

# School of Communications

**Course:** ANIM 2000 Advanced Animation

**Term:**

**Instructor:** Michael Long

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**Course Description:** Working as part of a coordinated animation team, students will produce an original short 2D animated film.

**Prerequisites:** Animation I & II or consent of the instructor

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Students learn to collaborate on a single short film by dividing tasks and responsibilities and meeting required deadlines, as in a small animation studio
- Students produce an original short animated film (3-4 minutes)

**Assessment**

- Technical skills will be assessed on quality of exercises
- Creative skills will be assessed on quality of productions
- Design skills will be assessed on quality of aesthetics
- Theory skills will be assessed by exam
- Writing skills will be assessed by quality of criticism or story
- Critical thinking skills will be assessed by quality of participation

**Required Textbooks:**

**REQUIRED:**

**Tony White, *Animation: From Pencils to Pixels***

**Recommended:**

Richard Williams, *The Animator's Survival Kit*

Preston Blair, *Animation (one copy in the library)*

Kit Laybourne, *The Animation Book (one copy in the library)*

# School of Communications

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Expect to come to class and work every session. You must contact me **before** your class meeting time if you want an opportunity to make up missed work. You may email, or call my office to notify me.

## **Assignments - Grading**

Attendance/Discussion/Collaboration	<b>30%</b>
Job Assignments	<b>30%</b>
Final Project	<b>40%</b>

## **Schedule**

### **Week 1**

Storyboard session. Job assessments & assignments. Model sheets.

**Assignment:** Ch. 1 “Development” (especially “Evolving a Storyline”).

Storyboard session. Characters, scenes, backgrounds, and audio assessed and assigned.

**Assignment:** Ch. 2 “Character Design” and Ch. 4 “Rules of Filmmaking” (review this chapter, to make sure you understand them). Model sheets; roughs.

### **Week 2**

Character designs and practice roughs due. Coordinating the animation: leads, assistants, and in-betweeners. Layouts. Sound FX.

**Assignment:** Roughing out shots, layouts, gags. Ch. 7 “Digital Desktop Production,” and Ch. 8 “Principles of Animation” (review).

### **Week 3**

Rough scene testing. “A gag in every scene.”

**Assignment:** Ch. 6, “Storyboarding and Animatics.”

Roughs. Audio tracks. Week’s review.

**Assignment:** : Ch. 5 “Soundtrack Recording and Editing” and Ch. 10 “2D Animation Overview.” Work on roughs and layout, individual goals To Be Determined (TBD).

### **Week 4**

Roughs and corrections due.

**Assignment:** Ch. 9 “Animating Step by Step”

Week’s review.

# School of Communications

**Assignment:** Ch. 11 “2D Animation Basics.” Work on roughs and layout, individual goals TBD.

## **Week 5**

Roughs and corrections due.

**Assignment:** Ch. 12 “Finessing 2D Animation.”

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** Ch. 13 “2D Vector Animation.” Work on roughs and layout, individual goals TBD.

## **Week 6**

Roughs and corrections due.

**Assignment:** Ch. 14 “The Paperless Studio.”

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** work on roughs and corrections.

## **Week 7**

Roughs and corrections due.

**Assignment:** work on roughs and corrections

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** work on roughs and corrections.

## **Week 8**

Roughs and corrections due.

Week’s review. Finish selected shots.

## **Week 9**

Roughs, corrections, finished shots due.

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** TBD

## **Week 10**

Roughs, corrections, finished shots due.

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** TBD

## **Week 11**

Roughs, corrections, finished shots due.

Week’s review.

**Assignment:** TBD

# School of Communications

## **Week 12**

Roughs, corrections, finished shots due. Crisis management.

Week's review.

**Assignment:** TBD

## **Week 13**

Finished scenes due. Panic, then subcontract to cheap overseas labor.

Week's review.

**Assignment:** TBD

## **Week 14**

Finished scenes due.

Week's review.

**Assignment:** TBD

## **Week 15**

Finished scenes due.

Final editing and rendering.

## **Week 16**

View final film. Evaluate the project and process.

**DEADLINE POLICY:** I've divided the semester into four sections, each with its own deadline. You may turn in assignments for each section up to the deadline, but after the deadline, I will not accept assignments for that section. In effect, you start each section unburdened by past assignments.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, I do not give a make-up exam for the mid-term.

**Lab Fees:** each student will receive some special drawing paper for animation, purchased with lab fees. Lab fees will also cover drawing boards, paints, etc.

**University Grading Standards:** The Undergraduate Catalog provides these guidelines and grading options:

**A, A-** Superior work in the opinion of the instructor

**B+, B, B-** Good work in the opinion of the instructor

**C+, C, C-** Satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor

# School of Communications

**D+, D** Passing, but less than satisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor

**I** Incomplete work in the opinion of the instructor. If an Incomplete grade is submitted by the instructor, the student and the instructor must have an agreed upon deadline for completion of the required work.

**ZF** An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course. All Incompletes should be completed within a much shorter period of time before the automatic ZF is entered on the student's transcript. This grade of F cannot be undone.

**F** Unsatisfactory work in the opinion of the instructor

**W** Withdrawal from the course

## **University Policy Statements:**

This course is governed by the University's policies, as published in the University catalog.

**Academic Honesty:** The University is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university catalog for a definition of academic dishonesty and potential associated disciplinary actions.

**Drops and Withdrawals:** Please be aware that the Drop/Add and Withdrawal dates are listed each semester on the University website, in the University catalog and in the Course Description book. If the course is dropped within the Drop/Add period, no notation of the course will appear on the student's transcript. Withdrawals take place after the published Drop date and a "W" in the course will appear on the student's transcript.

**Special Services:** If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the accommodations you will require in this course so that these can be provided.

**Disturbances:** Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption of class by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and fellow students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where diversity of opinions arise.

# School of Communications

**Student Assignments Retained:** Some random student assignments or projects will be retained by the School of Communications for the purpose of academic assessment as it relates to student learning outcomes. In every such case, the student's name and all identifying information about the student will be removed from the assignment or project.

**Contact hours for this course:** It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length without rescheduling and/or make up activities.