

# Animation Figure Study

## syllabus

DEPAUL  
CDM

### Animation Figure Study

winter 2021

Tue, Thu 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

location: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/96401339156>

Instructor: Brian Ferguson

ANI 328  
ANI 428

Office: <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/99492459130>

Email. [brian.ferguson@depaul.edu](mailto:brian.ferguson@depaul.edu) (best way to reach me)

phone: (312) 362-1422

Office/Advising hours:

W: 1 pm - 5 pm

Thu: 9 am - 12 pm

### Course Description

In this course, students will be trained in figure drawing as it pertains to character animation. Topics covered will include line of action, unity of a drawing, focus, direction, weight, body language, expression in a pose, and an understanding of handling clothes and drapery.

### Prerequisites

None

### Course Objectives

1. Develop a facility with quick drawing of poses.
2. Practice efficient workflow for drawing by giving priority to the broad strokes of the drawing.
3. Learn to maximize the dynamic and appealing aspects of a pose, in terms of visual language.
4. Learn to create the clearest and most expressive poses.
5. Gain an understanding of clothing, drapery, and fabrics as they would support the drawing as a unified work.

### Texts and Materials

**Texts you might really find useful,  
if you have the means**

“Drawn to Life”

by Walt Stanchfield

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. We do important drills in every class, and missing even one can be a huge setback. Any student missing 3 classes or more will be given a grade of "F" for the semester.

The student is responsible for any lectures or assignments missed. If an assignment is due a week that you are absent, it is your responsibility to make sure it still arrives on time. This is for your benefit. A good portion of our class time will be spent doing hands on tutorials, screening films, and critiquing work. Lecture notes will not make up for these missed learning experiences.

**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 your instructor 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.**

## 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 art and then discussing it in critique. 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 with your drawing for animation skills. It will also prepare you for the professional arena.

## Class Work

This class will consist mostly of work in class. It will be largely drawing drills, honing and exercising skills. There will be few assignments. If there are any assignments, here are things to know:

### Assignments

- Must be handed in on time. Late assignments will be accepted with teacher discretion only. On time means submitted through D2L one hour BEFORE class on the day the assignment is due, unless otherwise instructed. Students who use class time to finish assignments the day they are due will forfeit the right to hand in that assignment. Class time is for working with the material at hand, not finishing late assignments.

### Late work:

- o 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.
- o You are allotted one "freebie" per term that allows you to turn ONE assignment late for full credit (up until the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the term). You only get one of these per term. All other late assignments are forfeited.

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)

- o firstname.lastname\_projectname.extension
- o example: amelia.earhart\_projectOne.jpg

\* Special Accommodations: If you have any special considerations please see the instructor.

## Critiques

Unless I tell you otherwise, assigned work must be completed and submitted through D2L the midnight BEFORE class starts. This will keep us from wasting valuable class time. In most cases (I'll let you know the exceptions) I request that you use a **readable** format, such as jpeg unless discussed with me previously. **Handing in something unfinished is always better than nothing at all.** Due to the large size of our class, and the limited class time, not everyone's work will get a full review during class. If you'd like more feedback, arrange to discuss your work with me during my office hours.

## Grading

Assignments	10% of grade	A = 93-100
Participation	10% of grade	A- = 90-92
In Class Work	80% of grade	B+ = 88-89
Total	100%	B = 83-87

**Your grade will depend on the following criteria:**

- **Meeting Project Deadlines:** It is vital to have your work available for critique. Work unavailable for critique will be considered late and will not be accepted unless you are using your one "freebie."
- Creativity and personal input into execution of drawings
- Coming prepared to class, having drawing materials, pencils, pens, paper, tablets you will need
- Active participation: feel free to offer opinions, questions, and generally be part of the creativity and discussions
- Effective visually aesthetic solutions to all problems assigned
- Taking initiative to work outside of class and research
- Hard work and sweat

B- = 80-82  
C+ = 78-79  
C = 73-77  
C- = 70-72  
D+ = 68-69  
D = 63-67  
D- = 60-62  
F = 0-59

## 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 (to me too), 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.

## Headphones

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.

## Academic Integrity

Work done for this course must adhere to the DePaul University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the *Student Handbook* or by visiting <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/homehandbook.html>.

## Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. Really, this should be pretty odd in this class, as you'd really have to trace the work of the person sitting next to you, so just don't do it! If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

## Materials and Supplies

Drawing in this class will be done a number of different ways. You will be notified in advance of special materials you might need to bring. In a pinch, however, due to the nature of this class, you could get by with a pen or pencil and even a stack of photocopy paper.

