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## Syllabus: **ANI 329/ANI 429 Advanced Storyboarding** Spring 2019

Tue & Thu 3:10 – 4:40pm, CDM room 722; 4 Credit-Hour Course; Studio Production, not repeatable.

Instructor: Steve Socki; Email: [ssocki@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:ssocki@cdm.depaul.edu)

Office: CDM 511; Hours: Wed, 11am to 2pm; Phone: 312-362-8273

### Course Description:

This course elaborates on the skills from ANI 324 for Undergraduates, and ANI 425 for Graduates. Students will work on advanced skills of clear storyboarding, good staging, strong filmmaking, and original character design and performance that support their original narrative stories. Focus will be on more intense development of visually dynamic composition, more complex staging, and sophisticated use of camera and transitions. Students are expected to apply advanced figure drawing skills to their character design and performance. Projects will demonstrate a command of filmmaking skills; such as clear exposition, pacing, scene progression, transitions, and logical film grammar. Students will complete a final, professional looking storyboard and animatic edited with sound. This final work could be used in their capstone courses, or be part of a professional portfolio.

### Learning Goals

- Master the use of Storyboard Pro Software – the industry standard for professional work
- Develop visually dynamic compositions with cinematic depth, accurate perspective, and visual focus on the characters in relation to original story
- Develop and revise strong, original character art and performance
- Research and revise background art, props, incidental characters, and main character
- Create visually interesting, professionally executed storyboards that show refined execution
- Demonstrate filmmaking skills that clearly communicate narrative of original story

### Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate command of storyboarding software with a professional looking art and animatic
- Compose scenes with effective staging that visually supports and emphasizes the narrative
- Apply advanced principles of storyboarding that demonstrate visual appeal
- Display character development through dynamic visual performance
- Present finished storyboard which apply personal vision and aesthetics

**Undergraduate Prerequisite:** ANI 220 & ANI 324

**Graduate Prerequisite:** ANI 425

### No Required Textbooks

#### Recommended Books *(very helpful)*

- *Dream Worlds: Production Design for Animation*, by Hans Baker
- *Drawing from Life*, by George Bridgeman
- *Drawn to Life*, by Walt Stanchfield

### Resources

Plan to use Lynda.com throughout the quarter for Storyboard Pro

### Grading

- Weekly Assignments = 90%
- Attendance & Participation = 10%
- *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 10 points for Attendance & Participation
- Miss 2 classes: -1 point (You will be notified automatically through BlueStar)
- Miss 3 classes: -4 points
- Miss 4 classes: -10 points
- Miss 5 classes: Automatic Failure - Normally will not pass the class, will be asked to **Withdraw**
- Constantly arriving late will lower participation grade 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](mailto: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**

- Every assignment has specific criteria listed on the assignment folder; students must follow for best grade
- Must use 1:1.78 aspect ratio on all storyboard panels.
- Plan to spend 3 to 6 hours outside of class each week to complete assignments.

### **Facilities**

- 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 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Hall, CDM 532, 4<sup>th</sup> floor lounge, 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

### 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: Basic Concepts; *specifics will change during the quarter*

Week 1A: Overview; dynamic compositions

Week 1B: Visual language review

Week 2A: Script breakdowns; blocking shots

Week 2B: Composing with characters

Week 3A: Shot continuity

Week 3B: Dramatic blocking

Week 4A: Dramatic camera angles; dramatic reveals

Week 4B: Action shots

Week 5A: Cutting for action, screen position cutting

Week 5B: Start poses; hook-up poses

Week 6A: Comic reveals & rhythm

Week 6B: Subtleties in action; motivated cuts

Week 7A: Perspective is your friend

Week 7B: Simplified approach to BGs

Week 8A: Character performance

Week 8B: Acting with entire figure

Week 9A: Character construction guides; expression & attitude guides

Week 9B: Size comparison guide; character turnarounds, show bibles

Week 10A: Dialogue, working from characters

Week 10B: Final work

**Tue, Jun 11, “FINAL Critique”**

### Important Dates

Fri, Apr 5: Deadline to Add Class

Fri, Apr 12: Last day to Drop class (full refund)

**Fri, May 17: Last day to WITHDRAW** from Class – (receive “W” grade, does not lower your GPA)

Fri, May 31: Deadline to Request Incomplete from Associate Dean (see notes above 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 undistruptive 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.

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