**CTAN 525 Gesture Movement for Animation**

Professor Christine Panushka

Wed 1:00pm- 3:50pm

Office Hours: Fridays 2:00-4:30 PM or by appointment [panushka@usc.edu](mailto:panushka@usc.edu)

Student Assistant: Katie Smith

In this class we will explore concepts of gesture and movement as they apply to animation through neurobiology, acting, dance, and drawing. We will consider gesture as language made visible through the body. The second half of the semester will be spent on a collaborative project. Can we invent a new animation language/ imagery through our understanding of gesture. memes?

Grading Criteria:

10% attendance

30% Class participation (discussion, exercises, etc.)

20% Gesture Journal

40% Final class project

Part One: The Body

Aug 24 1. Gesture: Thought Itself, How does gesture give us clues into the essential human experience?

Aug 31 2. Communication: Gesture as Embodied Language

Sept 7 3. Surreal Body Language: The Unique Gestural Language of Animation

Sept 14 4. Dance: Gesture in Space and time

Sept. 21 5. Character Expression Through Gesture with Michael Fields

Sept. 28 6. Gesture = Complex Characters

Part Two: Traces of the Body

Oct. 5 7. Gestural Mark Making: a direct connection between heart and hand.

"In the gesture of a drawing, there abides the question of how human beings hold memory. A trace of the body, the projection of an emotion, a record of the experience of seeing are woven into the gestured mark, a kinetically vitalized inscription that can serve as a site of empathy and invitation as much as a line of mimetic description."

Sara Schneckloth

Oct. 12 -119 8.-9. Gestural Mark Making in Animation

Part Three: Group Project

Oct. 26 10. group project

Nov. 2 11. group project

Nov. 9 12. group project

Nov.16 13. group project

Nov. 23 14. Thanksgiving Vacation

Nov. 30 15. group project

**Dec. 14 11:00 am Final**

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 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 t.a.

DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.