

Tue & Thu: 1:30pm to 3:00pm: Remote, Sync (Jan 4 - Jan 16)

Tue & Thu: 1:30pm to 3:00pm: In-Person Class, 14 E. Jackson, Room 501 (access code 91076)

Instructor: Steve Socki - Email: [ssocki@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:ssocki@cdm.depaul.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am to 2:00pm; email me to get an appointment

Office: CDM 511; Office Phone: 312-362-8273

### Course Description

This class will focus on storyboarding and developing ideas as key pre-production tools for narrative animation, film, and gaming projects. The lectures, class work, and assignments will help students to expand their own cinematic drawing techniques, and help them to develop clear and dynamic stories for the screen. A variety of live-action and animated films and professional storyboards will be analyzed in class. Students will develop their personal style of boarding through a series of exercises and assignments. They will complete a short final animatic - a comprehensive pre-production blueprint for a project of their own choice.

### Learning Goals

- Produce weekly Storyboard assignments, apply the principles covered each week, & submit to D2L on time
- Learn the vocabulary of film language, types of shots, transitions, and narrative structure
- Apply basic principles of character staging, shot progression, camera angles, lighting tones, & camera moves with in-class exercises & assignments
- Create a series of hand-drawn storyboards demonstrating knowledge of sequential narration with accurate perspective and placement of characters
- Practice visual methods of expressing character attitudes and acting that relate to story telling

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand conventional cinematic structure of shot progression, staging, and screen direction
- Compose visually dynamic shots, with good lighting, showing cinematic depth
- Create character-driven storytelling with convincing character attitudes and acting that visually support the narrative
- Apply all principles of storyboarding into a clear blueprint for an animated film, in which all visual aspects are working together

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### Textbooks & Printed Resources (*all are recommended, **not required***):

- *Dream Worlds: Production Design for Animation*, by Hans Baker
- *Prepare to Board!* by Nancy Beiman.

*For BFA Animation Students in Storyboarding & Character Design Concentration, I recommend:*

- *Drawing from Life*, by George Bridgeman (pdf references available under D2L Content)

### Software Used

Adobe Photoshop (you can quickly learn enough basics for this class; use the free tutorials on the Lynda.com site - access w/DePaul Campus Connect).

### Prerequisite: ANI 201, & some Drawing Experience

Life Drawing (ART 118) is normally required. If you have not taken college-level life drawing classes, expect to spend additional time on all assignments.

Note\* Focus of class is on staging and shot progression; please use your camera phones to shoot character poses for reference. BFA students should expect to work on improving their figure drawing.

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**Grading: Approximate numbers - may change**

- 76 % = Weekly Storyboard Assignments
  - 2 to 4% = Quizzes on Terms & Concepts
  - 4 % = Download/View My Feedback sketches on your assignments
  - 6 % = View assigned Demos, & Videos
  - 8 % = Attend Class
  - 4 to 6% = Participation
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- 100% = Total Grade
- *Final Grades follow the Standard DePaul Grading Policy:* 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.
- Everyone begins with 8 points for attendance. Points will be deducted for missed Zoom classes. These points cannot be made up.
  - View required weekly demos within 7 days (for first 5 weeks - then optional). Each week is worth .5 points. D2L automatically notifies me when you view the Demo.
  - View my feedback sketches & notes on your assignments. I spend a long time drawing these; this input will help you. Very important that you apply my notes to your next assignments. Feedback is worth .5 points. Not required on last 3 assignments.

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**Deductions for Late Work (May be revised per student)**

- All weekly 'homework' storyboards due 1 hour before class critique begins
- Assignment due dates will vary during the quarter; refer to D2L home page
- Late Submissions:
  - - 5 % Submit late:
  - - 20 % Submit 3 days late
  - - 40% Submit 6 days late
  - - 60% Submit 10 days late
  - No credit: Submit more than 14 days late
  - May extend deadlines for **Excused Absence**; you must request through the office of the **Dean of Students**: [deanofstudents@depaul.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@depaul.edu) Loop Phone: (312) 362-8066. Lincoln Park: (773) 325-7290.

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**Attendance Policy (Revised for Remote Learning)**

- If you are sick, or have a family emergency, and you miss class or assignments:
    - Need to speak to the **Dean of Students**; they are on your side – they want to help
    - Anything you discuss is always confidential; they never discuss any specific details with me
    - They will notify me directly and tell me to give you a break with an **Excused Absence**
    - An **Excused Absence** allows you additional time to complete work or view lectures & videos
    - You will not receive weekly participation points if you miss a class - sorry
    - Everyone will begin with 8 points for attendance. If you miss 3 classes: -2 points; 4 classes: -6 You will not be excused from attendance due to internet signal or weakness
    - It is your responsibility to get to a different location or use a campus facility
  - Absence Notification Form & Process:  
<https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx>
  - If you miss a class, you are still required to submit work by the deadlines. Time management is essential in this class.
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## Assignments

Drawing skills are helpful but not essential. You will be expected to draw, but you may also trace photos or any references. Important to develop skills in **staging characters**. Will explain on specific assignments.

Submit storyboard assignments as **one single Photoshop file**; must see entire board when I open it. Do not submit separate files or “artboards.” Do not ask me to open or close layers during critique.

You must learn to import/export with Photoshop.

- Normally do not accept jpeg camera photos of hand-drawn boards.
- If you submit jpeg files of your storyboard, you must figure out how to **combine them onto a single page**.
- If you submit multiple pdf files I will skip over them during critique – it simply takes too long!
- Do not take a low-quality photo with your I-phone! I will scream! Then I will skip over it!

Every weekly assignment has specific criteria listed in the submission folder. Please **apply the weekly storyboard principles we cover**. Grades will be lowered significantly if major criteria is not applied on storyboards.

Important: Use only this aspect ratio for all storyboards: 1.78 : 1 (for example, a 16 x 9 tv screen). You may not use squares, or split screens, or any free-form framing as in comics. Cinema is a fixed screen size.

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## Facilities

- Software Required: Photoshop; You may have access to the Adobe Creative Suite. Check this link: [https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0010764](https://depaul.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010764)
- Wacom One tablets (pen screens) may be checked out by animation majors. I do not know the status of how many units are available. Refer to Scott Roberts’ emails.
- CDM Building; Hours for fall 2021; Mon – Fri: 7am – 11pm; Sat: 8am – 6pm; Sun 12noon – 6pm
- CDM Labs with Cintiqs: 527, 533, & 722. Also in CDM: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> floor lounge, 1<sup>st</sup> floor lounge.
- Wacom Drawing Tablets may be checked out for the weekend from the CDM Film Cage at 14 E. Jackson, LL Level.
- Animation Tutors - Make an appointment: <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/TutoringProgram.aspx>

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## Supplies *(Revised)*

- I will supply pencils and paper in class.
- You need to have access to Photoshop (or similar drawing program, such as TV Paint).
- I am planning to teach animatics using either Adobe Premiere or After Effects; will discuss this after week 6.
- Suggested: Keep a sketchbook and practice free hand drawing

## Using D2L

- Storyboard assignments must be submitted to the “D2L Assignments Folder.” Important: read the criteria and always apply the weekly principles.
- Lectures are not recorded; important to attend class
- Weekly Class Notes, Student Samples, & Reference Art posted on D2L > CONTENT > as noted
- Various videos posted on D2L > CONTENT > VIDEOS; a few are required, most are there for fun

## Email Me

Email me directly if you have questions related to class material. Will reply within 24 hours

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**Weekly Schedule:** (Will change during the quarter)

