

The Art Institute of CaliforniaSM - San Diego

Course Syllabus

Course Number: MA1121
Course Title: Language of Animation and Film
Catalog Description: Fundamentals of animated cinematography addressed through a historical survey. Course will consider trends and genres of animated film in a variety of media.
Prerequisites: None
Course Day and Time: Thursday 1:00 - 5:00, South 408
Session/Year: Summer 2010
Instructor Name: Corey Fayman
Contact Information: Email: cfayman@aii.edu
Skype:clfayman

Availability Out of Class: I will be available for questions immediately after class and during breaks. I will respond within 24 hours to emails sent to the above address. You may also contact me for chat/conferencing through the Skype address above or by setting up an appointment.

Course Length: 11 Weeks
Contact Hours: 44 Hours
Lecture: 22 Hours
Lab: 22 Hours
Credit Values: 3 Credits

Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Trace the history of animation.
- Recognize various animation processes in their historical contexts.
- Apply the language of cinematography.
- Identify the elements of storytelling, including those associated with the structure and other characteristics of a scene.

Required Textbook:

Understanding Movies, 12th Edition by Louis Gianetti. ISBN 0131890980

Optional Textbook:

Of Mice and Magic by Leonard Maltin, ISBN 0452259932

Materials and Supplies: Notebook, paper, pencils. Additional materials will vary by project and will be announced by the instructor.

Estimated Homework Hours: 4 Hours per week minimum

Technology Needed: Notebook, paper, pencils. Additional materials will vary by project and will be announced by the instructor.

Point Values:

Assignment	Points Available	Points Earned	Percentage of Final Grade	Percentage Earned
Reading Summaries	30		30	
Storyboard Sketches	30		30	
Midterm Animation Device	15		15	
Final Project	15		15	
Class Participation	10		10	
TOTAL	100		100	

Grading Scale: Grades on individual assignments and for the course will be calculated as follows:

A	93 -100 %
A-	90 - 92 %
B+	87 - 89 %
B	83 - 86 %
B-	80 - 82 %
C+	77 - 79 %
C	73 - 76 %
C-	70 - 72 %
D+	67 - 69 %
D	65 - 66 %
F	64 % or below

Academic Honesty Statement: The Art Institute of California- San Diego considers academic honesty to be one of its highest values. Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty while pursuing their studies at The Art Institute of California- San Diego. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: plagiarism and cheating; misuse of academic resources or facilities; and misuse of computer software, data, equipment or networks. Any student who is found to have violated this policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including suspension or permanent dismissal from school.

Academic Assistance: Information on workshops and tutoring is available in room 233.

Campus is closed on the following dates: Friday, September 3 and Monday, September 6 (Labor Day Holiday)

Add/Drop/Withdrawal Policies:

- Students may drop and/or add classes or change sections until 5:00 p.m. on the sixth day of the quarter without incurring a financial or academic cost. These course transactions are not reflected on the student's transcripts. Students should see their Academic Advisor or the Registrar's office staff for assistance.
- **Last Day to Add/Drop:** Monday, July 19, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.
- Students may withdraw from classes until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the ninth week of the quarter. They will receive a grade of "W," which does not affect their GPA. However, the course will be shown as a "withdrawal" on their transcripts. The student will have to pay for the class and the withdrawal does adversely affect their graduation date and Incremental Completion Rate (ICR). Students can be terminated if the ICR falls below acceptable levels.

- Students should see their Academic Advisor or the Registrar's office staff for the change form and assistance in processing it.
- **Last Day to Withdraw from Classes with a "W":** Friday, September 10, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL COURSE WITHDRAWALS REQUIRE THE INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE BEFORE OTHER DEPARTMENTAL SIGNATURES CAN BE OBTAINED

Course Policies:

No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.

Class Participation evaluation is based on three criteria:

- Students do not leave early and remain in class until they have been dismissed by the instructor
- Students return to classroom on time after breaks
- Students participate in class activities and assignments when required, rather than surfing the Internet, instant messaging, emailing, eating or engaging in any other non-class related entertainment or activity

Scores for individual assignments will be provided to the student within two weeks of assignment completion.

Students may access course materials and a record of their scores through the course website at <http://www.coreyfayman.com/teaching/ma1121>. Students who miss a class should check the course website in order to keep up with course assignments.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes on time as scheduled throughout the quarter. If you are absent, the number of hours you missed will be recorded. If you come late to class or leave early, your absence will be counted in 15-minute increments. This absence accumulates towards total absenteeism on a student's quarterly record. It is your responsibility to keep track of your attendance. You may ask the Registrar's Office for an Attendance Snapshot at any time.

There are no excused absences.

If you do not attend *any* classes for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days, you will be withdrawn from school.

Instructors use the following chart for reducing final grades due to excessive cumulative absences:

CLASSES MISSED	HOURS MISSED	% CLASS TIME	EFFECT ON FINALGRADE
2	8	18	Reduction by one letter grade
3	12	27	Reduction by two letter grades
More than 3	More than 12	More than 27	F Grade

Makeup and Late Work: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assignment date listed in the syllabus. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week past original due date and will be subject to an automatic deduction of 50% from graded score.

General Student Conduct: The Art Institute of California—San Diego expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. The Art Institute students are generally men and women who are preparing for career employment. An integral part of their career and professional development is the expectation that they will conduct themselves during the educational processes in the same manner as will be expected in an employment situation. All students or employees are encouraged to report any unprofessional or offensive behavior to the Dean of Student Affairs. Any student who is found to have violated conduct policies as stated in the student handbook is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including suspension or permanent dismissal from school.

