2D CHARACTER ANIMATION

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Catalog #: 10-206-155

Class #: 63268

Dates: August 31st – December 18th, 2020

Course Description: This course will cover the essentials of character design and animation in 2D. Students learn about concept development, proportion, expressions, and phonemes to create a model sheet. Their refined character(s) will then be recreated digitally - allowing for movement and lip-syncing in real-time. Topics include asset creation, rigging, workflow, audio, triggers, behaviors, walk cycles, and performance capture options with Character Animator. Output types, rendering, and livestreaming will be explored as well.

Note: We will be working with Adobe Creative Cloud software; focusing on Character Animator, After Effects, Photoshop, and Illustrator.

Credits: 3

Course Format: Online, 16 weeks

Location: Blackboard

Pre-requisites:

Visual Communications program

- Visual Storytelling Techniques (10-206-108)
- Intro to Computer Graphics (10-201-181)
- Motion Design (10-206-129)

Graphic Design/Web program

- Color (10-201-112)
- Typographic Design (10-201-151)
- Motion Design (10-206-129)

Textbook: None required, though *Understanding Comics* by Scott McCloud is recommended.

Supplies: Sketchbook, drawing materials, and an external hard drive.

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes are statements of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities that a graduate should be able to demonstrate upon completion of a program at Madison Area Technical College.

- Develop critical thinking and self-motivated learning abilities to expand professional growth skills.
- Prepare for working in a professional environment as an entry-level employee.

"*Animation means to invoke life, not to imitate it.*" – **Chuck Jones**

2D CHARACTER ANIMATION

Responsibilities and Policies

Student Responsibilities: Students are expected to be familiar with Madison College policies and procedures. Many of the important policies and procedures are on the Madison College website, located at http://madisoncollege.edu/student-rights-responsibilities

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, cheating and collusion are prohibited at Madison College. Plagiarism is defined as passing of another person's work as your own. Students who fail to observe these standards are subject to disciplinary action. Please refer to the Madison College website to review all Academic Integrity policies, located at http://madisoncollege.edu/academic-integrity

Withdrawal Policy: If a situation arises that prevents the successful completion of this course, please note that it is each student's responsibility to formally withdraw from this course.

Student Email: Madison College offers a student e-mail account for all students, which is what I will be using for correspondence during this course. You are responsible for monitoring your e-mail account. Although this class will be held entirely online, your participation on Blackboard is required.

Technical Assistance: You can borrow laptop computers and wi-fi hot spots for the semester, at no cost. Microsoft and antivirus software will be pre-loaded, and technology training and assistance is available for all currently registered students. Complete your equipment loan request online or call the Help Desk at (608) 243-4444.

Disability Act Statement: Madison College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Disability Resources Services at (608) 246-6716 (deaf via Relay 711) or email drs@madisoncollege.edu. If you have an accommodation card from their office, please present it to me so that we can help facilitate.

Equity and Inclusion Statement: This class is a safe learning space for all students, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, citizen status, gender, pronouns, sexual orientation, parental status, religion, ability, or socioeconomic status. As your instructor, I pledge to respect all students.

Learner Responsibilities: As a student in this class, I expect you to:

- Take responsibility for your own learning, time, and be self-directed.
- Communicate professionally and with respect towards others.
- Set high standards for your work – keeping your portfolio in mind!

Class Resources:

- Madison College Health & Safety https://madisoncollege.edu/covid
- Counseling services: http://madisoncollege.edu/counseling
- Adobe Education Exchange: https://edex.adobe.com
- Motionographer: https://motionographer.com/
- Corridor Digital: https://www.youtube.com/user/CorridorDigital/videos
- Video Copilot: http://www.videocopilot.net/
- Madison Media Professionals (MMP): https://www.madisonmediapros.org/

Syllabus Changes: As your instructor, I retain the right to make changes based on the timeline of the class feedback from learners and/or logistical issues and will inform you as soon as a change is made.

2D CHARACTER ANIMATION

Week	Topic/Preparatory Work	Assignments Due
1	Introduction to course and software	
2	Keyframes vs. performance capture	
3	Workflow with layered AI and PSD files	
4	Visemes, phonemes, and lip sync tricks	
5	Recording and editing performances	**Breaking Chad**
6	Handles, sticks, and pins – oh my!	
7	Rigging a full body/character	
8	Adding triggers and behaviors	**Walk Cycle Exercise**
9	Playing with physics and gravity	
10	Cycle layers and frame by frame	
11	Model sheet considerations	**Custom Puppet**
12	Storyboarding, animatics, and previz	
13	Working with After Effects and Premiere	
14	Final project check-in	
15	Livestreaming workflow	
16	Final day of class and group livestream	**Animated Scene**

2D CHARACTER ANIMATION

Grading Policy

All work is expected to be turned in on time. Meeting deadlines, in class and especially the workplace, is crucial to your success! Late work will only be accepted until the following week and automatically be lowered an entire letter grade. There is no extra credit in this course – so be sure to work dutifully on your projects.

Assignments	Total Points Possible
Class Exercises	10
Breaking Chad	15
Custom Puppet	30
Animated Scene	45
	100

All work must be submitted as directed in the project rubric. Video files should be rendered, uploaded to a personal video account (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) and shared via link on the Blackboard discussion board.

Grading Scale: This is a scale of points possible and what is acceptable for successful completion of the class:

Final Grade	Points	
A	93-100	
AB	89-92	
B	84-88	
BC	80-83	
C	76-79	*Needed to pass*
D	70-75	
F	69-below	

HONORS PROGRAM: If you have a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA and have completed at least 12 degree credits, you qualify for the Madison College Honors Program. The Honors Program is a college-wide, project-based program. The project is of your own design in the discipline of the faculty member you choose to work with. The credits count toward your degree as General Elective credits. Take a look at the Honors Program at https://madisoncollege.edu/honors. If you're interested in working on an Honors Project this semester or next, let's talk. The enrollment deadline is typically the last day of the first week of the semester.