

Animation Production

ARTS 4960-01

Tuesday, Friday 12:00pm- 1:50pm

Sage Lab, 2411

Fall 2014

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“In Hollywood, they think drawn animation doesn't work anymore, computers are the way. They forget that the reason computers are the way is that Pixar makes good movies. So everybody tries to copy Pixar. They're relying too much on the technology and not enough on the artists.” – Tim Burton

Abstract:

Animation Production is designed to give an animation industry experience by completing the entire process of creating an animated short. Learning long-term time management and finding the key time cost/benefits will be essential to success. The course schedule is setup to replicate the industry model of frequent updates and feedback.

Learning Outcomes:

By completion of the course...

- Students will create a portfolio ready animated short
- Students will design and manage asset pipelines
- Students will collaborate with team members

Supplies:

Required:

- Data Storage
- Project Management software – gnat for google drive

Important Points:

Excuses:

Excuses are only acceptable in the following four scenarios: death of family member, a note from doctor or documentation of hospitalization, viable religious observance, and presentation or exhibition of academic work or research at a conference, symposium, gallery, museum, etc. Singular sick days are excusable without documentation within a reasonable limit – for example: two. Illness spanning two or more consecutive class days is not excusable without documentation. Excuses must be declared and accepted before class time by phone, email, or in person.

Studio Format/ Work Load:

This course does not require everyday attention, although it is a studio course and will require six to ten hours of work outside of class each week on average.

E-mail:

E-mail is the most effective communication with me outside of class. I will use your RPI account to communicate with you.

Distractive Computing:

No computing, exceptions are: following in class demos and work in class. Refusal to turn off monitors, close laptops, etc will result in receiving an absence for that day.

Grading:

Assignments:

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- Twenty-five percent of an assignment's total points will be deducted per day late. Days are calculated by the time an assignment is due.
- You will be required to speak and present your work. You will also be required to speak about your colleagues' work. Part of each assignment grade will be based on your participation during critique.
- Voluntary extra assignments for an increase in a final grade will not be accepted.
- Redoing an assignment for a potentially higher score is acceptable only if the assignment was originally turned in on time and if the re-completed assignment is submitted within four days of the assignment's original deadline. The final assignment of the semester will not be available for redoing.

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory and taken at the beginning of class.
- Only disputes brought to the instructor's attention within one week of the infraction will be considered and discussed.
- Each three absences equal reduction final grade by one letter.
- Attendance to Final Critique during exam week is mandatory. Failure to appear will result in the reduction of final grade by one letter.

Overall:

- All appeals must be brought to the instructor during office hours or at a scheduled time convenient to both parties. Keep in mind that an appeal has the potential to raise or lower your grade.
- Midterm grades will be sent individually to your RPI email account. However, you may request grades at any time.

Chart:

Grade	Total Points	Expectations
A	100 – 93	Excellent: consistent effort, timely
A -	92.99 – 90	
B +	89.99 – 87	
B	86.99 – 83	Good: effort, timely
B -	82.99 – 80	
C +	79.99 – 77	
C	76.99 – 73	Satisfactory: some effort, timely
C -	72.99 – 70	
D +	69.99 – 67	
D	66.99 – 60	Passable: little effort
F	59.99 – 0	Failure

Academic Integrity

Trust:

Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. Students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach, and teachers must trust that assignments that students turn in are their own. Acts which violate this trust undermine the educational process. The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities defines various forms of Academic Dishonesty and you should make yourself familiar with these.

Plagiarism:

All work produced in this course must be original and created by the student. First infraction will result in a failure for the course and a report to the Office of the Dean.

Collaboration:

Collaborative work and discussion is encouraged. Instructor must be notified of students' intention to collaborate on assignments well ahead of that assignment's deadline. Instructor will determine whether or not collaboration will be allowed. Upon assignment completion, there must be documentation of each member's contribution to the finished assignment. The instructor reserves the right to award members of the collaboration different grades.

Project Assignment Schedule:

Projects are due on the date that matches the end of their time block. For example, the first assignment “Story Pitch” is due Sept 2nd. Readings are supplied for students’ use in relation to project assignments. Discussion about readings will not occur unless otherwise notified during the class time in which they are assigned.

Day	in Class	assignments	empac
26-Aug	Intro, Storyboarding, team building	Story Pitch	
29-Aug	Layout, project management		29th - Time Squared
2-Sep	Pitches, Characters, Story Crit	5%	
5-Sep	OpenEXR, render layers	Layout Reel	
9-Sep	Chracterization, animation layers	8%	9th - Kode9
12-Sep	Animatic Crit		
16-Sep	Maya 2015 features	Revised Layout	
19-Sep	Revised Animatic Crit	10	
23-Sep	Work in Class	All Assets	
26-Sep	Work in Class		
30-Sep	All Asset Crit	8%	4th - Empathy
3-Oct	Work in Class	Revised Assets	4th - My Voice ...
7-Oct	Work in Class		4th - Obsolescere
10-Oct	Final Asset Crit	10%	10th - Visitors
14-Oct	Mon on Tue -- No Class	Weekly Update	
17-Oct	Work in Class	8	
21-Oct	Animation/Layout Progress Crit	Weekly Update	
24-Oct	Work in Class	8%	
28-Oct	Animation/Layout Progress Crit	Weekly Update	
31-Oct	Work in Class	8%	
4-Nov	Animation/Layout Progress Crit	Weekly Update	
7-Nov	Work in Class	8%	5th - Luca Turin
11-Nov	Animation/Layout Progress Crit	Final Animation	
14-Nov	Work in Class	12%	14th - Jaqueline KG
18-Nov	Work in Class		
21-Nov	Final Animation/Layout Crit		
25-Nov	Render	Final Rendered Composite	
28-Nov	No Class - Thanksgiving		5th - Pharmakon
2-Dec	Render, Composite		6th - Possibility of ...
5-Dec	Composite		6th - Bloopers
exams	Final Project Crit	15%	12th - Laurie Anderson

Changes to syllabus may be made at instructor's best discretion with notification to the student