance.

Grade C:

Criteria of assignment is met, and all requirements are fulfilled. Student shows average quality work and minimum time and effort on projects. Student shows moderate interest.

Grade D:

Student performance is uneven and below average. Requirements for projects are only partially fulfilled. Minimal interest is shown and attendance, participation and involvement are inadequate.

Grade F

Student fails to meet minimum course requirements and shows no interest. Levels of participation and craftsmanship are extremely poor. Student's attendance is inadequate.

Requesting an incomplete grade:

An incomplete grade may only be assigned to a student if the student has experienced an extenuating circumstance near the end of the term, the student is in good standing in the class, and the request is made in a timely manner.

Cell Phones

Use of cell phones in the class and the lab is prohibited. Please turn your phone off before entering class. Mistakes will happen, but repeated failure to turn your phone off will result in a lowered grade for the class. All phone conversations should be conducted outside the class – don't disturb those working in the lab and put others in an uncomfortable situation.

Computer Use

Use of lab computers during class is for animation work only. It is unacceptable to check e-mail, browse or social network while class is in session; it's not only rude, but distracting. Repeated misuse of lab computers will result in a lowered grade.

Materials and Supplies

All assignments in this class will be transmitted digitally online.

Any assignment handed in late or when not present in class should be accompanied by an e-mail to me.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

* Special Accommodations/Disabilities: Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and/or sent via email.

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments will be submitted online 1 hour prior to class. Assignments may be submitted earlier.

	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 5	Introduction Core Principles applied to visual concepts	Iconic Character pt. 1
January 7	Lecture: Harmony vs. Dissonance (Characters, settings and combined)	Iconic Character pt. 2
January 12	Critique Iconic Characters Lecture: Environment Design- life reference, building visual toolset	Environment Design pt. 1 (reference and warm up)
January 14	Lecture: Adding fantasy elements to environment	Environment Design pt. 2
January 19	Critique Environment Designs Lecture: Layout and Backgrounds for animation/game	Sequential Layout pt. 1
January 21	Lecture: Atmosphere, depth and strong lighting	Sequential Layout pt. 2
January 26	Critique Sequential Layouts Lecture: Color Theory- color scripts and technique	<i>Mood Boards pt. 1</i>
January 28	Lecture: Painting Mood boards- color and light in concept art	<i>Mood Boards pt. 2</i>
February 2	Critique Mood Boards Lecture: Designing animals and creatures	<i>Weird Pet pt. 1</i>
February 4	Lecture: Animals and creatures continued- research and testing	<i>Weird Pet pt. 2</i>

February 9 February 11	Critique Weird Pet Lecture: Character design- The power of 3D iteration Lecture: Pushing 3D iteration to show greater acting range, greater potential on screen	Character model pt. 1 Character model pt. 2
February 16 February 18	Critique Character Models Lecture: Character turnarounds, character expression/pose sheets Lecture: Story-driven character- context, subtext and fabricated history	<i>Life Story</i> Concept Art (all week)
February 23 February 25	Critique <i>Life Story</i> Concept Art Drawing Day Lecture: “ <i>Pitch bibles</i> ” and Writing Treatments Present final project	Expand Character from drawing day Final pt. 1- Written treatment and preliminary sketches
March 1 March 3	Critique <i>Final Project pt. 1- treatments</i> Lecture: “ <i>Pitch Bibles</i> ” vs. “ <i>Production Bibles</i> ” Lecture: Art Direction- controlling the look of everything	Final pt. 2- BG schematic Final pt. 3- Characters
March 8 March 10	Individual progress critiques on final projects Individual progress critiques on final projects	Final pt. 4- Rough Concept Paintings Final pt. 5- Polished Concept Paintings
March 17	Final project due ATTENDANCE MANDATORY <i>NOTE: CLASS WILL BE HELD IN SAME ROOM</i> Thursday, March 17, 11:30am-1:45pm	