



**CTAN-530 / Fundamentals of 2D Animation  
Syllabus  
MFA 1st Year Core, Lecture  
Units: 2  
Fall 2023, Wednesdays 7:00 -9:50 PM**

**Location: SCB 205**

**Instructor: Luis Grane**

**Office:**

**Office Hours: Available upon request**

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

**Student Assistant: Daniel Leon**

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

**IT Help: Creative Tech Help Desk**

**Contact Info: [creativetech@sca.usc.edu](mailto:creativetech@sca.usc.edu) or (213) 821-4571**

## **THIS IS AN IN-PERSON CLASS**

In accordance with university recommendations, all meetings of this class will be held in person. Students who become ill and need to self-isolate will be supported in their efforts to stay current with classwork and assignments, to the extent possible. Please contact **Prof. Grane** and your **SA Daniel Leon** at least one hour prior to class start time if you become ill and need to self-isolate. Do not come to class if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses. Requests for longer term exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be supported by a written accommodation request from the USC Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS).

## **Course Description**

This class will introduce students to the basis of 2D animation. Through weekly lectures and specific animation assignments they will learn the technical and conceptual rules that then can be applied to any of the different animation types and styles.

## **Learning Objectives**

Success in this class will be based on the completion of weekly assignments and class participation, to the best of the students' abilities. No emphasis will be placed on drawing ability, but rather on students' understanding and application of the principles taught in class, reflected in their completed assignments.

Students' work will be reviewed in class, so they can learn from each other's successes and difficulties. No exceptions.

## **Course Notes**

Grading type- Letter grade

Handouts and QuickTimes will be posted in the class Google Drive.

## **Course Schedule**

This schedule is subject to change depending upon the progress of the class. The instructor may add, delete, or change assignments and due dates during the semester. Any such changes will be announced in class and posted online.

## **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

### **Week 1**

Course overview. Introductions

Go over syllabus. Video presentation of different styles of 2D animation.

Assignment: Bouncing ball exercise

### **Week 2**

Character Design. Silhouette, shape language, appeal.

Assignment: Create a Character Design that will be used on the animation assignments.  
Create a silhouette page with different, clear attitudes/emotions.

### **Week 3**

5 Principles of Animation

Link the principles inherent in the bouncing ball to the animation of the human form.

Blocking the character's action.

Assignment: The skip (squash and stretch)

### **Week 4**

Biped walk cycle.

Timing and pacing of a walk cycle. Physics and anatomy.

Assignment: Create a profile, basic walk cycle.

### **Week 5**

Apply the principles of animation we have focused on to the animation of a character diving from a diving board. Introduction to water FX animation. Optional: introduction to scene cutting, storytelling and continuity.

Assignment: Dive animation

### **Week 6**

Introduction to animal locomotion.

Bird flying cycle, Horse gallop, feline walk.

Assignment: Choose one animal animation cycle.

### **Week 7**

Anticipation, action-reaction, wave action and follow thru

Baseball pitcher/batter. Storytelling with animation in preparation to final assignment.

Assignment: Design a storyboard that shows, through scene cutting, the relationship between pitcher and catcher. Animate the characters' actions.

### **Week 8**

Body and facial expressions. References. Expression sheets.

Assignment: Create 2 expression sheets, facial and body.

### **Week 9**

Guest speaker TBA

### **Week 10**

Introduction to final project. Dialogue-acting shot.

Assignment: presentation of final project idea, 10-15 animation with audio track.

Students are to select a line of dialogue to animate and then plan and execute the scene with the same techniques used in the Pantomime Test. You can use the character you have created for class assignments or create a new one. The dialogue should be no more than 10 - 15 seconds long and can be sampled from any source, as long as it is clear and audible.

**Week 11**

Lip-sync, dialogue, phonemes. Use of live action reference.  
Assignment: Sign off final project idea/audio/reference material

**Week 12**

Pantomime, staging, posing.  
Assignment: Blocking final project

**Week 13**

Introduction to the animation pipeline.  
Assignment: Final project progress check-in

**Week 14**

Analysis of students' final project.