## Schedule (subject to change)

week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
1	1/5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intro, review of syllabus,</li><li>• discuss good drawing for animation</li><li>• probably some measure of demo</li><li>• drawing exercise</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In class exercise</li><li>• gestures drills</li></ul>
		1/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In class exercise</li><li>• gestures drills</li><li>• <b>drawing sequences of poses</b> - to submit as movie file.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• time out sequences of poses</li><li>• submit as movie file.</li></ul>

week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
2	1/12		<b>Drawing From Observation and Memory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• observe the model's pose</li> <li>• draw the model's pose from memory (while model takes a break)</li> <li>• draw the same pose again, but this time with the model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
		1/14	<b>Drawing From Observation and Memory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• observe the model's pose</li> <li>• draw the model's pose from memory (while model takes a break)</li> <li>• draw the same pose again, but this time with the model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
3	1/19		<b>Flour Sack</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• draw a flour sack striking the poses the model does</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
		1/21	<b>Flour Sack</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• draw a flour sack striking the poses the model does</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
4	1/26		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> <li>• <b>drawing sequences of poses - revisited</b> - to submit as movie file.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time out sequences of poses</li> <li>• submit as movie file.</li> </ul>

week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
4		1/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> <li>• <b>drawing sequences of poses - revisited</b> - to submit as movie file.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time out sequences of poses</li> <li>• submit as movie file.</li> </ul>
5	2/2		<b>Drawing To Captions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• observe the model's pose</li> <li>• write a caption that represents the pose</li> <li>• draw the pose to suit the caption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> <li>• be sure that captions are readable to associate with the pose</li> </ul>
		2/4	<b>Drawing To Captions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise (gestures warm up)</li> <li>• observe the model's pose</li> <li>• write a caption that represents the pose</li> <li>• draw the pose to suit the caption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> <li>• be sure that captions are readable to associate with the pose</li> </ul>
6	2/9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing characters to the model's poses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose three characters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. normal human proportions</li> <li>2. more stylized proportions</li> <li>3. challenging design</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>

week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
6		2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing characters to the model's poses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose three characters:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. normal human proportions</li> <li>2. more stylized proportions</li> <li>3. challenging design</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
7	2/16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing the lines of force at work on the model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw just lines representing forces and tensions, ignoring anatomy</li> <li>• draw the same pose again as a normal gesture, involving the anatomy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
		2/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing the lines of force at work on the model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw just lines representing forces and tensions, ignoring anatomy</li> <li>• draw the same pose again as a normal gesture, involving the anatomy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
8	2/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing with highlighter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw just lines of action with the highlighter pen in just a few seconds</li> <li>• draw over the highlighter with pen or pencil to complete the gesture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>

week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
8		2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing with highlighter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw just lines of action with the highlighter pen in just a few seconds</li> <li>• draw over the highlighter with pen or pencil to complete the gesture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
9	3/2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>Cloth and Drapery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw the poses considering the clothing and it's folds</li> <li>• refer to the clothing, but favouring supporting the pose over rendering an accurate likeness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
		3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>Cloth and Drapery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw the poses considering the clothing and it's folds</li> <li>• refer to the clothing, but favouring supporting the pose over rendering an accurate likeness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
10	3/9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing characters to the model's poses - revisited</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose three characters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. normal human proportions</li> <li>2. more stylized proportions</li> <li>3. challenging design</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose any 5 drawings from this week's sessions that, on revisiting them, you see how you might like to make changes.</li> <li>• redraw those poses to submit with the originals—a before and after set-up</li> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>



week	Tu	Thu	class	assignment
10		3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class exercise</li> <li>• gestures drills</li> </ul> <b>drawing characters to the model's poses - revisited</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose three characters:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. normal human proportions</li> <li>2. more stylized proportions</li> <li>3. challenging design</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• choose any 5 drawings from this week's sessions that, on revisiting them, you see how you might like to make changes.</li> <li>• redraw those poses to submit with the originals—a before and after set-up</li> <li>• submit digitized images of all drawings from the class</li> </ul>
	3/16		<b>no class finals in session</b>	<b>For next class:</b> Final animation is due
11		3/18 <b>final</b>	<b>critique of figure drawing final assignment</b>	- final critique, by students and teacher.

### Final Exam

**Date:** Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021,

**Time:** from 11:30 AM to 1:45 PM

**Location:** regular classroom ( <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/96401339156>)

Your exam is on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from 11:30 AM to 1:45 PM