

Studio Careers / Story to Screen

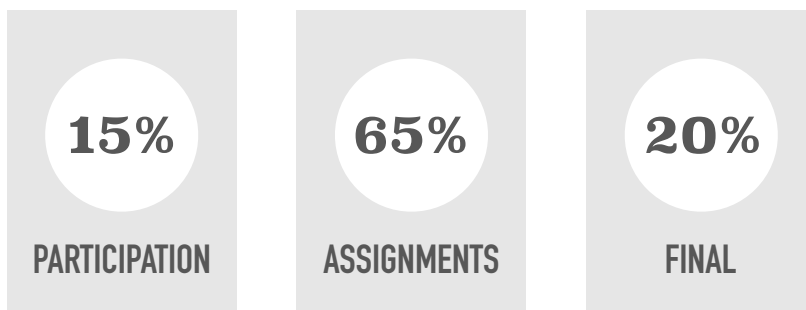
Dream of working at an animation studio like Disney, Pixar, or Dreamworks, but wonder if you have what it takes, how to get there, or how your skills and passions would translate into today's animation studio environment?

Course Overview:

Each week (beginning the semester with story and concluding with final frames on screen), industry leading artist/ animator/filmmaker(s) will share their personal artistic journeys, the challenges they face in pursuit of their artistic dreams, as well as provide an intimate look into their day-to-day work life creating the most popular animated feature films ever made. These relevant and engaging guest speakers will provide a deep-dive into the artistic value and impact of their particular discipline. Near the end of the semester will be a "field trip" to Walt Disney Animation Studios in Burbank where students and guest lecturers will reunite for food and open discussion.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

Students will attain an intimate understanding of the various disciplines / careers within a major animation studio, discover how their unique artistic gifts and passions can translate into a fulfilling career, and what skills they will need to further develop in order to achieve this goal.



Grading Allocation / Assessment:

Participation: (150 points)

Grades for participation are based on the student's level of engagement with guest speakers and fellow students. There will be time allotted for Q&A with the guest speakers during every class, as well as animated film critique/roundtable opportunities throughout the semester to share thoughts/ideas with fellow classmates. Students who wish to receive full credit for participation will engage enthusiastically during these moments. Furthermore, due to the seminar nature of the class, two or more absences will result in a negative impact on the student's participation grade.

USC School of Cinematic Arts

John C. Hench
Division of Animation
& Digital Arts

CTAN 499

Special Topics

Units

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Term/Day/Time

Fall 2019
Mondays / SCI 207
6:30pm - 8:20pm

Instructor

Josh Staub
jstaub@usc.edu

Student Assistant

Catherine Chen
catherrc@usc.edu

Contact Info

jstaub@usc.edu

Prerequisites

None

Description of Assignments: (13 Assignments / 50 points each / 650 points total)

Weekly assignments will be focused on personal application of the information and stories shared in the weekly lectures. Every week each student will be required to answer a series of questions based on that week's lecture:

“Is this the proper discipline for you to pursue considering your passion and skills?”

“If so, what practical steps would you need to take in order to achieve this goal?”

“What inspires you about this speaker and the manner in which they’ve achieved excellence?”

These responses must be submitted digitally to our class dropbox ***one hour prior to the beginning of the following class***, and will be graded and returned the following week.

Final Project: (1 Assignment / 200 points)

At the end of the semester each student will produce an essay (1000 word min.), video recording (3-4 minutes), portfolio template w/examples, ***or other professor approved format***, to convey their personal discoveries and findings from the class. These projects, regardless of medium, should represent each student's step-by-step plan for their own career path moving forward, and will be shared via a round table discussion during the final period of the semester.

Extra Credit: (Max. 5 Assignments / 10 points each)

Each week the professor will recommend a film for viewing along with a series of questions to be answered and submitted digitally to our class dropbox ***one hour prior to the beginning of the following class*** for up to 10 points applied as extra credit.

Additional Policies:

Out of respect for the Lecturers, laptops/tablets will not be allowed during class time.

Grading Scale:

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A [95-100]	A- [90-94]	B+ [87-89]	B [83-86]	B- [80-82]	C+ [77-79]
C [73-76]	C- [70-72]	D+ [67-69]	D [63-66]	D- [60-62]	F [59 and below]

About the Professor

Josh Staub is an award-winning artist and filmmaker for Walt Disney Animation Studios where he has spent the last 12 years contributing to multiple Academy Award winning films including *Frozen* and the animated short films *Paperman* and *Feast*.

In addition to helping create some of the most successful and popular animated feature films ever made, Josh is also an accomplished independent filmmaker and sole-creator of the animated short film *The Mantis Parable*, which screened in over 100 film festivals around the world (Annecy, Tribeca), graced the screens of the nation's top art museums (National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, LACMA, MoMA), and twice qualified for consideration of an Academy Award nomination.

In 2018, Josh was inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (Oscars) for "exceptional accomplishments in the field of theatrical motion pictures."

