

School of Communications

Course: ANIM 3010 Voicing Your Creation (3)

Term:

Instructor: Craig Wagner

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Course Description: Students learn the art of the voiceover for animation with an in depth exploration of acting techniques. Additionally students work with sound effects and soundtracks and how they relate to motion, timing, performance and the composition as a whole. This class reviews the work of a wide range of voice talents and composers within several different genres.

Prerequisites: ANIM 2000, OR permission of the instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn introductory skills in audio techniques for voicing and sound-tracking animation.
- Students will examine past and present works from voice artists and composers.
- Students will create and record new voices and characters, enhancing their understanding of the creation and recording process.
- Students will produce several short works and participate in critiques, improving critical abilities.

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: Readings will be assigned in class.

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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/Participation 50%

Projects 50%

Schedule

- Weeks 1-4: Audio techniques.
- Weeks 5-8: Voice over and character creation.
- Weeks 9-12: Storyboards, Animatics and multiple voice talents.
- Weeks 13-16: Putting it all together and final projects.

Week 1

In class: Introduction and simple recording techniques.

Watch: Several classic Warner Brothers and MGM shorts and will contrast with modern works

Assign: Character creation study - record some dialogue based on a new character , due week 2

Week 2

In Class: In-depth audio techniques

Watch: Classic Hannah-Barbera shorts and Family Guy

Assign: Record and edit 1 minute of audio with sound-f/x to storyboards (provided) due week 3

Week 3

In Class: Compositing Audio - simple mixdowns

Watch: Classic Warner Brothers shorts without sound, then again with sound

Assign: Record and edit 2 minutes of audio with sound-f/x and stock-music to storyboards (provided) due week 5

Week 4

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In Class: Atmospheres. Making the soundtrack sound 'real'

Watch: Beowulf and online animation

Critique: Weeks 3 Project

Assign: Record and edit 2 minutes of audio with sound-f/x, stock-music and background tracks to storyboards (provided) due week 5

Week 5

In Class: Using your voice

Watch: Classic Warner Brothers shorts and Futurama

Assign: Create 3 new character voices to accompany provided pictures/photos and script. due week 6

Week 6

In Class: Performance

Critique Week 5 assignment. Perform characters in front of class.

Assign: Record script from week 5 with 3 critiqued characters due week 9

Week 7

In Class: Emotion, motivation or lack thereof

Watch: The Hobbit

Assign: Emotion - Students will prepare short monologue exhibiting one character and one emotion.

Week 8

In Class: Perform Week 7 assignment and critique

Week 9

In Class: Storyboards

Watch: Star Wars storyboard demonstration

Assign: 2-page storyboard featuring at least 2 characters due week 10

Week 10

In Class: Animatics - simple video editing to make animatics out of storyboards

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Watch: Animatics demonstration

Assign: Animatic - create from previous week's storyboards due week 11

Week 11

In Class: Multiple voice talents - interaction

Watch: Simpsons

Assign: Add voice, sound f/x and music to prev. week's assignment. Must use one outside talent (besides self) due week 12

Week 12

In Class: Critique week 11's assignment

Assign: Final project - New 3 minute animatic featuring 3 voices (at least one outside talent), sound f/x, background and music. due week 16

Week 13

In Class: 'Guerrilla' techniques for audio / final project work

Watch: Robot Chicken

Week 14

In Class: Thinking outside the box / final project work

Watch: Ralph Bakshi's Lord of the Rings

Week 15

In Class: 'Final polish' techniques for voice and audio / final project work

Week 16

Final Project Critique

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

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

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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.

Student Assignments Retained: Some random student assignments or projects will be retained by the School of Communications for the purpose

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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.