**ANI 345/445 Character Design**

**Fall 2020-21**

MoWe 10:10AM - 11:40AM

Online

Instructor: Naghmeh Farzaneh

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Office: 475 CDM

Office hours: Tuesday 10AM-1PM (zoom with appointment)



Designed by Luis Grane

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce students to the basics of design as applied to characters for animated productions. Students will create and develop a ‘cast’ of characters for an imagined property, focusing on group dynamics, visual appeal and personality development. Line, color, texture, shape, form and story will be referenced when developing characters. Students will institute a process of visual development through a variety of exercises, working toward a final, finished group of characters. Projects will utilize hand drawn, digital painting, live action and subjective techniques.

**OVERVIEW**

This course is project based, and therefore is time intensive and dependent

upon your participation in assignments and critiques. There will be a lot of drawing, as well

as an opportunity for you to create a short animatic that depicts a scene using your

character designs.

**OBJECTIVES**

In this course, you will study and analyze the notion of character design as a reference point in your understanding of animation. You will examine design principles and theory, historical precedence, medium, audience, and the role of character as entertainment, educational and informative device. Through the prism of design and theory, you will solidify your concept of character by looking at the parameters of design, performance and meaning.

**TEXTBOOKS (suggested)**

Drawn to life, Walt Stanchfield

Creating characters with personality, Tom Bancroft

Character Design from Life Drawing, Mike Matessi

**PREREQUISITES:** None Required; suggested: ANI 201; ART 106

Helpful to be familiar with Adobe Photoshop & Animate, but not essential. AfterEffects would be especially helpful.

**EXPECTATIONS**

* Consistent enthusiasm and strong work ethic
* Being on time to class and staying for the duration of the class
* Turning in what you have been assigned to on time
* Regular back-ups

**POLICIES**

• Our class will be synchronized via Zoom

• Late work will be lowered one letter grade automatically and an additional grade for each additional class until submitted.

• If an assignment is listed on the syllabus you are still responsible for completing the assignment on time.

• Assignments WON’T be accepted via email.

• There will be periodic reviews and critiques of your work and you are expected to participate. This will provide feedback and insight and support in-class and homework assignments. This is the best way to express your observations of each other’s work; emphasis will be on evaluations of assignment goals, and on creativity.

• There is no extra credit available for this course.

**GRADING**

Homework Assignments 80%

Participation 20%

Each assignment will be given a letter grade based on aesthetic, technical and artistic merit.

All assignments and grades will be listed on our D2L site: **https://** **d2l.depaul.edu**

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

A = excellent

Work shows in depth independent research and development of ideas/Work is finished on time and resented in a professional manner/Technical proficiency: drawing, creation of character and story and acting ability/Student participates in class discussions and contributes to the group as a whole

B = above average

Work shows a degree of independent research and development of ideas/Work is finished on time and presented in a professional manner/Work fulfills the criteria of the assignment/Technical proficiency: knowledge of materials and class participation

C = average

All projects are finished/Work is complete but average in concept/Work fulfils the criteria of the assignment

Although satisfactory, the work has room for improvement

D = below average

Work is poorly presented or unfinished/Work is rarely innovative or shows evidence of self-motivation/Student is unprepared for class/Student does not participate in class exercises

F = fail

Work fails to meet the minimum requirements of the Professor in quality or quantity/Level of performance to Professor’s requirements is unsatisfactory/Work does not address the criteria of the assignment/Student did not hand work in

**PREFERRED NAME & GENDER PRONOUNS**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need.  For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

**COLLEGE POLICIES**

**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. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. DePaul University does not condone any form of academic dishonesty. Any act of improperly representing another person’s work as one’s own is construed as an act of academic dishonesty. These acts include, but are not limited to, plagiarism in any form, or use of information and materials not authorized by the instructor during an examination. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

**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 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: Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

Phone number: (312)362-8002 Fax: (312)362-6544 TTY: (773)325.7296