**USC**School of Cinematic Arts

**CTAN435: Story Art Development**

**Section: 17912R**

**Units: Spring 2018, 2 UNITS**

**TUESDAYS 1-3:50 PM**

**Location:** ON LINE

**Instructor: TOM SITO**

**Office:** SCB 210k

**Office Hours:**

**Contact Info:** [sito@usc.edu](mailto:sito@usc.edu)

**Student Assistant: Yiqiu Xu**

**Office:**

**Office Hours:**

**Contact Info:** yiqiuxu@usc.edu

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**Course Description**

This course will be an introduction to techniques that develop your ability to communicate using storyboards. Through lecture and home exercises, we will begin to learn how to express ideas through designing narrative film . We’ll be working mainly in 2D mediums, but these techniques are equally important in the creation of digital animation and visual effects.

**Grades**

Grading will not be based on a term film or finals. The class will be judged by completion of homework, and a final project illustrating the principles discussed in the lecture. Students will not be graded on personal drawing skills but that they attend the lectures and do the assignments and the final project to the best of their ability.

**Grading Criteria**

Assignments 40%

Class participation & participation in lectures 20%

Final project 40%

Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:

a. Accuracy of assignment guidelines

b. Demonstration of principles covered in class

c. Communication of ideas

Final projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:

a. Completion

b. Communication of narrative or intent

c. Effectiveness of timing and execution

**Electronic Media in Class**

\***CLASSES WILL BE RECORDED**: Please let me know if you will be attending class from outside the Pacific Standard Time Zone, and the recording can be made available to you.

**Blackboard and Google Drive:**

Assignment instructions, video links, support material will be made available on Blackboard and the class Google Drive folder.

**Supplies**

Paper, Storyboard software such as Toonboom Storyboard Pro, TV Paint, or Photoshop, Sketcher, art supplies (pencils and erasers, etc.) . Throughout the course you will need to store your assignments for review, either in a group folder, or on a USB drive.

**Required Text**

Film Directing Shot by Shot, by Steven d. Katz. Michael Weiss Productions. 1991

Prepare to Board, by Nancy Beiman, Focal Press

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**Course Schedule:**

WEEK 1: 8/18/2020- Introduction to the course. Storytelling throughout history. Categories in storyboarding in film

production. Reading: Katz Pg 23-24

WEEK 2: 8/25/20- The Grammar of Storyboard I. Why it is not a comic book.

Reading: Katz Chapter 6, Beiman Pg 23

WEEK 3: 9/1/20- The Grammar of Storyboard II. Rendering, technique.

Reading: Katz Chap 21

WEEK 4: 9/8/20- Layout, Staging. Controlling the eye of the audience.

Read: Latz Pg 64-72

WEEK 5: 9/15/20- Story as Written Word. Scripts, Treatments, Working with a Writer.

Read: Katz 105-113, Beiman Chap 4, Wilson Pg 42.

WEEK 6: 9/22/20- What is Visual Development? Working with Production Design, Art Direction, Research.

Read: Katz Chapter 2.

WEEK 7: 9/29/20- Live Action Boarding. Differences and Similarities with Animation Boards.

Read: Katz pg 337 Appendix

WEEK 8: 10/6/20- “ So is this where I’m supposed to laugh?” Comedy.

Read: Beiman Chap 14

WEEK 9: 10/13/20- Production Boards for TV vs Theatrical.

Read: Beiman Pg 26

WEEK 10: 10/20/20- Working with Music. Song Sequences and titles.

Read: Beiman Pg 189

WEEK 11: 10/27/20 “ You have to kill me! I want you to kill me!” The art of the Pitch.

Read: Beiman Chap 18

WEEK 12: 11/3/20 “ Okay, if you Want it That Way…” Working with a Director. **FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT**

Read: Katz Pg 24-25

WEEK 13: 11/10/19. Creating Storyreels, Conclusions, Review

**STUDY DAYS** 11/14-11/16

**FINALS** 11/17/20: (11:00AM-12 PST).**Final Project Due**. This will be a virtual session to view student work. Final projects will be submitted to the SA to be arranged in the class folder in Google Groups for review.

**SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READING**

* THE FIVE C’S OF CINEMATOGRAPHY- by Joseph V. Mascelli, Silman-James Press.
* ROWLAND WILSON’S TRADE SECRETS by Suzanne Lemieux-Wilson, (Focal/Elsevier press, London 2009.)

**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.

**Instructor Accessibility**

Tom Sito’s office is in SCB 210k. Obviously, I am not going to be on campus this semester. I am available for a Zoom meeting of you’d like to speak to me. Just drop me an e-mail. [sito@usc.edu](mailto:sito@usc.edu)

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**“ Story is Everything. Nothing can take it’s Place.” - Walt Disney**