**Week 15**

Polish and last critic of final project

**Finals Week - Final Review of Dialogue Tests. All tests should be ready to play in movie format with synch sound. All students must attend.**

**Please note!**

**There will be no formal final exam given in this class. The completion of your Dialogue Test will be considered instead, as it encompasses all the things you have learned this semester. Make sure your assignment is complete and put into the Google folder for the Finals Week class.**

### Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% Of Grade
Class Participation/Attendance	10	10
Weekly Assignments	30	30
Pitch and Bat Assignment	30	30
Acting Assignment	30	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments should be submitted for review in the student's personal Google Drive folder created for class.

### Additional Policies

Missed classes, late assignments, extra one-on-one meeting times will all be considered on a case-by-case basis.

	Topics/ Daily Activities	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> August 23rd	Course overview. Syllabus Bouncing Ball.	Bouncing Ball exercise
<b>Week 2</b> August 30st	Character Design, analysis and construction	Create a character for animation exercises
<b>Week 3</b> September 6th	5 principles of animation	The skip exercise
<b>Week 4</b> September 13th	Biped walk cycle	Create a basic walk cycle
<b>Week 5</b> September 20st	Practical Applications of the animation principles on a scene.	Dive animation exercise
<b>Week 6</b> September 27th	Introduction to animal locomotion	Create an animal animation cycle
<b>Week 7</b> October 4th	Anticipation, Action-Reaction and Follow thru	Baseball pitcher/batter exercise
<b>Week 8</b> October 11th	Body and Facial expressions	Create expression sheets.
<b>Week 9</b> October 18th	Guest Speaker TBA	
<b>Week 10</b> October 25th	Introduction to final project	Pitch idea for final project
<b>Week 11</b> November 1st	Lip-sync, dialogue, phonemes.	
<b>Week 12</b> November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Analysis of students' final project.	Blocking final project
<b>Week 13</b> November 15th	Introduction to the animation pipeline	Final project work in progress check-in
<b>Week 14</b> November 22nd	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	Continue animating final project

<b>Week 15</b> November 29th	Last in-class critic of your final project. All tests should be ready to play in movie format with synch sound. All students must attend.	Polish final project
<b>December</b> <b>2nd-5th</b>	Study days	
<b>Final Exam</b> <b>December</b> <b>6th</b>	Presenting final project on black-board. No class	<b>Make sure your assignment is complete and put into the Google by December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9pm</b>

Aug. 21	Fall semester classes begin in Session 001
Aug. 21-25	Late registration and change of schedule for Session 001
Sept. 4	Labor Day, university holiday
Sept. 8	Deadline for purchasing or showing proof of health insurance
<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Last day to register and add classes for Session 001</b>
<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W," except for Monday-only classes, and receive a refund for Session 001</b>
<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or audit for Session 001</b>
<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Last day to purchase or waive tuition refund insurance for fall</b>
<b>Sept. 12</b>	<b>Last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of "W" and receive a refund or to change to Pass/No Pass or Audit for Session 001</b>
<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Last day to change a Pass/No Pass to a letter grade for Session 001</b>
<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Last day to drop a course without a mark of "W" on the transcript only for Session 001</b>
	<b>Mark of "W" will still appear on student record and STARS report and tuition charges still apply.</b> <b>*Please drop any course by the end of week three for Session 001 (or the 20 percent mark of the session in which the course is offered) to avoid tuition charges.</b>

Oct. 12-13	Fall recess
Nov. 11	Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W” for Session 001
Nov. 11	Veterans Day, non-instructional day
TBA	For thesis/dissertation manuscript submission deadline, see <a href="https://graduateschool.usc.edu/current-students/thesis-dissertation-submission/submission-deadlines/">graduateschool.usc.edu/current-students/thesis-dissertation-submission/submission-deadlines/</a>
Nov. 22-26	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2	Fall semester classes end
Dec. 2-5	Study days
Dec. 6-13	Final examinations
Dec. 15-Jan. 8, 2023	Winter Recess

## 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](https://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](https://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://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](https://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](https://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](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://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](http://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 Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776*

[osas.usc.edu](http://osas.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](http://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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

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

[ombuds.usc.edu](http://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