San José State University
Design Department
ANI 128A-02, Digital Animation I, Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: John Clapp
Office Location: ART 219
Telephone: Email only please
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Office Hours: T/TH, 11am-12pm by appointment. Email for appointment.
Class Days/Time: T/TH: 8am-10:50am
Classroom: ART 243

Prerequisites:

Course Description

In this class we will focus our attention on how to create believable storytelling by applying the traditional principles of animation and illustration. There is a special emphasis on the building blocks of an animated scene, and the work flow from planning phase to final depiction, with focus on shot design and communication. The project assignments will be introduced through hands-on demos and lectures, and will be completed by work done in class and continued at home.

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Know how to apply the traditional principles of animation and storytelling in order to produce believable emotive communication.
2. Introduce storytelling and character development to the scenes.
3. Solve complex illustrative projects requiring significant research, critical analysis, and high-level visual communication and design skills.
4. Self-manage their time, efforts, and skills while working on complex multi-stage projects in such a way as to meet all deadlines with acceptable work.
5. Self-evaluate their work, and their strengths and weaknesses as they relate to studying visual development.
Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no required text for this course, however students are expected to consult various books, websites and blogs as needed to supplement their education.

Other Readings

All widely available at libraries and bookstores:

**How to Render**, Scott Robertson, ISBN 978-193349283-4

**How to Draw**, Scott Robertson, ISBN

**Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist**, Steven Rogers Peck

**Figure Drawing for All it’s Worth**, Andrew Loomis, http://www.saveloomis.org

**Drawing People**, Barbara Bradley

Other equipment / material requirements

Students are expected to have an available laptop (PC or Mac) with some kind of tablet drawing ability or a Wacom equivalent device. Regardless of platform or input, the laptop should be well-prepared for high-end graphics processing.

*See class supply list on first day of classes for further information.*

Library Liaison

For assistance in finding library resources, you may consult:

[http://libguides.sjsu.edu/animation](http://libguides.sjsu.edu/animation)

and/or contact MLK Librarian Teresa Slobuski.

(teresa.slobuski@sjsu.edu, or 408-808-2318.)

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

There will be weekly assignments and required readings. Students should complete the weekly assignments and have them assembled as a demo reel at the end of the semester. Chosen assignments and demo reel will be graded, as well as participation in class.

Students are expected to complete and hand in every assignment for the course. Deadline for assignments will be strictly observed. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A DIGITAL COPY OF ALL SCENES AND ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE BACKUP YOUR WORK OFTEN.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Lateness of over 15 minutes counts as an absence. Students with 3 or more consecutive non-justified absences will most likely fail the class – in three weeks we will cover a lot of ground and if you miss three consecutive weeks of classes it will be really hard to catch up later. Please send me an email (preferably in advance) if you are unable to attend class.
NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Grading Policy**

Students will be held accountable for meeting all deadlines with acceptable work. Directions given in class and for assignments must be followed accurately or grades will be lowered accordingly. Late work will not be excepted unless the instructor has given prior approval. Students are responsible for completing all work assigned during any absences, and absent students must make arrangements for their work to be turned in (on due date) by another student. No extra credit projects will be accepted for this class.

Class participation will be assessed and includes active engagement in critiques, intelligent questioning, peer mentoring, and proactive learning behavior.

Obviously, the quality of the work, both conceptually and its final execution, is the primary component of the grade; but as mentioned above, the student’s grade is also determined by their professional attitude, their conduct, their work ethic, and their ability to meet their deadlines and the educational challenges posed by the assignments. Above all, students are graded on the intelligence they demonstrate while they pursue, question, attempt, evaluate, struggle, succeed and/or fail at their assignments.

While it is possible to pass a class with a grade as low as a C-, students should be aware that grades below the “B” range demonstrate a lack of effort and are not considered adequate for pursuing the Animation/Illustration BFA degree, and forecast poor professional prospects within this aspect of our industry. Students receiving grades of B- or lower should therefore be on notice that their work as completed is barely adequate to maintaining their degree status and better efforts are expected. They may want to consider pursuing another degree and/or career path.

Grades may be reviewed privately at any time by arranging a meeting with the instructor. If you want to know your grade—ask.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

All Animation/Illustration students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

Whether in class or working after hours, students must respect the facilities and fellow students and are expected to present themselves and their work in a clean professional manner. Students will be held accountable for both classroom participation and contributing to the creation of a positive atmosphere for education.

Classes and events are to be treated as business appointments and students are expected to be in attendance, fully prepared, and on time. Fully prepared means having all necessary materials needed to work on class projects, having prepared according to instructions, and having made significant progress on assignments from the previous class. Failure to accomplish any of the above will significantly lower your grade.
The occasional absence is unremarkable, but if an absence is unavoidable, students are expected to notify the instructor immediately, and contact their peers to both turn in work on the due date and stay current with class assignments they may have missed.

Cell phones should be turned off during class, and students should refrain from eating food others can smell. At the end of classes, students are expected to leave the classroom cleaner than they found it.

Finally, students should maintain an awareness of the safety of their surroundings, belongings, and classmates. In particular, when working in the building and entering or leaving after hours, students should accompany one another in the interest of safety or call the University Police for an escort. Report any suspicious persons or behavior to the University police at 408-924-2222 or by picking up a blue emergency phone.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

With all of the above in mind, I (the instructor) hereby grant all of you permission to record my classes provided you adhere to the restrictions above.
Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.