

**DePaul
CIM**

Story Development

Winter 2017 | Tues/Thurs 1:30pm-3:00pm | location CDM 527

Instructor: Devin Bell

ANI 324

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Office hours: Tuesday 3-4pm and Thursday 3-5pm

**Course
Description:**

Students will elaborate on the skills from ANI 220 to create sophisticated pre-production for their own films, game cinematics and animations. Emphasis is placed on advanced story development, professional artistry and pre-visualization techniques such as converting a script to visual story reels or animatics. Students will complete the course with a fully-developed animatic for the story of their choosing. PREREQUISITE(S): ANI 220

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will be able to analyze visuals and story structure of movies and games, cite strengths and apply them to storyboarding.
- 2) Students will be able to create detailed short narratives via writing and drawing exercises including environment/world-building, camera movement and translating scripts to visuals.
- 3) Students will be able to develop multifaceted characters by engaging in a series of design and performance challenges.
- 4) Students will be able to create a more advanced animatic than that of the prerequisite course.

Texts and Materials

Readings will be provided on D2L or as hard copies.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

“Story: Substance, Structure, Style and the Principles of Screenwriting”
McKee, Robert.

“Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting”
Field, Syd.

Attendance Policy:

Absences are not expected to exceed more than 10% (2 absences) of the number of classes scheduled for the term. More than two absences will automatically result in a one-letter grade reduction for the course. Any student missing five or more classes will receive an "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. 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 that you must miss. Excuses given after the fact will not be accepted.

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

Important dates for Winter 2017:

- **Jan 8- last day to add/drop classes**
- **Jan 15- last day to withdraw with no tuition penalty**
- **Feb 19- last day to withdraw**

Participation

One of the best ways to learn in a classroom environment is through *active* participation in discussions, activities and critiques. In general, we will be following a pattern of creating storyboards or animations and then discussing them in a 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 filmmaking.

Class WorkAssignments

- 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 boarding 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 assignments handed in digitally must be in the following format (please note upper and lower case usage)
 - lastnameFirstname_projectname.extension
 - example: bellDevin_projectOne.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.

Materials and Supplies

Almost all in-class work will be done digitally or on provided paneled paper, 8.5 x 11 sheets. Boarding Templates and reading assignments will be made available through D2L. You will need access to a printer and scanner to complete some of the assignments; do NOT submit poor quality photos taken with your phone. The final animatic project will be submitted as a Quicktime file online. For work in progress, a USB drive or small hard drive is highly recommended.

All hard copies must be labeled clearly with the following information:

- Your name
- The name of the assignment
- The class number and name you are submitting the assignment for
- The term (ex. Spring 2017)

Headphones- Come prepared with your own pair, as we will be working with audio for lip sync and dialogue. Whether working with sound in your project, or simply listening to music while working, you need to be considerate of others and wear headphones. Be aware that if the volume is high enough, others can still hear what you're listening to despite the headphones. Inconsiderate behavior will result in a lowered grade.

Sketchbook- Purchase a comfortable travel-sized sketchbook. Get into the habit of recording things visually with a pen or pencil. Weekly sketchbook studies are strongly encouraged in addition to the homework assignments. These studies may be anything of your choosing- from life drawings to imaginary doodles. There will be specific themes or challenges posted periodically; these are optional and may be submitted for extra credit. We will do some sketchbook work in class, so never leave home without it.

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 schedule is subject to change throughout the term, and will be adapted to fit the needs of the students.

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

Lecture

Assignment given:

<p>Week 1 Jan 3</p>	<p>Introduction Storyboarding warm ups</p>	<p>Montage Beat Boards</p>
<p>Jan 5</p>	<p>Styles of editing, playing with time Beat Boards Workshop</p>	<p>Montage rough animatic with sound</p>
<p>Week 2 Jan 10</p>	<p>Art of the Continuity Boards Short Critique of works in progress</p>	<p>Montage final animatic</p>
<p>Jan 12</p>	<p>Critique Montage animatics Complex Staging and silhouettes- creating richer, more detailed shots</p>	<p>Silhouette Piece</p>
<p>Week 3 Jan 17</p>	<p>Critique Silhouette Piece Wardrobe, props and themes/motifs</p>	<p>Costume Theme prep</p>
<p>Jan 19</p>	<p>ATTENDANCE MANDATORY Character and Theme Drawing session</p>	<p>Costume Theme boards</p>

Week 4 Jan 24	Critique Costume Theme boards Color and Layout- selective palette and tonal technique	“Next 5” pt. 1
Jan 26	Vitality in timing (boards to animation- create a surprise for the audience) Next 5 Workshop	“Next 5” pt. 2
Week 5 Jan 31	Critique “Next 5” Industry formats for storyboard artists (screenplays, etc.)	Begin “Script to Boards”
Feb 2	Art Direction, Style guides, studio tests Improv script workshop	Complete “Script to Boards”
Week 6 Feb 7	Critique “Script to Boards” Improvisation, picking and choosing what works best for a scene	Begin Dialogue Scene
Feb 9	More on character performance; vocals, reference and takes. Boarding/Acting to Audio Demo	Dialogue Scene- fully rendered with sound
Week 7 Feb 14	Critique Dialogue Scenes Advanced Camera- depth, light, movement	Begin Parallax animatic
Feb 16	Short Critique of works in progress Boarding Demo- 3D layers, camera	Complete Parallax animatic
Week 8 Feb 21	Critique Parallax animatic Situation vs. Plot; Building Tension in a scene Introduce Final Project	Prep pitch for Final Project

Feb 23	Pitches/ Story Team workshop Concept Art- character and world-building	Final Project Character Designs and Concept Art
Week 9 Feb 28	Critique Character Designs/ Concept Art Professional Studio Practices (story departments, etc.)	Final Project Beat Boards
Mar 2	Critique Beat Boards Finessing animatics, editing and sound mix	Continuity Boards
Week 10 Mar 7	Individual progress critiques	Rough Animatic with sound
Mar 9	Individual progress critiques	Final Project (polish edit, sound and cont. actions)
Finals Week Mar 16	Final ATTENDANCE MANDATORY NOTE: CLASS WILL BE HELD IN SAME ROOM Thursday, March 16, 11:30am-1:45pm	Final Projects (rendered Quicktimes with sound) NOTE: Submission is due the night before