

CTAN 401a – Senior Project
4 Units Fall, Room CTV G 134

Class: T 1:00pm-3:50pm

Professor: Sheila M. Sofian
Office Hours Monday 10:00am-1:00pm
Teaching Assistant Jon Gutman

E-mail: ssofian@cinema.usc.edu
E-mail: jfgutman@gmail.com

Tel (213) 740-7595

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Senior Project A is the first half of a year long sequence of classes which culminate the BA sequence of classes for the degree in Animation and Digital Arts in the School of Cinema Television at the University of Southern California. This sequence also allows the student to dramatically demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the practice of Animation as well as a thorough creative and expressive exploration and demonstration of the Art of Animation: compressed and resolved in the form of a 3-5 minute animated project and screening.

Senior Project A comprises the first half of the year long process: ideation, design and schedule.

In addition to completion of the senior project, the student must provide the faculty committee with written and visual documentation of the research. This can be documented as a publishable paper (2000 words), Web site or interactive DVD. Pre-production on the documentation will begin in the Fall and be **completed in the Spring**.

GRADING CRITERIA

Character/Concept Design	5%
Script	5%
Schedule	5%
Final Artwork	5%
Storyboard	5%
Class participation/attendance	10%
Story/Concept	10%
Animatic	10%
Motion Tests	10%
Animation	10%
Completion-attention to deadlines	10%
Final Presentation	15%

Recommended Reading:

Animation in the Home Digital Studio by Steven Subotnick

CLASS BREAKDOWN

Class 1: Aug 28 Introduction/ Preliminary Artwork Design
Class structure: Overview of film scheduling, yearlong process, practicum of film exhibition and creation.

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First pass at final artwork design: how will the artwork be achieved? Computer or analog? Painting or digital? 2D or 3D?

Class 2: Sept 4 Preliminary Artwork Design/Final artwork
Critique preliminary artwork design. How it will be achieved. Availability/suitability of resources.

Class 3: Sept 11 Revised Storyboards.
Presentation of revised boards. Does it work? Is the story/concept clear?
Discussion, critique.

Class 4: Sept 18 Presentation of final animation/artwork concepts.
Script 2/Schedule. SOUND LECTURE.
Final locked script and schedule for entire year. Discussion. Sound TA lecture.

Class 5: Sept 25 Animatic 1.
Presentation of integration of storyboard/storyboard revisions integrated with time/length of project. Screening of Animatic for Discussion/Critique of each project.

Create SFX list for next week's recording session. Be prepared to bring in any necessary materials to create sound and all actors for dialogue recording.

Class 6: Oct 2 **SOUND FOLEY SESSION**

Class 7: Oct 9 Animatic 2 with sound.
Presentation/screening of revised animatic with sound track. Discussion/Critique of each project.

Class 8: Oct 16 Begin animation production according to schedule.
Pre-production on documentation.

Class 9: Oct 23 Critique work-in-progress.
Continue animation production according to schedule. Pre-production on documentation.

Class 10: Oct 30 Critique work-in-progress.
Continue animation production according to schedule. Pre-production on documentation.

Class 11: Nov 6 Critique work-in-progress.
Continue animation production according to schedule. Pre-production on documentation. Prepare for pick-up sound foley session.

Class 12: Nov 13 **PICK-UP SOUND FOLEY SESSION**

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Class 13: Nov 20 Critique animation.
Continue animation production according to schedule. Complete revised animatic with all finished animation.

Class 14: Nov 27 Critique animatic.
Prepare for tomorrow's critique. Prepare questions for students. All work to be loaded on Hal by midnight.

***WED. NOV 28 6:30PM: SEMINAR CRITIQUE WITH GRADUATE ANIMATION STUDENTS**

Class 15: Dec 4 Critique animation.
Continue animation production according to schedule. Pre-production on documentation.

Class 16: Dec 11: Study week

Class 17: THURSDAY DEC 18 11am-1pm Final Exam: Presentation and Oral Critique of revised animatic with all completed animation.

Screening/Discussion of entire project, including animatic, tests, and artwork for peer review/oral critique. Present all documentation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Students will be assessed on the presentation, originality, quality and execution of their sound design, concept art, and animation. In addition, sufficient progress must be made towards their documentation. Any student who fails to submit the completed elements in time for any previous deadlines or for the final presentation will see a reduction in their grade and final exam grade.

Any student arriving more than 10 minutes late will be marked "LATE". Three lates constitute an absence. Three absences will result in failure. The only exceptions will be valid emergencies with appropriate documentation.

Students missing class are expected to contact the instructor and meet during faculty office hours in order to make up any missed assignments.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to the Professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

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MISSING AN EXAM, INCOMPLETES: The only acceptable excuses for missing an exam or taking an incomplete in the course are personal illness or a family emergency. Students must inform the professor before the exam and present verifiable evidence in order for a make-up to be scheduled.

Students who wish to take incompletes must also present documentation of the problem to the instructor or teaching assistant before final grades are due.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The School of Cinema-Television expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from USC students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, submitting a paper to more than one instructor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade and be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. If you have any doubts or questions about these policies, consult "SCAMPUS" and/or confer with the professor or teaching assistant.