ANI 220 Storyboarding and Narrative Development Syllabus: Autumn 2019

Tue & Thu: 3:10pm - 4:40pm, CDM, Room 530
Instructor: Steve Socki - Email: ssocki@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am to 2:00pm; and by 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
- Combine storyboards with sound to create 'Animatics'

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

Textbooks & Printed Resources *(all are recommended, not required):*
- *Prepare to Board!* by Nancy Beiman.
- *Dream Worlds:* Production Design for Animation, by Hans Baker
- *See the PDF Files of References under D2L > Content*

- For BFA Animation Students in Storyboarding & Character Design Concentration, I recommend:
- *Drawing from Life*, by George Bridgeman
- *Dream Worlds*, by Hans Bacher

Software Used
Adobe Photoshop (preferred for submissions); PDF files (if hand-drawn)
Lynda.com tutorials for Adobe & most animation software; access w/DePaul Campus Connect

Prerequisite: ANI 201 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. Use your camera phones to shoot character poses for reference. BFA students should expect to work on improving their figure drawing.

Grading

- Weekly Assignments = 65%
- In-Class Work & Quizzes = 15%
- Attendance & Participation = 5 to 10%
- Final Project = 15%
- *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.
- If you miss a class, you are still required to submit work by the deadlines. It is essential to learn time management in all production classes.

Deductions for Late Work

All weekly 'homework' storyboards will normally be due Tuesdays, 1 hour before class.

- Submit Project Late (even a few hours late): -10%
- Submit Late 3 days: -25 %
- Submit Late 6 days: -60 %
- Submit More than 7 days late: = no credit
- Must have excused absence from Dean of Students for extension of deadlines
- Every other class will have in-class drawing assignments worth up to 1 point; no credit if you miss class
- Once every week there will be a short viewing assignment of a film clip with a quiz also worth up to 1 point

Attendance Policy

- An absence will always be unexcused unless you request an Excused Absence from the Dean of Students office
- Begin with 5 points for Attendance
- Miss 2 classes: -1 point (You will be notified automatically through BlueStar)
- Miss 3 classes: -4 points
- Miss 4 classes: -10 points (This lowers your final grade by 5%)
- Miss 5 classes: Automatic Failure - Normally will not pass the class, will be asked to Withdraw

- Constantly arriving late will lower attendance by 25 to 50%
- 2 lates will count as 1 unexcused absence

Excused Absence

You may email if you are absent, but it will be unexcused and may affect your grade. For Excused Absence, formally request the office of the Dean of Students. All of your info is confidential; they will only tell me that you should be excused, no other details.

Email: deanofstudents@depaul.edu Loop Phone: (312) 362-8066. Lincoln Park: (773) 325-7290.

Absence Notification Form & Process:
https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/academic/Pages/absence-notification.aspx

Participation

Student must remember to submit in-class work, with names, at the end of classes – when noted.
You must notify me by email if you have any personal issues with working in class, I will always find accommodations. I will always be available to help one-one if you make an appointment via email; I will not be able to help before classes.

- Working on outside projects or constantly working on your phone will lower your participation grade to '0'
- The final class is mandatory. If you do not attend, your participation grade will be lowered 50% *

Assignments

Drawing skills are helpful but not essential. You will be expected to draw somethings, but you may also trace off of photos you take. Will explain on specific assignments.

Almost everyone submits storyboard assignments as a single Photoshop file; you should learn to use this software.

You may also submit a hand-drawn board, but it must be scanned as a single-page jpeg file; pdf files are discouraged, but may be submitted if arranged as a single page.

Every assignment has specific criteria listed on the assignment folder; students must follow for best grade

Must understand what an aspect ratio is, and apply it to all storyboard panels (It is 1:1.78 in this class).

Plan to spend 3 to 6 hours outside of class each week to complete assignments.

Facilities

- Use any CDM Computer to access Photoshop. If you draw by hand, you should import to Photoshop to work faster with more options.
- Lincoln Park Labs in Student Center have Photoshop.
- Wacom Drawing tablets may be checked out over the weekend from the CDM Film Cage at 14 E. Jackson, L Level
- Wacom touch screens are excellent for this class. Available in CDM 5th Floor Hall, 4th floor lounge, 1st floor lounge, and in CDM 527 & 722 (if there is class, ask instructor if ok to use during class).
- Digital Scanners are available on floors 1 & 4 of CDM. Other campus scanners are noted on the CDM page
- Animation Tutor: Chris Williams, MFA student. CDM 532. Make an appointment: https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/TutoringProgram.aspx

Supplies

- Drawing materials and paper will be provided for in-class exercises. Some students bring their own sketchbooks to keep notes together.
- Always bring your own portable drive when working in any CDM labs. Begin to keep a separate folder for assignments and for "reference material."

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 on D2L from this classroom.
- All *Weekly Class Notes, Student Samples, &Reference Art,* will be posted on D2L > Content
- All assigned viewings may be viewed on D2L > ColTube (on bottom right of D2L homepage)

Email Me

Please email me directly with any questions about assignments, or if you need to meet. I am not able to meet before class due to the schedule. Please let me know right away if you have any problems working in my class, or if something is preventing you from completing assignments. I will always make time to meet with you individually, outside of class, if you give me a day's notice.

Weekly Schedule: (Will change during the quarter)

Week 1B: Overview; Composition Basics, Shot Progression, Types of Film Shots

Week 2A: Basic Perspective; Establishing Shots

Week 2B: POV Shots, Character Reactions

Week 3A: Visual Impact; Framing Devices; Cinematic Depth

Week 3B: Basic Camera Composition

Week 4A: Dramatic Composition; Camera Angles

Week 4B: Visual Contrast; Dynamic Angles

Week 5A: Building Visual Tension, Using the Camera

Week 5B: Motivated Camera Moves, Impact Reveals
Week 6A: Use of Tones, Emphasis of Space
Week 6B: Character Start Poses, Reactions
Week 7A: Dramatic Pacing, Insert Shots,
Week 7B: Cartoony Character Construction
Week 8A: Character Development & Design
Week 8B: Creating a "Showdown" Board
Week 9A: Connecting Shots thematically
Week 9B: Story Pacing, Insert Shots
Week 10A: Assembling Elements that work together
Week 10B: Creating Animatics
Week 11A: Compositing in After Effects
Week 11B: Work on Final Animatic
Tue, Nov 26, 2:30 pm ~ 4:45 pm "FINAL Animatic" Due, Critique

Important Dates
Tue, Sep 17: Deadline to Add Class
Tue, Sep 25: Last day to Drop class (full refund)
Tue, Oct 29: Last day to WITHDRAW from Class – (receive "W" grade, does not lower your GPA)
Fri, Nov 8: Deadline to Request Incomplete from Associate Dean (see notes below for process)

Requesting Incomplete Grade:
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 normally expect a 60% grade at the time you apply. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. The deadline to complete work is usually before the end of the next quarter. I recommend talking to the Dean of Students and your academic advisor if you apply.

Course Policies for all CDM Classes

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
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 (if applicable)
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 (if applicable)
Faculty should be accessible to online students via phone, email and/or Skype.

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. The overall grade for participation drops one-third after any absence. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.

Class Discussion
Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

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 undisruptive 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.