

Animation II

Fall 2007

ARTS 4070-01

Tuesday, Friday 2:00pm- 3:50pm

Sage Lab, VAST Studio 2411

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“Observe Everything. Communicate Well. Draw, Draw, Draw.” – Frank Thomas, when asked to give advice to young animators.

Abstract:

Animation II is continuation of skills learned during Animation I. We will concentrate heavily on character and animation development. Specifically, we will be looking at character movement and facial animation. This course will encourage good techniques relating to process: conceptual creation to final production. Additionally, we will learn complex modeling, texturing, animation, particle systems, and dynamics.

Supplies:

Required:

- Notebook – Maya and computerized 3D space is very complex and can be confusing. You will want to write small notes for your own reference in the event I'm not around to help.
- Data storage – And lots of it. Whichever means of saving your files is most trustworthy and effective for you. You are responsible for your data, no excuses.
- Learning Maya: The Modeling and Animation Handbook. – This is an excellent resource for examples creating polygon and NURBS characters. The campus bookstore should carry this.

Suggested:

- Learning Maya: The Special Effects Handbook. – While this book is not required, it contains great examples of advanced texturing, lighting, and rendering techniques.
- Williams, Richard. The Animator's Survival Kit. Faber and Faber, London and New York. 2001. ISBN: 0-571-20228-4 – You should already have this.
- Calendar to help plan your process.

Important Points:

Be on time:

Attendance will be taken every class. Excused absences must be cleared and accepted on instructor's conditions before the start of class by phone, email, or in person. See Grading and Excuses for further explanation.

Excuses:

Excuses are only acceptable in the following four scenarios: death of family member, a note from doctor or documentation of hospitalization, viable religious observance, and presentation or exhibition of academic work or research at a conference, symposium, gallery, museum, etc. Singular sick days are excusable without documentation within a reasonable limit – for example: two. Illness spanning two or more consecutive class days is not excusable without documentation. Excuses must be declared before class time.

Responsibility:

It will be the student's responsibility to keep track of their performance and all aspects pertaining to it, this includes accepting responsibility for previous actions, attendance, and performance.

Procrastination:

Waiting until the last minute is not advisable in this course. Animation does not have a "quick solution," and you will have several difficulties when rushing through it.

Studio Format/ Work Load:

This course does not require everyday attention, although it is a studio course and will require six to ten hours of work outside of class each week on average.

E-mail:

E-mail is the most effective communication with me outside of class. I will use your RPI account to communicate with you.

Cell Phone:

No audible cell phones; if you decide to take the call, you will exit the classroom to talk.

Distractive Computing:

No computing, exceptions are: following in class demos and work in class. Refusal to turn off monitors, close laptops, etc will result in receiving an absence for that day.

Participation:

- You will be required to speak and present your work.
- Part of each assignment grade will be based on your participation during critique.
- You will also be required to speak about your colleagues' work.
- A simple like, dislike, or opinion must be followed with substantiating reasons.
- Please give positive feedback. Our class has a mix of disciplines, and not everyone is accustomed or prepared for a full critique forum.
- Allow everyone a chance to speak.
- Use common sense and play nice: don't interrupt; do wait for your turn, etc.

Ideas:

- Ideas that cause any physical or emotional harm to the student or anyone else will not be accepted.
- All other ideas will be accepted for conversation.
- A student may excuse themselves for a short duration if there is a conflict of religious beliefs with the content presented.

Grading:

Assignments:

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

- Twenty-five percent of an assignment's total points will be deducted per day late. Days are calculated by the time an assignment is due. After four days, an assignment will be graded with a zero.
- Voluntary extra assignments for an increase in a final grade will not be accepted.
- Redoing an assignment for a potentially higher score is acceptable only if the assignment was originally turned in on time and if the re-completed assignment is submitted within four days of the assignment's original deadline. The final assignment of the semester will not be available for redoing.

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory and taken at the beginning of class.
- Disputes brought to the instructor's attention within one week of the infraction will be considered and discussed. All other disputes will not be considered.
- Attendance final grade modifications as follows:
Each three absences equal reduction of total points by one letter grade.
Work in Class days are not "free" days.
- Attendance to Final Critique during exam week is mandatory. Failure to appear will result in the reduction of total points by one letter grade.

