

**DePaul
SCA**

Visual Concept Development

Fall 2018-19 | M/W 10:10am– 11:40am | location CDM 722

Instructor: Devin Bell

ANI 326

Office: CDM 512 (but can also be found in CDM 803, CDM 818 or the IRL in 14 E. Jackson- Daley Building 310)

Phone: (312)362-6156

Office hours: M/W 12:00pm-1:30pm

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) Students will be able to increase knowledge of traditional and digital tools needed to create visual development for animation, game and cinema.
- 2) Students will be able to research humans, animals, locations, objects, color theory and lighting to create character and environment sketches
- 3) Students will be able to analyze historical and contemporary examples of production design
- 4) Students will be able to 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 any 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 regarding late assignments or absences.

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

Important dates for Fall 2018-19:

<https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

- **September 11- Last day to add (or swap) classes**
- **September 18- last day to drop with no tuition penalty**
- **October 23- 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 design/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. To receive any credit for a late assignment, it must be submitted within 24 hours of the deadline. Late assignments will be accepted with teacher discretion only. For most of the projects, you will submit scanned drawings and/or digital 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 PRIOR to the class in which it is due.
- 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	70% of grade
Final Project	30% of grade
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

It is unacceptable to check e-mail, browse or social network while class is in session; it is rude and distracting. Repeated misuse of time will result in a lowered grade.

Materials and Supplies

Most 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 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.

* **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at: <https://offices.depaul.edu/oaa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

Evaluations from students are a required part of the course and help the instructor recognize areas for improvement. Evaluations are anonymous. Students are sent periodic reminders automatically over three weeks, or until the evaluation is complete. Students complete the evaluation online in [CampusConnect](#).

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 given</u>
Week 1 Sep 5	Introduction	Iconic Character pt. 1
Week 2 Sep 10	Core Principles applied to visual concepts	Refine Character pt. 1 and begin pt. 2
Sep 12	Lecture: Harmony vs. Dissonance (Characters, settings and combined)	Iconic Character pt. 2
Week 3 Sep 17	Critique Iconic Characters Lecture: Environment Design- life reference, building visual toolset	Begin Environment Design (warm-up, reference and a solid start to final layouts)
Sep 19	Lecture: Adding fantasy elements to environment	Complete Environment Design (Final layouts- detail & shading)
Week 4 Sep 24	Critique Environment Designs Lecture: Layout and Backgrounds for animation/game	Sequential Layout pt. 1
Sep 26	Lecture: Atmosphere, depth and strong lighting	Sequential Layout pt. 2
Week 5 Oct 1	Critique Sequential Layouts Lecture: Color Theory- color scripts and technique	Mood Boards pt. 1
Oct 3	Lecture: Painting Mood boards- color and light in concept art In-class painting exercise	Mood Boards pt. 2

Week 6 Oct 8	Critique Mood Boards Lecture: Designing animals and creatures, research and testing	<i>Weird Pet</i> pt. 1 (begin movement research)
Oct 10	Story-driven character- context, subtext and fabricated history	<i>Weird Pet</i> pt. 2
Week 7 Oct 15	Critique Weird Pet Lecture: Character design- The power of 3D iteration	Character model pt. 1
Oct 17	Lecture: Pushing 3D iteration to show greater acting range, greater potential on screen	Character model pt. 2
Week 8 Oct 22	Lecture: Character turnarounds, character expression/pose sheets	Character model pt. 3
Oct 24	Critique Character Model Lecture: "Pitch bibles" and Writing Treatments Present final project	Final pt. 1- Written treatment and preliminary sketches
Week 9 Oct 29	Lecture: "Pitch Bibles" vs. "Production Bibles"	Final pt. 1- Written treatment and preliminary sketches
Oct 31	Critique Final Project treatments	Final pt. 2- BG schematic
Week 10 Nov 5	Lecture: Art Direction- controlling the look of everything	Final pt. 3- Refined characters
Nov 7	Individual progress critiques on final projects	Final pt. 4- Rough Concept Paintings
Week 11 Nov 12	Individual progress critiques on final projects	Final pt. 5- Polished Concept Paintings
Nov 14	Final project due ATTENDANCE MANDATORY <i>NOTE: CLASS WILL BE HELD IN SAME ROOM</i> Wednesday, November 14, 8:30am-10:45am	