CTAN 522 John C Hench Animation & Digital Arts Seminar Syllabus
Wednesday 6:30-9:00 PM LUCAS 108 FALL 2007

Professor Kathy Smith | Production Supervisor Mar Elepano | Student Assistant Paul Shepherd

As an international and multi-cultural program the John C Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts has incorporated into its curriculum a theoretical and critical approach to the development and research of digital art forms as well as an historical understanding of how traditional media, drawing, painting, sculpture, video and installation art have transposed or been incorporated into animation or art in motion.

We have constantly strived to merge new technologies with traditional practice and to encourage the study of the human form, organic media and gesture as a way to explore complex ideas and emotions across a temporal medium. We truly believe the art form of animation developed as a way to reflect our own physical and mental evolutionary process.

Alisdair Foster wrote in his paper Art in a Post-Newtonian Paradigm, *"Art is the language of perception and science has delivered perception as the only reality"*[1]

In this context animation has become one of the most pervasive art forms of the 21st century and as Hench-DADA's founding chair stated *"the core language of digital media today"*[2]

Research

Research at Hench-DADA incorporates practice in traditional and digital media ranging from works of metaphysical expression and perceptual experience, to the exploration of dreams and narrative storytelling, visualizing science, and documentary animation.

Seminar

CTAN 522 Seminar serves as a weekly academic forum in which theorists, scientists, artists and industry discuss their research and ideas as it relates or intersects with animation and digital art.

It is hoped that exposure to special guests, USC faculty and alumni, will engage discourse around the art form and *inspire the students while facilitating a clearer vision of their own research and career goals.* [3]

Minors, BA Seniors, MFA first, second and thesis students are required to screen their completed and/or works in progress for group critique during the final two weeks of the semester.

Schedule see page 2
Participation, team assignment, office hours and grading criteria page 3 & 4
Recommended events and reading page 5

CTAN 522 Schedule Fall 2007

Class 1. August 29:	Welcome, introductions and presentation by Dean Elizabeth Daley. Seminar teams announced. Screening of CTAN 579 and CTAN 524. Pizza party in the Cinematic Arts courtyard.
Class 2. September 5:	Visualizing Science and Visual Effects. Dr. Tony Michaels, Eric Hanson, Valerie LaPointe and Rebecca Rogers. New technological approaches to science visualization
Class 3. September 12:	Documentary and Animation: Mar Elepano, Dr Michael Renov, Sheila Sofian
Class 4. September 19:	Visualizing Science and Art. Dr Judith Lemus and Science illustrator Pieter Folkens – Historical and pedagogical approaches to science and art creation
Class 5. September 26:	Visual Effects, stereoscopic and perception. Greg Downing, Perry Hoberman, Dr. Judith Hirsch
Class 6. October 3rd:	Character Animation and performance, kinetics, dance physiology: Margot Apostolos, Maks Naporowski and Andreas Dejas
Class 7. October 10:	Facial gesture emotional resonance through animation and cinema. Thomas Kang, Dr. Bill McClure, Professor Marsha Kinder
Class 8. October 17:	Consciousness and Sound: Dr. Bill Whittington, Ken Hall and Tomlinson Holmen
Class 9. October 24:	*Death, time and animation: Dr Itzhak Bars and The Epitaph Project by Joyce Burstein
Class 10.October 31:	New Zealand Experimental Animation and Len Lye screenings introduced by Mark Williams
*****November 1st:	*Redefining Animation Symposium* at USC Davidson Conference Center. Attendance mandatory see page 5.
Class 11 November 7:	Dr. Anne Friedberg fine art, cinema and *The Virtual Window* Creating digital art with Z-brush Ryan Kingslien
Class 12. November 14:	Len Lye Retrospective -archive prints screening
BREAK November 21:	No class Thanksgiving break - POST conference presentations should be uploaded online by December 9th.

Class 13. November 28:   Senior BA and Thesis screenings

Class 14. December 5:   First and second year screenings

Class 15 December 12:   Seminar presentations and awards. Xmas party
                           Guest -Claire Erwin World-Wide Education Marketing Manager
                           Adobe Systems Inc.

Seminar participation – student questioners

Each seminar topic will be assigned to a group of four or more students. The team leaders will be a designated TA or SA in the division.

Student teams will moderate and question the panel/person at the end of each seminar presentation. Each student on the team is expected to prepare a minimum of five questions pertaining to the subject/presenter that can spark interesting discourse.

It is recommended that teams work consistently on research questions and the final assignment throughout the semester. Pending presenter's schedule there will be additional opportunity for team discussion with the guests.

Teams should be proactive and draw on research and ideas from a variety of sources to use as links or discussion points on their website and blog.

Permission to use images or research presented by the guests is the responsibility of each group.

Team Assignment – Website and blog

Each team will be assigned a seminar topic and asked to create a simple one page website utilizing PDF, Dreamweaver or Flash documenting the essence of the research, outcomes reached and intersections with other disciplines or concepts.

An ongoing Blog page (Blogger.com recommended) should be created within the first week of seminar so that each team can document the topics and research discussed, upload clips or as a general discussion forum on each session where other seminar students can participate. This will ultimately be linked back to their final seminar website page.

Adobe is supporting the seminar with an award for the best website research documentation and design; it is therefore recommended that Adobe products are used for content creation. Division workshops in both will be provided for team programmers designers in the near future.

It is recommended that each team designate a website designer, blogger, animator, and moderator for documentation. Teams should meet every week to discuss their ideas and prepare and contribute content regardless of the date of their session.

Participation and Attendance

Participation and attendance is mandatory. Students will sign in when they enter Lucas 108 so that attendance is monitored

Cell phone calls or stepping out to take a call is not acceptable while seminar is in session. Please turn off all cell phones Bathroom breaks and food are recommended prior to attending seminar.

Grading

This is a **credit/no credit** class based upon weekly attendance, team participation and website /blog creation. Students will only be allowed two excused absences during the semester.

Office hours

Kathy's office hours are:
Monday 9am – 12pm and Tuesday 1pm – 4pm

Sources:

1. Foster, Alisdair *"Art in a Post-Newtonian Paradigm"* pg. 3. Art of Sight Art, of Mind paper 1999 National Association for Visual Art Conference
2. Sorensen, Vibeke from DADA First Look speech 2004
3. Mann, Lisa seminar syllabus 2005

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.

MISSING AN EXAM OR FINAL PRESENTATION, 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 Cinematic Arts 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 your T.A.

<u>**Upcoming events and screenings:**</u>

L.A. Filmforum screenings - Egyptian Theater in Hollywood
http://www.lafilmforum.org/

- September 23rd 2007 USC John C Hench Division of Animation & Digital Arts Experimental Animation Screening
- October 28th 2007 Len Lye Screening

Animation: From Avant-Garde to Popular Culture **– San Diego Museum of Art**

http://anim.usc.edu/animationsymposium/

Redefining Animation **Symposium – USC Davidson Conference Center**
- Thursday November 1st 2007
- Hench-DADA, UCSD Fine Arts, San Deigo Museum of Art
- Saturday November 3rd Conference and exhibition of Animated painting at SDMA
- 9.30am - 12.30pm panel discussion
- Saturday November 3rd Screening of works by Southern California Artists
- 7pm – 9pm screening

David James Cinemateque, Thursday evenings LUC 108

REDCAT screenings and exhibitions. www.redcat.org

MOCA exhibitions and screenings