1A ... Jan 4: Cinematic Depth; Composition in Cinema; Handout: "Quiz 1"  
1B ... Jan 6: Aspect Ratio; Types of Shots; Establishing Shots; Handout: "BG\_Depth"  
2A ... Jan 11: "BG\_Depth" Critique; Numbering Scenes & Panels;  
2B ... Jan 13: Shot Progression; Cutting between Scenes; Handout: "Walkboard"  
3A ... Jan 18: RETURN TO IN-CLASS (tentative) "Walkboard" Critique; Basic Perspective  
3B ... Jan 20: 2-Point Perspective; Handout: "Perspective"  
4A ... Jan 25: Critique "Perspective"; Character Construction  
4B ... Jan 27: Character Start Poses; Cutting between High & Low Angles; Handout: "POV Board"  
5A ... Feb 1: "POV Board" Critique; Use Camera to Reveal Dramatically & Comically; How to indicate Camera Moves  
5B ... Feb 3: Dramatic Pacing, Building Visual Tension; Handout "Camera Reveal"  
6A ... Feb 8: Critique "Camera Reveal"; Motivated Camera Moves;  
6B ... Feb 10: Titled horizon; Low Angles for Drama; Handout: "Le Café Board"  
7A ... Feb 15: "Le Café Board" Critique; How the eye reads between cuts;  
7B ... Feb 17: DISCUSS ANIMATICS (may not use), Hand-out "Desert Board"  
8A ... Feb 22: LAB WORK (may not use) Critique "Desert Board"; Visual Conflict: Contrast Shape, & Scale;  
8B ... Feb 24: Create Insert Shots; Slow and Fast Camera Reveals; Handout "Showdown Board"  
9A ... Mar 1: "Showdown Board" Critique; Use of Tones & Cast Shadows  
9B ... Mar 3: Tones to Visually Emphasize Conflict, Fear, Threat; Handout "Tone Board"  
10A .. Mar 8: MAY NOT MEET (To Be Determined)  
10B .. Mar 10: "Tone Board" Critique  
FINAL..Mar 17 MAY NOT MEET (To Be Determined)

**Important Dates**

Sun, Jan 9 (11:59pm) – Last day to add or swap classes

Sun, Jan 16: Deadline to drop classes (full refund)

Sun, Feb 20: Deadline to Withdraw (does not affect GPA)

Thy, Mar 3: Deadline to apply for Incomplete (usually need 60% grade by this date)

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**Requesting Incomplete Grade:** *(Revised)*

- An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements.
- If you were sick for a long time, if you had a family emergency, or if you experienced personal issues that prevented you from completing work, you may apply for an incomplete grade before week 10. This will allow you additional time to complete homework assignments. You must apply directly through Campus Connect:  
<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>
- We usually require a 60% grade at the time you apply for an incomplete.
- All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor, then by a CDM Associate Dean.
- The deadline to complete work is usually before the end of the next quarter.
- Please discuss with your academic advisor when you apply

**Withdrawing from Class**

- If you are unable to keep up in this class you may need to Withdraw by deadline (above)
- A 'W' grade does not affect your GPA

### **Changes to Syllabus**

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 sent via email.

### **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. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

### **Incomplete Grades *(Revised)***

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

### **Students with Disabilities**

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

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

### **Proctored exams for OL courses *(Not applicable per Spring Qtr Structure)***

If you are an online learning student living in the Chicagoland area (within 30 miles of Chicago), you will need to come to one of DePaul's campuses to take an exam. Online learning students outside of the Chicagoland area are required to locate a proctor at a local library, college or university. You will need to take the exam within the window your instructor gives. Students should examine the course syllabus to find exam dates and the instructor's policy on make-up exams. Detailed information on proctored exams for online learning students can be found at <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/onlinelearning/Pages/Exams.aspx>

### **Online office hours for OL courses**

Faculty should be accessible to online students via phone, email and/or Zoom.

## Course Policies as Suggested by the Dean of Students Office

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. No deduction for 2 absences. If you miss 3 classes: -3 points; miss 4: -8 points. Missing 5 or more will likely result in failure. Students are required to attend and participate in critiques.

### Class Participation & Critiques

I want to hear your input on the weekly assignments during class critiques. Participation allows the instructor to “hear” the student’s voice. Students must keep up with the weekly terminology and material. It is important to use these professional terms when discussing visual art. Students are encouraged to ask questions related to the weekly topics.

The participation grade also includes downloading the instructor’s input sketches and notes attached to submissions. View these within a few days of receiving the grade; apply this input to all future assignments.

Final participation grade is based on in-class work, active involvement with critiques, and attending classes.

### Attitude

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another’s opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

### Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student’s ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

### Cell Phones/On Call

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

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