CTAN 547 Animation Production

10:00-12:50pm Tuesday G138
4:00-7:00pm Friday LPB 102

Professor: Sheila M. Sofian   E-mail: ssofian@cinema.usc.edu   Tel (213) 740-7595
Office Hours   Tues 2-3:30 and Thurs 5-6:30 or by appointment
SA: Jake Albers   E-mail: jalbers@usc.edu

COURSE PHILOSOPHY:

To experience the entire process of filmmaking: Pre-production, production and post-production. To incorporate all the animation skills learned in fall semester (timing, composition, choreography, transitions, mood, dynamics, rhythm, etc.) To express your own unique vision in the creation of an original project. To participate in a supportive environment by providing intelligent and useful feedback to your fellow students. To stay within your budget and to learn time management skills by meeting all deadlines.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADES:

1)   **75%**   Completion/quality of project:
A 60-second, animated, 35mm or 16mm edited work print with at least 2 synced soundtracks. Final presentations for this class will be in Adobe Premiere. Unfinished films, works-in-progress and projects with little or no sound will be considered incomplete and insufficient to meet the class requirements.
Final projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:
- Completion
- Communication of narrative or intent
- Effectiveness of timing and execution
- Creativity and originality
- Effectiveness of soundtrack

2)   **15%**   Weekly assignments completed on time.
3)   **10%**   Mandatory attendance in class, participation in class critiques, and individual meetings. You will be considered late if you arrive after 10:10am. Three lates will be considered an absence:

REQUIRED READING:

The Animation Book by Kit Laybourne

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Open Registration	Th-F	January 8-9
Classes Begin	M	January 12
Martin Luther King's Birthday	M	January 19
President's Day	M	February 16
Spring Recess	M-Sa	March 16-21
Classes End	F	May 1
Study Days	Sa-Tu	May 2-5
Exams	W-W	May 6-13 (6 days)
Commencement	F	May 15

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CLASS BREAKDOWN:

Week 1. Jan. 13   View films. Critique storyboards. Review USC production process, documentation, and copyrights. Assign production numbers.
Storyboards due. Critique storyboards. View animatics.
Assignment:
- Read Chap. 18 in The Animation Book
- Create an animatic in Premiere. Export Quicktimes on Hal.

Week 2. Jan. 20, DUE: Animatics. Crit animatics.
Lecture: layouts, character design / visual development.
Assignment:
- Create character design or visual development.

Week 3.   Jan. 27, **DUE:** Character designs and visual development.
Lecture: schedules.
Assignment:
- Refine characters, visual concepts.
- Individual meetings with each student.
- Create schedules.

Week 4.   Feb 3, **DUE**: Typed schedules. Revised character design / visual development.
Student presentations of revised character design/ visual development..
Lecture: Sound (first or last?) Budgets.
Assignment:
- Sound tour/demo with sound TA.
- If animating to sound: record and edit sound into a guide track in Premiere.
- Begin tests.
- Read Chap. 7. in The Animation Book.
- Create a budget- must be typed!

Week 5. Feb. 10 , DUE: Typed budgets.
Lecture: Guide Tracks, Exposure Sheet, Bar Sheet.
Assignment:
- Analyze the track and your animatic to create a bar sheet and/or exposure sheet.
- Read pp.202-206 in The Animation Book

Week 6.   Feb. 17, DUE: Guide Tracks, Exposure Sheet, Bar Sheet.
Student presentations of guide tracks or X sheets, bar sheets.
Lecture: pencil tests, wedge tests. Show film examples. Begin animation!
Assignment:
- Hand drawn projects--Begin animating to your X-sheet and pencil test as you go.
- Under-the-camera: practice key frames and transitions and make tests. Keep a sketchbook of characters or visual concepts.
- Cutout and stop motion: make characters and backgrounds.

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Week 7.   Feb. 24, Individual Meetings
Bring EVERYTHING to the meeting: storyboard, animatic, sketchbook, schedule, layouts, pencil tests and dailies, wedge tests etc....
Assignment:
- Hand-drawn: continue animating and pencil testing.
- Paint-on-glass and sand: testing and shooting.
- Cutout and stop-motion: continue making characters and backgrounds, begin testing.

Week 8.   Mar 3, Sound Lecture: "Everything You Need To Know About A Sound Mix"
Guest Lecturer: sound SA. Critique work-in-progress.
Assignment:
- Hand-drawn: continue animating and pencil testing.
- Paint-on-glass, sand, cutout and stop-motion: shoot.
- Cutouts and stop motion: **Shoot.**

Week 9.   Mar. 10, MID-SEMESTER CRITS
Student presentations and crits. Bring EVERYTHING to class.
Lecture: titles and credits, sound.
Assignment:
- Hand-drawn: ink and paint.
- Paint-on-glass, sand, cutout and stop-motion: shoot!
- Record music, FX
- Record, edit, and sync your sound tracks to picture to prepare for sound spotting sessions.
- **Shoot!!!!!**

Mar. 17, SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS
Assignment: Animate!

Week 10.   Mar. 24, TBD: Sound Spotting Sessions Group A
Assignment:
- Record, edit, and sync your sound tracks to picture to prepare for sound spotting sessions (TBD.)
- **Shoot!!!!!**

Week 11.   Mar 31, TBD: Sound Spotting Sessions Group B
Assignment:
- Hand-drawn: **Shoot!!!**
- Paint-on-glass, sand, cutout and stop-motion: edit work print, do re-shoots as necessary and shoot titles and credits. Finish all shooting!
- Telecine, edit

Week 12.   Apr. 7, Group Crits.
Assignment:
- Finish soundtrack, editing- prepare for sound mix!

WEEK 13: April 13- meet with sound SA and upload sound. Apr 14 & 15 SOUND MIX!

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Week 14. Apr. 21, *Submit workprint and negative to lab for answer prints.*
- Finish all animation and sound.
- Edit film on flatbed.

Week 15. Apr. 28 Due: Final, edited workprint in sync with sound tracks.
- Deliver edited film to Mar for telecine

Week 16, May 5
- Edit sound and picture in Premiere

May 12
- Post Quicktimes on Hal for Seminar.
- All answer prints to be collected for seminar screening.

MAY 13 WED : SEMINAR SCREENING!
Seminar Presentations of Production I Projects (Mandatory for all 1st year Students)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Students will be assessed on the originality, quality and execution of their sound design, concept art, and final animation. Any student who does not complete a finished film will not receive a passing 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.

The use of cell phones or mobile communication devices are prohibited during class time.

If a student wishes to improve on a class assignment grade, they are allowed to revise the assignment, which will be graded accordingly.

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, 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.