Overall:

- Grades will be based on an appropriate level for continuation into an industry related profession.
- Any appeal for grades must be brought to the instructor during office hours or at a scheduled time convenient to both parties. Keep in mind that an appeal has the potential to raise or lower your grade.
- Incompletes will only be granted for the death of family member during the semester, note from doctor or documentation of hospitalization representing a significant period of time.
- Only if given the final grade of "I", will additional work after the conclusion of a semester will be accepted for a change of grade.
- There is no rounding of the thousands place.
- Points are based on the RPI +/- system as follows:

Grade	Expectations	Assigned Value	Range
A	Excellent: consistent effort, timely	4.00	- 3.68
A -		3.67	- 3.34
B +		3.33	- 3.01
B	Good: effort, timely	3.00	- 2.68
B -		2.67	- 2.34
C +		2.33	- 2.01
C	Satisfactory: some effort, timely	2.00	- 1.68
C -		1.67	- 1.34
D +		1.33	- 1.01
D	Passable: little effort	1.00	- .68
F	Failure	0.67	- 0

Academic Integrity

Trust:

Student-Teacher relationships are built on trust. Students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach. And, teachers must trust that the assignments which students turn in are theirs. Acts which violate this trust undermine the educational process.

Plagiarism:

All work produced in this course must be original and created by the student. First infraction will result in a failure for the course and a report to the Office of the Dean.

Collaboration:

Collaborative work and discussion is encouraged. Instructor must be notified of students' intention to collaborate on assignments well ahead of that assignment's deadline. Instructor will determine whether or not collaboration will be allowed. Upon assignment completion, there must be documentation of each member's contribution to the finished assignment. The instructor reserves the right to award members of the collaboration different grades.

Note for fourth year EMAC students

This course is eligible to serve as part of your EMAC thesis.

The thesis experience consists of eight 4000-level credits within the concentration, culminating in a public presentation and documentation of the work produced. The eight credits may be selected from a list of eligible courses and internships within each concentration. Students may select two courses **or** one course and an internship.

In the event that you have chosen to take this course for thesis credit, you must inform the instructor of the course of your intentions and complete paperwork declaring your thesis plans and rationale.

If this is your first thesis course, you must complete Part One of the EMAC Thesis Requirement Form stating your intentions regarding the second course when you register for that course. Submit Part One of the form to Erin Glasheen.

If this is your second thesis course, you must complete Part Two of the EMAC Thesis Requirement Form describing the public presentation of your thesis. Submit Part Two of the form to Erin Glasheen and the instructor for the second thesis course or internship by the date specified on the form. Upon completion of the presentation, you must submit documentation of the presentation and a copy of this form to the instructor for his/her signature.

If you do not complete the presentation and documentation, the instructor will give you an "Incomplete" in the thesis course or internship.

Project Assignment Schedule:

Projects are due on the date that matches the end of their time block. For example, the first assignment “Character Design and Story Board” is due Sept 9th not Sept 12th. Readings are supplied for students’ use in relation to project assignments. Discussion about readings will not occur unless otherwise notified during the class time in which they are assigned.

26-Aug	Welcome Back, Screen, Sub-Ds	Character Design and Story Board 20%		
29-Aug	Character Modeling with poly-proxy			
1-Sep	Rigging			
5-Sep	Rigging			
9-Sep	Critique CD & SB		Character Modeling Partial Texture Rigging Skinning Walking 25%	
12-Sep	Critique CD & SB			
16-Sep	Skinning			
19-Sep	Skinning			
23-Sep	Texturing			
26-Sep	Texturing, character animation			
30-Sep	WIC			
3-Oct	WIC			
7-Oct	Critique Character			
10-Oct	Critique Character			
14-Oct	No Class - Mon Sched			
17-Oct	Facial Animation	Character Animation 30%		
21-Oct	Facial Animation			
24-Oct	character sets, animation editors			
28-Oct	editors, physics and particles			
31-Oct	physics and particles, WIC			
4-Nov	Rendering, GI, HDR			
7-Nov	Shawn in China			
11-Nov	Shawn in China			
14-Nov	Shawn in China			
18-Nov	Critique Animation			
21-Nov	Critique Animation	Character Redux 25%		
25-Nov	WIC			
28-Nov	No Class - Thanksgiving			
2-Dec	WIC			
5-Dec	Last WIC			
Dec	Critique Final			

Changes to syllabus may be made at instructor's best discretion with notification to the student