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Schedule subject to change based on guest speaker availability.

	Lecture Topics: Presenter	Assignment	Deliverable
Week 1 Aug 26th	Overview: Josh Staub Visual Effects Supervisor	Worksheet Questions: Overview	N/A
Labor Day Holiday / No Class: Sept 2nd			
Week 3 Sept 9th	Story: Natalie Nourigat / Samantha Vilfort Story Artist / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Story	Worksheet Questions: Overview
Week 4 Sept 16th	Editorial: Jesse Avera Editor / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Editorial	Worksheet Questions: Story
Week 5 Sept 23rd	VisDev / Characters: Bill Schwab Character Art Director / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: VisDev / Characters	Worksheet Questions: Editorial
Week 6 Sept 30th	Assets/Characters: Eric Provan Char. Asset Supervisor / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Assets / Characters	Worksheet Questions: VisDev / Characters
Week 7 Oct 7th	VisDev / Environments: Dan Cooper Production Designer / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: VisDev / Environments	Worksheet Questions: Assets / Characters
Week 8 Oct 14th	Assets / Environments: Larry Wu Head of Environments / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Assets / Environments	Worksheet Questions: VisDev / Environments
Fall Recess: Oct 17th - Oct 18th			
Week 9 Oct 21st	Layout: Joaquin Baldwin Layout Supervisor / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Layout	Worksheet Questions: Assets / Environments
Week 10 Oct 28th	Character Animation: Michael Franceschi Animation Supervisor / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Character Animation	Worksheet Questions: Layout
Week 11 Nov 4th	Rig / Sim / TechAnim: Claudia Chung Sunii Head of Characters / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Rig / Sim / TechAnim	Worksheet Questions: Character Animation
Week 12 Nov 11th	Effects: Marlon West Head of Effects / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Effects	Worksheet Questions: Rig / Sim / TechAnim
Week 13 Nov 18th	Lighting/Compositing: Alessandro Jacomini Dir. of Cinematography / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Lighting / Compositing	Worksheet Questions: Effects
Week 14 Nov 25th	Production Management: Jennifer Newfield Production Manager / WDAS	Worksheet Questions: Production Management	Worksheet Questions: Lighting / Compositing
Week 15 Dec 2nd	Studio Tour / Lunch Josh Staub / WDAS	N/A	Worksheet Questions: Production Management
Study Days: Dec 7th - Dec 10th			
FINAL Dec 16th 7-9pm	Final Projects Due Projects Due / Roundtable Discussion	N/A	Essay/Video/Other: Final Project

Additional Resources:

Books:

Inspired 3D Short Film Production [Jeremy Cantor, Pepe Valencia]

I Moved to Los Angeles to Work in Animation [Natalie Nourigat]

Instagram Portfolios:

@joshstaub.art [Josh Staub]

STORY

@tallychick [Natalie Nourigat]

@whittlewoodshop [Jeremy Spears]

@briankesinger [Brian Kesinger]

@samstyle [Samantha Villfort]

@ryangreenart [Ryan Green]

@domeeshi [Domee Shi]

@leomatsuda7 [Leo Matsuda]

@stevehatguy [Stephen Anderson]

ASSETS

@alenawooten [Alena Wooten]

@chadstubblefield [Chad Stubblefield]

@andrewtaylorjennings [Andrew Jennings]

ANIMATION

@andrew_chesworth [Andrew Chesworth]

@michael.franceschi [Michael Franceschi]

@trentanimation [Trent Correy]

@agreenster [Adam Green]

ART / DESIGN

@coryloftis [Cory Loftis]

@grizandnorm [Griselda Sastrawanita]

@dethancooper_art [Dan Cooper]

@bschwaby [Bill Schwab]

@dicetsutsumi [Dice Tsutsumi]

@woutertulp [Wouter Tulp]

@peteremmerich [Peter Emmerich]

@bobbypontillas [Bobby Pontillas]

@rrr_yaga [Daniel Arriaga]

@ryanlangdraws [Ryan Lang]

@aaronblaiseart [Aaron Blaise]

@robertkondo [Robert Kondo]

@ladyadorabeezle [Ami Thompson]

@megprk [Meg Park]

@britsketch [Brittney Lee]

@myamada1979 [Mike Yamada]

@theillustratus [Jeff Turley]

@robhruppel [Robh Ruppel]

@lorelay_bove [Lorelay Bove]

Websites:

www.awn.com

www.animationguild.org

www.cgsociety.org

Periodicals:

Animation Magazine

CGW

VFX Voice

Inspiration:

CTN Gallery [North Hollywood]

Nucleus Art Gallery [Alhambra]

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 - 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Student Health Leave Coordinator - 213-821-4710

Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed.

<https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 - 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 - 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 - 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, **<http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>**; e-mail **diversity@cinema.usc.edu**. You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here **<https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/>**

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX