

# ANIMATION GRADUATE SEMINAR

ANI460 - Fall 2017

Instructor: Jacob Ciocci

Office: CDM 473

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-4:30pm

Course Meeting Time/Place:

Thursday 5:45-9:00

14 East Jackson, Room 507

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will explore the animator's role in contemporary culture, including careers in entertainment, art, game development and education. A combination of guest speakers, critical readings, animation analysis and group discussion will help students lay a foundation for their graduate study in the field.

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## COURSE GOALS:

- Introduce major themes and topics relevant to the art of animation
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- Develop critical thinking skills in issues related to animation
- View a wide variety of examples of animation, including a diversity of eras, styles, techniques, forms, and content.
- Establish a sense of community among the MA and MFA students
- Introduce the animation faculty, their career backgrounds, their work, and their creative interests.
- Introduce a range of creative and career possibilities for people working with animation
- Write a paper representing original research into a genre, artist or style, relevant to the course material.

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## COURSE STRUCTURE:

**CLASS VISITS:** Each week's class (with the exception of the first class) will start with a visit from one member of the DePaul animation faculty. The visiting faculty will talk about their background and their work, and screen some of their animations. You'll have a chance to ask questions and talk about their work. These visits will introduce you to the DePaul animation faculty, and to a range of examples showing what animation is and can be. They'll also show you some possible career paths in animation.

**SCREENINGS:** Each week's class will have a topic that will be examined through watching animations and through group discussion. To provide examples for each week's topic, each class meeting will include a screening of material chosen by the instructor. This material will illustrate ideas relevant to the week's topic using examples representing a wide range of animation styles, forms, eras, and techniques.

**READINGS:** Each weekly topic has corresponding readings that will be discussed in depth during the class meeting. These readings will be provided by the instructor on D2L. All students are expected to have done a careful reading of each week's assigned material at the start of class.

**DISCUSSIONS:** Students will sign up in pairs to lead one week of class discussions on one topic during the quarter. Leading the class discussion involves 1) giving an explanation of the topic and the key ideas explained in the assigned readings, 2) posing questions for discussion to the class about the topic, and 3) giving some of your own personal reactions to the topic and readings.

*Leading the class discussion does not assume that you will be an expert on the topic or assigned readings. You should do your best to understand the readings and the topic as thoroughly as possible, and you can include explanations of any of your own questions and possible confusion in the Discussion forum on D2L.*

**ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM:** The class will use the Discussion forum on D2L to prepare for each week's meeting.

The pair of students leading each week's discussion are responsible for creating a 500-word (minimum) blog post to begin discussion of the article or articles on which they are leading discussion. This post should outline what you see as the key ideas discussed in the readings, and should pose two or three questions for discussion. This post should be published on the blog *by 5:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the class.*

Every student is expected to write 250 words (minimum) in response or reaction to the assigned reading, which should be posted as comments to the blog *by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday before class.* Everyone is expected to have read the blog discussion prior to the class meeting on Thursday evening.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** A 1000-word (approximately four page) research paper will be due on week 5. This paper will ask you to expand on the topic of your presentation by discussing two animations that illuminate some aspect the topic. You are required to use a minimum of three sources. *Please note that you may not have presented on your topic before the paper is due.*

Based on notes and suggestions given in response to your first paper, a 2000-word (eight page) expanded version of your paper is due on week 8. This paper should include writing on one additional animation related to the topic, and should include research using one additional source, for a total of four sources.

## READINGS:

All readings will be provided by the instructor.

## GRADING:

10% Attendance & participation in class discussions  
10% Weekly responses on the class blog (250 words)  
30% In-class presentation on one topic, with a post on the class blog (500 words)  
40% Research paper, based on your presentation topic (1000 words/2000 words)  
10% Final presentation

## CLASS MEETING STRUCTURE:

5:45-6:45: Visiting animation faculty  
6:45-7:00: Short break  
7:00-7:45: Screening prepared by the instructor  
7:45-9:00: Discussion on scheduled readings

## SCHEDULE:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings Discussed</i>
Week 01: Sept. 7	Introduction to Course, Go Over Syllabus, Make Course Schedule	none
Week 02: Sept. 14	What is Animation?	Wells, Chapter 1, <i>Theory Toolbox</i> Chapters 2 and 3  discussion leader: Jacob Ciocci

		Faculty Presentation: Devin Bell
Week 03: Sept. 21	Animation as an anti-real art-form/Collisions of realities in animation	Crafton, <i>Before Mickey</i> Ch. 1 and <i>Shadows of a Mouse</i> , Ch. 2 discussion leader: TBA Faculty Presentation: TBA
Week 04: Sept. 28	Animation as a visual art-form/ Narrative in Animation	Solomon, <i>Animation as Visual Medium</i> , Wells, Ch. 3 discussion leader: TBA Faculty Presentation: Steve Socki
Week 05: Oct. 5	Cartooning	<i>Paper draft 1 due</i> discussion leader: Jacob Ciocci Faculty Presentation: Nagmeh Farzaneh
Week 06: Oct. 12	Personalities and bodies, Difference	Wells, Ch. 5, Toolbox Ch. 10 discussion leaders: TBA Faculty Presentation: TBA
Week 07: Oct. 19	Humor and violence	Wells, Ch. 4 discussion leaders: TBA Faculty Presentation: TBA
Week 08: Oct. 26	Studio model vs. Artist model	Crafton, Ch. 5 and 9 discussion leaders: TBA Faculty Presentation: Josh Jones
Week 09: Nov. 2	Sound in Animation	<i>Paper revision due</i> Course evaluations (in class) Faculty Presentation: Robert Steel and Meghhan Artes
Week 10: Nov. 9	Animation as a subversive art-form	Moritz, <i>Narrative Strategies for Resistance and Protest in Eastern European Animation</i>  discussion leader: Jacob Ciocci Faculty Presentation: TBA
Week 11: Nov. 16	Final Presentation/Class Summary	