Disability Statement: It is the Art Institute of California-San Diego policy not to discriminate against qualified students with a documented disability in its educational programs, activities or services. If you have a disability-related need for accommodations in this class, contact the Student Affairs office for assistance.

Policy On Open Computers In The Classroom: In order to prepare students for the competitive job market, The Art Institutes have computer labs to support the delivery of academic programs and to support students in the completion of assignments generated through course work. To ensure that students have the best opportunity to access a computer terminal to complete their assignments, all unoccupied computers may be accessed during normal hours of operation whether or not a scheduled class is in session.

The student must wait 30 minutes after the start of the scheduled class to ensure that unoccupied computers are available for class members who may show up late. The student should enter the class quietly, find an open computer and get to work without disturbing the instructor. The student is expected to work independently and not disrupt the class in session. An instructor may ask non-class members to leave if their conduct becomes disruptive. In addition, the student may not scan or print, as these peripherals are reserved for the class in session. All students will be asked to leave a lab at the end of a class, prior to the start of the next class.

Course Calendar Outline

- Week 1:** **Assignments Due:** None
Lecture: Roll call and registration confirmation. Introduction to course and instructor. Lecture/discussion – early animation, critical components of film as art form.
Activities: View selected early films, including *The Great Train Robbery*, *Voyage to the Moon* and animation of Winsor McKay. Classroom discussion of presented films.
Assignments Due next: Read *Understanding Movies* pgs. 132 – 164, 340 - 343. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 1 – 28. Complete Weekly reading summary 1 and storyboard 1.
- Week 2:** **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies* pgs. 132 – 164. 340 - 343. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 1 – 28. Complete Weekly reading summary 1 and storyboard 1.
Lecture and discussion: Review and discuss weekly reading. Lecture/discussion – vaudeville and early comedy, influences on early animation. Film editing.
Activities: View *The General*. Classroom discussion of presented film.
Assignments Due next: Read *Understanding Movies* pgs. 202 – 220, 224 - 236. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 23 - 26, 83 - 124. Review pages 22 - 26. Complete Weekly reading summary 2 and storyboard 2.
- Week 3:** **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies* pgs. 202 – 220, 224 - 236. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 23 - 26, 83 - 124. Review pages 22 - 26. Complete Weekly reading summary 2 and storyboard 2.

Lecture: Review and discuss weekly reading Lecture - Early sound animation

Activities: View Felix the Cat cartoons. View early sound cartoons from Fleischer Studios, Ub Iwerks. Classroom discussion of presented films.

Assignments Due next: Read *Understanding Movies*, pgs. 2 - 22. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 29 – 72. Complete Weekly reading summary 3 and storyboard 3.

Week 4: **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies*, pgs. 2 - 22. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 29 – 72. Complete Weekly reading summary 3 and storyboard 3.

Lecture: Discussion and review of weekly reading Lecture discussion – Disney studios animation.

Activities: View selections from early Disney features, including *Snow White* and/or *Pinocchio*. Classroom discussion of presented films.

Assignments Due next: Early animation device

Week 5: **Assignments Due:** Early animation device

Lecture: Animation and World War II

Activities: Students present animation device midterm project. View and discuss selected WWII animation shorts (Private Snafu, Superman, Disney).

Assignments Due next: Read *Understanding Movies*, pgs. 45 - 83. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 229 – 270. Complete Weekly reading summary 4 and storyboard 4.

Week 6: **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies*, pgs. 45 – 83. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 229 – 270. Complete Weekly reading summary 4 and storyboard 4.

Lecture: Discussion and review of weekly reading.

Activities: View “Golden Age” animation shorts from Warner Brothers, MGM, UPA. Classroom discussion of presented films.

Assignments Due next: Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 343 – 356. Read *Understanding Movies* 110 - 130. Complete Weekly reading summary 5 and storyboard 5

Week 7: **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies* 110 - 130. Complete Weekly reading summary 5 and storyboard 5.

Lecture: Discussion and review of weekly reading

Activities: View examples of “Limited Animation”. Classroom discussion of film selections. Analyze use of various film techniques in “Who Framed Roger Rabbit.”

Assignments Due: Read *Understanding Movies* 393 – 405. Complete Weekly reading summary 6 and storyboard 6.

Week 8: **Assignments Due:** Read *Understanding Movies* 393 – 405. Anime research on Internet. Complete Weekly reading summary 6 and storyboard 6.

Lecture: Discussion and review of weekly reading. Lecture on history and development of Anime

Activities: View selections from Anime films. Discussion of Anime films.

Assignments Due next: Select movie/animation for final project.

Week 9: **Assignments Due:** Select movie/animation for final project. Read *Of Mice and Magic* pgs. 343 – 356.

Lecture: Review of key course concepts, preparing for final project.

Activities: View selections from stop motion animated films. Discussion of presented film techniques as they relate to final project.

Assignments Due next: Final Project – presentation of final papers and storyboards.

Week 10: **Assignments Due:** Review Understanding Movies 175 – 200, 487 -520.
Lecture: Continue review of key course concepts. View selections from North by Northwest, Citizen Kane, Seven Samurai.
Activities: View selections from Pixar Films, web-based animation.
Assignments Due next: Final Project.

Week 11: **Assignments Due:** Final Project.
Lecture: Computers in animation. New distribution platforms and technologies for animation.
Activities: View selections from Pixar Films, web-based animation.

Project and Assignment Descriptions: The instructor will provide assignment details including required elements, point values and a breakdown for how the assignment will be graded.