



CTAN 330: Animation Fundamentals

Section: 17854R

Units: 2 units

TUESDAYS 7-9:50 PM

Location: SCB 205

Instructor: TOM SITO

Office:

Office Hours: (By Appt) Monday 4-6PM, Tues 3-5PM

Contact Info: sito@usc.edu

Student Assistant: Yuyuan Chen

Contact Info: Yuyuanc@usc.edu

IT Help: Group to contact for technological services, if applicable.

Hours of Service:

Contact Info:

Course Description

This course will be a practical examination of the techniques involved in the creation of classic Hollywood Character Animation, which aesthetics aside is recognized around the world as among the highest form of the Animation medium. We will be working mainly in 2D mediums but these techniques are important in the creation of 3D digital, or Stop-Motion animation. Just as Shakespeare is essential to actors or Latin to linguists, classical animation timing is essential to animators regardless of their own final choice of medium.

Grades

Grading will not be based on a term film or finals. The class will be judged by completion of homework, in-class assignments 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

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- b. Communication of narrative or intent
- c. Effectiveness of timing and execution

Supplies

Paper, Animation software such as Toonboom, TV Paint, Harmony, 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. Our SA will have more information on that.

Required Text

- Character Animation Crash Course!- by Eric Goldberg,
ISBN-10: 1879505975 ISBN-13: 978-1879505971
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Electronic Media in Class

You can use your phones, tablets and other devices, but please keep them focused on classwork, not social media.

Blackboard and Google Drive:

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

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1: 8/24/2021 Introduction to the course. Personality Animation vs. moving graphics.
Natural science and performance.

WEEK 2: 8/31/21 Starting to animate. Arcs. Keys and Inbetweens

9/07/21 No Class, Rosh Hashanah

WEEK 3: 9/14/21 The basics of timing I. Arcs, Wave Principle. Straight Ahead vs. Pose to Pose.

WEEK 4: 9/21/21 The basics of timing II. Anticipation- Action-Follow though. Holds.

WEEK 5: 9/28/21 Cartoon "Takes" and reactions.

WEEK 6: 10/05/21 Walks and Runs. Finding character in walks.

WEEK 7: 10/12/20 2d animated effects. Smoke, fire, explosions, shadows.

WEEK 8: 10/19/21 Secondary actions, overlapping actions.

WEEK 9: 10/26/21 Comparative Motor Anatomy of Animals-I –birds

WEEK 10: 11/02/21 Comparative Motor Anatomy of Animals II- Four Legged animals

WEEK 11: 11/09/21 Lip Sync I

WEEK 12: 11/16/21 Lip Sync II thumbnailing.

WEEK 13: 11/23/21. Acting in Animation. Constructing a performance

WEEK 14: 11/30/21. Conclusions. Review

STUDY DAYS 12/4-12/7

FINALS: 12/14 7-9pm. **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.

Animators Survival Guide. Richard Williams

Cartoon Animation by Preston Blair

Animals in Motion by Edward Muybridge

Timing for Animation, by Halas and Whitaker, updated by Tom Sito

Blackboard and Google Drive:

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

Lab SCB 204:

Due to the CoVid Emergency, access to the lab may be limited or not at all. Check with my SA

Students will have access to light tables and down-shooter stations outside of class. All of the assignments can be expertly executed on paper, but students may choose to execute their assignments digitally via programs they may already be familiar with such as Rough Animator for iPad, Adobe Animate, PhotoShop, AfterEffects, or TV Paint. If you choose to work digitally, please be aware that there will be no formal instruction or support of digital animation software in this class beyond the shooting software currently installed on the down-shooters. All projects will be analyzed during group critiques to allow for practice in trouble shooting animation challenges. There will be opportunities to explore both character and experimental animation techniques. The principles learned will be applicable to both digital and analog animation.

Lab Hours:

M-F 8am-10pm

Sat noon-8pm

Sun noon-8pm

Except when reserved by a class, you have access to the light tables and shooting stations in SCB 204 during lab hours. Access to SCB 204 is provided through an omni lock using your student ID card. If the outer building doors or classroom doors are locked during the above business hours, please go to Operations in SCX 106 in person for assistance.

Students Who Miss a Final Examination

If a student whose work is of a passing grade misses a final examination because of documented illness or emergency that occurred after the 12th week of the semester, he/she may be given the mark of IN (Incomplete). IN Incomplete is assigned when work is not completed because of documented illness or other "emergency" occurring after the twelfth week of the semester. Registrar's Note: Recommended definition of emergency: "A situation or event which could not be foreseen and which is beyond the student's control, and which prevents the student from taking the final examination or completing other work due during the final examination period. Also note that as defined above, a student may not request an IN before the end of the twelfth week; the rationale is that the student still has the option to drop the course until the end of the twelfth week. The grade of IN exists so there is a remedy for illness or emergency which occurs after the drop deadline. Arrangements for an IN and its completion must be initiated by the student and agreed to by the instructor prior to the final examination. https://arr.usc.edu/forms/Incomplete_form_32008.pdf

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:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.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 and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

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

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by 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. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, 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.

Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

PLEASE NOTE:
FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE
IN THE SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX

“ Animation is not drawings that move, it is movement that is drawn.”- Norman McClaren.