

School of Communications

Course: ANIM 3040 Comic Book Creation

Term:

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Course Description: A step-by step introduction to comic book creation. The course will address the basics of concept development, storytelling, pencils, inking, color, layout, publishing and distribution in the comic book industry. Collaboration will be encouraged to contribute in part towards a final project utilizing their strongest discipline. Formats being explored will be web, mobile media and print.

Prerequisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be proficient in the basic mechanics of comic book production.
- Students will have a critical awareness of current and past trends in comics through examination of mainstream and independent works.
- Students will have the tools they need to publish future works in multiple formats beyond the classroom.
- Students will have two published works (one collaborative and one final project) upon completion of this class.

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 Reading:

Making Comics, by: Scott McCloud

Suggested Reading:

Understanding Comics, by: Scott McCloud

How To Draw Comics The Marvel Way, by: Stan Lee and John Buscema

Will Eisner Graphic Storytelling And Visual Narrative

Will Eisner Comics And Sequential Art

Will Eisner Expressive Anatomy For Comics And Narrative

The DC Comics Guide To Penciling Comics, by: Klaus Janson

The DC Comics Guide To Writing Comics, by: Dennis O'Neil

The DC Comics Guide To Inking Comics, by: Klaus Janson

The DC Comics Guide to Coloring and Lettering Comics, by: Mark Chiarello and Todd Klein.

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 **10%**

Participation **10%**

In-Class Projects **20%**

Presentation **10%**

Final Project **50%**

**Extra credit opportunities to be explained in class*

Schedule

Week 1

Introductions and Survey

Week 2

Concepts and Development

Week 3

Script and Storyboards

Week 4

Penciling and Layout

Week 5

Inking Workshop

Week 6

Color Workshop

Week 7

Lettering Workshop

Week 8

Project Pitch Night

Week 9

Marketing

Week 10

Publishing

Week 11

Open Studio

Week 12

Progress Presentation

Week 13

Distribution and Reviews

Week 14

Final Projects Due

Week 15

Critique Night

Week 16

Interviews Due

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

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 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.