

Animation for Non-Majors- ANI 101

Spring 2021 / ONLINE

(New lecture recordings will published during our weekly Zoom class meetings)

Instructor: Jason Sandri

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Office Hours: **Monday:** 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Friday: 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm

Location: Online Zoom meetings only.

You must email me to request a meeting within the times above. I will email you a link to access our meeting room for the scheduled time. If you have not used Zoom, please enter the meeting 5 minutes early to set up your free user account.

Course Description: This course introduces a variety of basic animation techniques for cinema and gaming, such as hand-drawn, cutout, stop-motion and (very basic) 3D, with an emphasis on the use of computer technology. Examples of diverse animation genres and styles (experimental, cartoon, anime, special effects, computer games) from different cultures will be screened and discussed. Students will explore the unique qualities of the medium through a series of hands-on projects that can be adapted to their own personal interests. They will learn about professional animation process (storyboard and animatic) during the production of a final project that encourages them to consider the role and potential of animation in our society.

Prerequisite(s): None

Liberal Studies Arts and Literature Domain Description:

ANI 101 is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature Domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature Domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning, and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

- Explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced
 - Articulate and explain the “content” of that work and/or its methodology of production.
- Comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
 - How does the 14-line sonnet both enable and inhibit its practitioner, for example?
 - What are the generic expectations of a particular form?

- How does an artist complicate, enrich, or subvert such expectations?
- Assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words, using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Contextualize a work of art.
 - Do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre.
 - Contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social, or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various peoples and historical periods.

Required Text, Materials, and Hardware:

- ~~Animation Cinema Workshop: from motion to emotion~~ By Robi Engler
- Portable storage device 8 GB or larger
- Art & Paper supplies as needed for assignments.
- A computer that meets the requirements listed in the “News Feed” section of our class D2L page. If your system does not meet these requirements, **you must drop this course. Continuation of the class without the ability to use the required software will result in an F for the course.**

...The Fine Print...

Online Course Evaluations: Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses.

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.

Students with Disabilities: Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. There are two office locations:

Loop Campus - Lewis Center #1420 - (312) 362-8002

Lincoln Park Campus - Student Center #370 - (773) 325-1677

Students can also email the office at csd@depaul.edu

Students who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact me privately to discuss how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term. Our conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Professional Correspondence: Like it or not, email is still the preferred professional means of written communication. Texting is great, but it lacks the detail and formality required to convey important information and ideas. If you need to contact me outside of class, email is the best means, and if you do contact me, it is expected that you format your emails in a professional format, **not written in shorthand or text lingo**. You should include a salutation (Hello, Good Afternoon, etc..) as well as who you are and from what class (my name is X from your Thursday ANI 101 class). You should format your email in a logical way, and **be sure to clearly state your question or issue that you need help with, and attach applicable files if necessary**. Lastly, sign your email with your name. Once we have started an email chain, less formal responses are perfectly fine, but your initial message should be formatted as above. It's always a good idea to quickly proof-read your emails before sending them.

Professional email is the quickest, easiest, and most respectful way for us to clearly communicate and quickly answer questions and solve issues.

Lastly, I do my best to answer emails within 2 hours, but I am not always near my computer or phone. Please use common sense when emailing about issues with projects—I probably can't do much to help you with problems when the assignment is due the next morning or later that day—don't wait until the last minute to ask for help. **Emails sent after 9 pm will be addressed the following day.**

Additional "Things to Know": You are not required to be an accomplished artist in this class, however we will be animating, and animation is *time consuming!* You should anticipate to spend at least 3-4 hours per week on course work, and you are expected to wisely manage your time. Much of your work will be on a computer—file storage and safety is **your** responsibility. There will be **no** exceptions made if you don't adequately save and back up your work—computers crash, flash drives get lost, and the cloud can fail. You should back up all of your

work to a minimum of two devices. All assignments must be completed and turned in by the due date listed on D2L, *period*.

We will also be watching animated films and discussing/analyzing them verbally and in written form. Critical film analysis will be something discussed and practiced throughout this course, and your goal should be to expand your understanding of art and animation through these discussions and assignments. There are no right and wrong answers, but you are expected to put thought and effort into your comments, assignments, and writing.

Lastly, much of the software we will be using in this course is complicated, especially for first time users. I will make every effort to clearly explain the tools we will be using in the programs, but students are expected to survey their own learning curve and perform accordingly. This means if you don't understand something, you should be asking questions, and some students may require additional hands-on time outside of class.

Zoom Meetings and Panopto Recordings: This class will consist of a short weekly Zoom meeting during our normally scheduled class time, paired with weekly Panopto recordings covering our tutorials and assignments. The Zoom meetings are required and will be around 15 minutes for questions and discussion of the coming week and assignments. The Panopto recordings are also required, and will be published for the upcoming week at the same time as our live Zoom meeting for that week. These recordings will cover our regular weekly content, and students may access and view the recordings any time during the applicable week for each recording, but recordings and assignments **must** be accessed, watched, and completed **prior** to the following week's Zoom meeting. Students may start, stop, or pause recordings, and follow along at their own pace. Weekly Panopto recording(s) and the applicable weekly files will be accessed through the "Content" section of our class D2L page.

Attendance and Participation: Because of the unique Online situation this semester, Attendance and Participation will be assessed by student presence for our weekly scheduled live Zoom meetings during our regular class time, as well as weekly Panopto recording access. You must be logged in to the zoom meeting no later than 3 minutes after the start time in order to be counted as "present". Students with a good record of attendance and course access will receive full A&P credit toward their final grade. Students who fail to attend our weekly scheduled Zoom meetings, or access class Panopto recordings within the week they are posted more than 4 times will receive half A&P credit toward their final grade. Students who fail to attend our weekly scheduled Zoom meetings or access class Panopto recordings within the week they are posted more than 8 times will receive a 0 for A&P toward their final grade.

...More Important Stuff...

Assignments: It is your responsibility to **fully** read all assignment descriptions located in the D2L “Submissions” section, and clarify any questions with me prior to the due date. All assignments are due by the date and time listed on D2L, **no exceptions!** **We will adhere to local Chicago time for this course, Central US time zone.** Assignments uploaded within one hour past the due time will be docked 50% of the total points for the assignment, prior to grading. Assignments turned in later than one hour past the due date/time will be given a zero. Don't fail because of late work—be on time! **Keep your email “submission receipts”.** **If you do not receive one, double check that you properly submitted your work to D2L.**

Students are permitted to rework or correct assignments and resubmit them for up to full credit only if the original submission was turned in on time. Only legitimate attempts at the full assignment will be eligible. “Works in progress” or place-holder files are not to be considered legitimate attempts at assignment completion and will not be considered for resubmission. Additionally, assignments turned in after the due date and time will not be eligible. **The cut-off time and day for resubmissions is the same as the due date and time of the final project.**

The following are exempt from re-work: The research/critical analysis paper (unless it is submitted two weeks or more prior to the due date), the final project, and weekly in-class writings.

Final: Monday, June 7th at 5:45 pm. Projects not submitted by this date and time will be subject to the grading conditions listed above in the “Assignments” section.

Grading:

10% Attendance & Participation
60% Weekly Assignments & In Class Writing
15% Critical Analysis Paper
15% Final Project

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.

*This information is subject to change pending alterations to semester outline. Any changes will be clearly communicated to students in class and in writing. **It is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by this course syllabus.**