

DePaul University
Fall 2013

ANI 390/490 HYBRID Animation SYLLABUS

Meeting time: T/TH 10:10 pm – 1:25 pm
Location: Lab 527

Instructor: Meghann Artes
Office: CDM 518 (5th Floor)
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:15 pm-3:00pm
Tuesday 4:45 pm-5:30pm
Thursday 2:15 pm-3:00pm
Thursday 4:45 pm-5:30pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an animation production class consisting of lectures, demonstrations and assignments culminating in the creation of a final project that combines more than one animation technique. Students will complete the assignments and final project using mixed media with the choice of animation techniques, content and form left to the individual or group. Some topics covered in this class will be pixilation, rotoscoping, and creative use of green screen, among others.

A basic knowledge of After Effects is encouraged.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- To work in a studio environment, where students and instructor share their knowledge and impressions
- To explore different types of animation through class assignments
- To discuss each other's work in meaningful, thoughtful and yet critical ways
- To sharpen your creative skills and challenge yourselves as animators
- To explore the expected and unexpected results of creating hybrid animation

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend every session and arrive prepared for the class at the indicated start time. Since this class meets only once a week, students are not expected to exceed more than 1 unexcused absence. A second unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade one full letter. Any student missing 3 unexcused classes will be given a grade of "F" for the semester. 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 for the timely completion of your film.

Extra Credit - If you have not been tardy or missed a class during the quarter AND you actively participate in critiques and discussions you will receive extra credit on your final overall grade for the quarter.

CLASS WORK

- **Late work:** Late work will not be accepted to the class in which it is due without PRIOR approval or accompanied by a valid medical excuse.

* **Special Accommodations:** If you have any special considerations please talk to me.

* **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 with your own drives.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Fantastic Loop	5
Methods of Motion Movie	10
Character Description	10
Hybrid Pixilated Movie Style Frame	5
Final Hybrid Pixilated Movie	20
Group Final Project Animatic	10
Final Group Production Packet	5
3 seconds of Final Group Animation	5
Final Group Animation Project	25
Class Participation	5
Total	100

A =100-93	A- = 92-90	B+ =89-87
B = 86-83	B- =82-80	C+ =79-77
C =76-73	C- =72-70	D+ = 69-67
D =66-63	D- =62-60	F = 59-0

****Your grades are based upon completion of assignments when due, quality of work, active class participation and attendance****

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.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Thursday September 12

Introduction to the class
Review syllabus
View: Hybrid animation and loop examples

Week 2 - Thursday September 19

Assignment Due: Fantastic Loop—Reminder it needs to be cut-out to receive credit

Introduction to the 7d camera
In-class photo shoot involving your Fantastic Loop animation.

Lecture: Building a composition, registering, rendering and looping in AE

Week 3 - Thursday September 26

Assignment Due: Methods of Motion movie / Screen and Critique

View: Pixilation examples
Introduction to the green screen stage

Week 4 - Thursday October 3

Assignment Due: Character Description along with props / costumes for shoot

In-class green screen shoot at Cinespace studios. You will act as crew, director and possibly actor today during our in-class pixilation shoot.

WE ARE MEETING AT CINESPACE STUDIOS FOR THIS ENTIRE CLASS

Week 5 - Thursday October 10

Assignment Due: Pixilated character frames composited in AE

Lecture: Key Light, rotoscoping and working with masks in AE
View: Green screen and animation examples

Week 6 - Thursday October 17

Assignment Due: Hybrid Pixilated Movie Style Frame

Lecture: Working with Alpha mattes, rotoscoping and 3d layers

Week 7 - Thursday October 24

Assignment Due: Final Hybrid Pixilated Movie with sound / Screen and Critique

Lecture: Tracking

Select groups for final project

Week 8 - Thursday October 31

Assignment Due: Group Final Project Animatic presentations / Screen and Critique

Week 9 - Thursday November 7

Assignment Due: Group Final Production packet

View: Mixed Media and animation examples

Lecture: TBD

Work in class

Individual meetings

Week 10 - Thursday November 14

Assignment Due: 3 seconds of your final group animation due

Work in class

Individual meetings

Week 11- Thursday November 21

Final meets from 11:45pm-2:00pm in the big theater at 14E Jackson

Screen And Critique Group Final Projects

*****Schedule subject to change****

MATERIALS NEEDED

External hard drive and flash drive:

In some cases I will have you turn in your final project on a flash drive. You will also be working on multiple computers throughout the quarter so you will need to have a reliable drive. This will be essential when you start working on your projects in and outside of class. I will go over options in class.

COURSE POLICIES

In addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course:

Class/Workshop Rules - There will be **no** net surfing, phone calls, email checking, text messaging, or IMing during class at any time, except when I give you permission to do so.

Final Class Exam - Attendance is mandatory. Students who do not show up for the final critique will get their final grade reduced by 2 letter grades. If for some reason you cannot attend, contact the instructor before the final class. Excuses after the class will not be accepted. No incompletes will be given without documented proof of circumstances beyond your control.

Class Participation - is encouraged and students will be graded on the extent to which they are involved throughout the quarter. Participation is an amazing tool for learning and should be done in a constructive way, especially when giving or receiving project critiques.

Changes to the Schedule – Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling