

# Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO  
Film & Video Department Animation Program

DEPARTMENT:	Film & Video Department <a href="http://www.filmatcolumbia.com">www.filmatcolumbia.com</a>
COURSE NUMBER, TITLE, & CREDITS:	26-1000-03 Animation 1 04 credits
CLASS DAY AND TIME:	Friday, 1:00pm-4:50pm, Room 425
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	As an introduction to basic film animation techniques for persons with little or no animation production experience, this course will explore basic animation techniques including object, drawn, and 3-dimensional, including concept development, storyboarding, and final production techniques. Animated films and videos, both domestic and international, will be screened and discussed. You will be expected to complete short exercises in each of the techniques mentioned, then complete a 10-second final project from storyboard to final shooting onto film.
PREREQUISITE:	52-1151 Writing & Rhetoric OR 52-1111 ENGLISH COMPOSITION I: ENHANCED OR 52-1121 ESL ENGLISH COMPOSITION I
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:	James Abrams
OFFICE PHONE AND LOCATION:	(312) 369-6734, Room 412, 1104 South Wabash
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment, please call 312-369-6734
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:jabrams@colum.edu">jabrams@colum.edu</a>
DEPARTMENT PHONE AND LOCATION:	(312) 369-6700, Room 300, 1104 South Wabash
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE FEES:	\$115.00 Applied toward: Photocopying, Animation bond, Acetate, equipment support & software, film/video rentals, 1-gig thumb drive
REQUIRED TEXTS:	None Required. *How to Animate Preston Blair Suggested Texts, available at College Bookstore: The Illusion of Life, Frank Thomas & Ollie Johnson, ISBN 0-7868-6070-7 The Animators Survival Kit, Richard Williams, ISBN 0-5712-0228-4
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:	Pencils, drawing instruments, art supplies will be discussed on class one
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:	At the conclusion of this course students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify, describe and execute the process of animation production, from concept and storyboard development through artwork production and shooting.</li> <li>Extrapolate and expand upon the material presented to arrive at original solutions.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding that can be applied to animation techniques and critical thinking to their own projects.</li> <li>Analyze, and critique independent and studio produced animated films.</li> <li>Articulate their basic understanding of animation terminology.</li> </ul>

CONTENT INTRODUCTION:	The purpose for this introductory animation course is to introduce you to animation process, work with you as you complete several short exercises, using traditional animation techniques, and prepare you for the ultimate decision you're going to have to make: whether to pursue a career in animation or not.
COURSE POLICIES:	<p>Grading Scale:   Project #1: Animation Slate.....N/A                                  Project #2: On-Stand..... 10%                                  Project #3: Metamorphosis .....20%                                  Project #4 Treatments and Storyboard.....10%</p> <p>Project #5 Final Project Pencil Test (Graded with Final)                                  Project #6: Final Project..... 30%                                  Attendance &amp; Participation..... 30%</p> <p>TOTAL.....100%</p> <p>Grading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At or about the 8<sup>th</sup> week of classes your instructor will meet briefly with you to discuss your progress and answer any questions you might have.</li> <li>▪ A grade and/or critical feedback will be given for each project. The final course grade will reflect critical evaluation of individual projects, energy and consistency of effort, contribution to discussions, amount and quality of work completed during the semester and attendance.</li> </ul> <p>Attendance:</p> <p>Your final grade will be based on both your attendance and your performance in class on graded assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your third absence may result in your receiving a one-letter grade reduction of your final grade.</li> <li>▪ Your fourth absence may result in your receiving an “F” for the class.</li> <li>▪ Columbia standard is that 2 instances of tardiness constitute one absence.</li> <li>▪ There are no “excused” absences for the class.</li> <li>▪ No in-completes will be given.</li> </ul>
COURSE POLICIES:	

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:	Students at Columbia College Chicago enjoy significant freedom of artistic expression and are encouraged to stretch their scholarly and artistic boundaries. However, the College prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. For present purposes, “academic dishonesty” is understood as the appropriation and representation of another’s work as one’s own, whether such appropriation includes all or part of the other’s work or whether it comprises all or part of what is represented as one’s own work (plagiarism). Appropriate citation avoids this form of dishonesty. In addition, “academic dishonesty” includes cheating in any form, the falsification of academic documents or the falsification of works or references for the use in class or other academic circumstances. When such dishonesty is discovered, the consequences to the student can be severe.
CONAWAY CENTER STATEMENT:	Students with disabilities are requested to present their Columbia accommodation letters to their instructor at the beginning of the semester so that accommodations can be arranged in a timely manner by the College, the department or the faculty member, as appropriate. Students with disabilities who do not have accommodation letters should visit the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (312-344-8134/V or 312-360-0767/TTY). It is incumbent upon the student to know his/her responsibilities in this regard.
ADDING / DROPPING CLASSES:	<p>Please visit the following link for important current information on dropping a class:  <a href="http://www.colum.edu/Administrative_offices/Records/Important_Dates.php">http://www.colum.edu/Administrative_offices/Records/Important_Dates.php</a>  It is also suggested you meet with an advisor from time to time to assure you’re on the right track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ College Advising Center: Room 300, 623 South Wabash (312) 369-7645</li> <li>• Animation Co-Directors Ron Fleischer Room 401-B, 1104 South Wabash (312) 369-6721 &amp; Jim Rohn Room 401-C, 1104 South Wabash (312) 369-6793</li> </ul>
RETURN OF STUDENT WORK:	All work completed for this course remains the property of the student. Occasionally, the instructor may request to display some or all of this work, but must receive the student’s permission before doing so. A reel of the best work completed by students in the Animation Program is compiled each spring by the Animation faculty and screened at the department’s Big Screen event held in mid-May. We reserve the right to print or digitally copy your work for the purpose of inclusion in this screening. The student receives full on-screen credit for work included. This reel is also shown from time to time at student events and within classes.
MINIMUM GRADES:	Students must achieve a minimum grade of ‘C’ in Animation 1, Animation Storyboard & Concept Development, Animation 3, and Production Studio 1 classes before they will be permitted to advance.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:	Your instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this syllabus at any time, and states that students enrolled in this class will be notified of any changes in-class.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE:	<b>COURSE CALENDAR (SPRING/2010)</b>
Week 1:	<p>(1/29)</p> <p>Introduction to course, description of projects and procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion of the evolution of the animation process, from its beginnings until today.</li> <li>▪ Discussion of careers in animation, the job-market, free-lance and staff positions.</li> <li>▪ Tour of the Animation Facilities.</li> <li>▪ Assign <b>Project #1: Slate</b>, due at 8:30am, Week 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b>       <i>History of Animation ...from Disney Studio, Behind the Scene</i>, disk two</p> <p><i>"Before Mickey- 1900 to 1928":</i>..... Animation Program DVD</p> <p><i>Out of the Inkwell</i> ..... Max Fleischer Studio</p> <p><i>Gertie the Dinosaur</i>..... Winsor Mccay (1904)</p> <p><i>Little Nemo</i>..... Winsor Mccay (1914)</p> <p><i>Fantasmagorie</i> ..... Emile Cohn (1901)</p> <p><i>Steamboat Willie</i>..... Disney studio</p>
Week 2:	<p>(2/5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Project #1: SLATE</b> due. Display and discuss.</li> <li>▪ Distribute field guides, peg bars, and paper and 2 GB thumb drive.</li> <li>▪ Discussion of fielding, aspect ratio, and shooting procedure.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate Pencil test system in room # 426 today</li> <li>▪ Assign <b>Project #2: On-Stand Animation. Put in the JAbrams</b> folder in room 426, in <b>week 4</b> *Turn into the Project folder, and save it as On stand your name.dv and drop it to on-stand folder for grading.</li> <li>▪ Discuss objectives, Timing, spacing, and" How to start it".</li> <li>▪ Assign <b>Project #3: Metamorphosis</b> today. One <b>color picture and 2 copies due next week.</b></li> <li>▪</li> <li>▪ <b>Screen:</b> \“<i>Behind the Scenes at Disney Studio</i>” Animation Program DVD</li> </ul>

<p>Week 3:(2/12):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photograph plus 2 Xeroxes due today on <b>Metamorphosis</b> project.</li> <li>Demonstrate hanging photos, full- and limited- animated. Study of past projects. Assign key drawings: 2,9,18,27, &amp; 36; due next week. Pass out papers; work on key drawings in class.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b> "2007 Animation Reel".....Animation Program DVD  0118 "The Street" ..Caroline Leaf  0052 "Sandcastle" .Co Hoedeman.  "Award Winning American Animation"...Animation Program  DVD  Voices .Joanna Priestly  The eye hears the ear sees . DVD... Norman McLaren  Neighbors</p>
<p>Week 4:(2/19):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Project #2: On-Stand</b> due on today. ), Turn into the Project folder in room 426, and save it as On stand your name.dv and drop it to On-stand folder for grading.</li> <li>Screen and critique In class today.</li> <li><b>Project # 3 : Metamorphosis:</b> Key drawings; 2,9,18,27, &amp; 36 due today. Flip it and check over individual drawings. Discuss and work on in-betweens in class. All drawings in black and white line due in <b>week 6<sup>th</sup></b>: Pencil test this and save it as morph PT your name.dv and drop onto the Morph PT class folder.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b> " 2006 Animation Reel"..... Animation Program DVD  0053 "The Sweater" ..Caroline Leaf  0358 "Alphabet" ..Eliot Noyes  "The World's Greatest Animation"...Animation Program  DVD  791-433 The Face..... Bill Plympton from  Plymtoons</p>
<p>Week 5:(2/26):</p>	<p>Work on in-betweens. Flip through Metamorphosis drawings. Pencil-test Due next week save it as morph PT your name.dv and drop it to class morph PT folder,</p> <p><b>Screen:</b> "2005 Animation Reel" .....Animation Program DVD  V10223 "The World's Greatest Animation:. Animation Program  DVD  Crac...Frederick Bac  Technological Threat...Bill Kroyer  Balance Lautenstein brothers  Creature Comfort..... Nick Park  The Cat Came Back</p>

<p>Week 6:(3/5):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Project #3: Metamorphosis:</b> All 36 line drawings and pencil <b>due today</b>. Review the tests in-room #426 project folder.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate <b>Metamorphosis</b> coloring techniques. Study of past examples. Color on all 36 drawings, and shot on Lunchbox, <b>due by Class #8</b> , save it as morphyourname.dv and drop it to Morph folder for mid-term grading.</li> <li>▪ Assign <b>Project #4: 3 Treatments / Storyboard</b>, discuss objectives. Verbal presentation next week .</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b> "2004 Animation Reel"..... Animation Program DVD          "Cat and Rat" ..Jim Richardson..... Animation Program DVD          F463 "Night Creatures". Ted Piwowar          "Award Winning American Animation Vol.3 Animation Program DVD          Currents Caprice /Reason to be Glad / The Rug</p>												
<p>Week 7: (3/12):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual verbal presentations of <b>Project #4: 3 Treatments/ Storyboard</b>, with discussion and critique of ideas. Based on one chosen treatment, rough storyboard is <b>due next class</b>.</li> <li>▪ Assign <b>Project #5 &amp; 6: Academy Leader</b> pencil test and final production. Discussion of final production process. Introduce the Story Reel, discussion of its role in the production process. Work on the story Reel, acting it out or moving your finger, to learn how to establish its timing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b> "2003 Animation Reel" ..... Animation Program DVD          "Award Winning Int'l Animation"..Animation Program DVD          Spotting a Cow / Portrait          Romeo &amp; Juliet / Jumping          6712 "Sundae in New York".Jimmy Picker          0046 "Hunger". .Peter Foldes</p> <p><b><u>Suggested Final Project Work Schedule</u></b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Treatments.....</td> <td>Week 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rough Storyboard / Story Reel.....</td> <td>Week 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extremes / Background / Modelsheets.....</td> <td>Week 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-betweens.....</td> <td>Weeks 9 to 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Production (Ink &amp; Paint).....</td> <td>Weeks 12 to 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Shoot.....</td> <td>(05/05 Wed)</td> </tr> </table>	Treatments.....	Week 7	Rough Storyboard / Story Reel.....	Week 8	Extremes / Background / Modelsheets.....	Week 9	In-betweens.....	Weeks 9 to 12	Final Production (Ink & Paint).....	Weeks 12 to 14	Final Shoot.....	(05/05 Wed)
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<p>Week 8:(3/19):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Project # 3 Metamorphosis: due</b> today, Turn into the Project folder, and mark it Morphyourname.dv and drop it to Morph folder for grading.</li> <li>▪ Set-up the I-movie reel for editing in room.#426 today</li> <li>▪ Screen and discuss individual Story Reels. To improve them, try moving your finger, scene by scene, and establish a timing chart. Once you're satisfied with your chart, re-shoot your Story Reels on Lunchbox. Save it as storyreelyourname.dv and drop it to finalPT folder.</li> <li>▪ Screen the work reel in class. <b>Due in class today.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Final Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Model Sheets:</b> Design the Characters, show the front view, side view, back view, and 3/4 view, of your characters, display the scale and proportion of the body. <b>Due next week.</b></li> <li>▪ Discuss varieties of animation techniques, and propose three techniques for your final project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b>       <i>"2002 Animation Reel".....</i>Animation Program DVD                        <i>"Claymation" . Will Vinton.....</i>Animation Program DVD                        <i>"World's Greatest Animation ....</i> Animation Program DVD                                <i>The Fly /Every Child</i>                                <i>Special Delivery /A Greek Tragedy</i></p> <p>Spring Break!  <b>March 22<sup>nd</sup>-March 27<sup>th</sup></b></p>
<p>Week 9: (4/2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Edit and review the class <b>Metamorphosis</b> on I-movie today.</li> <li>▪ Final project Model Sheets <b>due today.</b></li> <li>▪ Work on final project <i>extremes</i>, discuss the action path, timing , spacing, and discuss adding exaggeration to your animation.</li> <li>▪ All extreme poses &amp; all backgrounds due next week</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b>       <i>Dover Boys.....Chuck Jones...</i>Animation Program DVD                        <i>A life in Animation.....</i>Animation Program DVD</p>
<p>Week 10:(4/9):</p>	<p>Edit and review the class <b>Metamorphosis</b> on I-movie today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All extreme poses / backgrounds due today</li> <li>▪ Work on final project <i>in-between</i>s scene by scene</li> <li>▪ Demonstration of background pan and exposure sheeting procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b>  <i>"2001 Animation Reel".....</i> Animation Program DVD  <i>Neighbors (Pixillation) Norman McLaren (1952 )</i>Animation Program DVD</p>

<p>Week 11:(4/16):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ . Work on final project <i>in-betweens</i> scene by scene.</li> <li>▪ #5 Assignment: Pencil test of in-betweens due next week</li> <li>▪ Discuss cel inking and painting technique, discuss purchasing brushes.</li> <li>▪ Bring one or <b>two brushes</b> to next class (wearing old clothes might be a good idea).</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b>  <i>"A Little Bit of Everything"</i>..Barry Young ..... Animation Program DVD  <i>"The Man Who Planted Trees"</i> Frederick Bac.. Animation Program DVD  <i>"Mindscape"</i> (Pin Screen)..... Animation Program DVD</p>
<p>Week 12:(4/23):</p>	<p><b>#5 assignment :</b>The Final Project in-betweens <b>due today</b>. Screen the pencil test in project folder today. Please mark it finalPT yourname.dv and drop it to FinalPT folder for grading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work on the Final Project coloring scene by scene. Due week 14th</li> <li>▪ Demonstration of traditional cel- inking and painting techniques.</li> <li>▪ Model cels due inked and painted by next week.</li> <li>▪ Distribute acetate for use on #5 <b>Academy Leader</b> project. . Show cels from professional films.</li> </ul> <p>▪ <b>Screen:</b>  7441 <i>"Killing of an Egg"</i> .Paul Driessen  8545 <i>"Rocket Ship Reel"</i> .Rocket ship Studio</p>
<p>Week 13:(4/30):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Model cels</i> due inked and painted today.</li> <li>▪ Review of <b>Final Storyboard</b> mounting and presentation techniques. Announce important end of semester dates.</li> <li>▪ Work on final project coloring scene by scene.</li> <li>▪ <b>#6 Assignment</b> The Final Project <b>due next week</b> . save it as finalyourname.dv and drop it to Final project folder.</li> </ul> <p><b>Screen:</b> 8066 <i>"The Snowman"</i>...Channel 4, U.K  <i>"Grandpa"</i> ..... Animation Copy VHS  <i>"Wrong Trousers"</i> + <i>Documentary</i> ....Animation Program DVD</p>



<p>Week 14:</p>	<p>(5/7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student evaluation of teaching and learning</li> <li>Discussion of computer animation techniques today.</li> <li>Screen demo tapes of software systems.</li> <li>Final day for turning in <b>Project #6: Academy Leader</b> for grading. Please mark it</li> </ul> <p>Finalyourname.dv before you drop it to the final project folder.  <b>Due today at 11:30 am</b></p> <p><b>Screen:</b></p> <p>8587 "<i>Knickknack</i>"  7647 "<i>Tin Toy</i>"  7663 "<i>Red's Dream</i>"  7662 "<i>Luxo Jr.</i>"  <i>For the Birds (Monster's Inc) Geri's Game</i>  <i>Jack-Jack Attack...(The Incredibles ).....John Lasseter of Pixar</i></p> <p>Studio</p> <p>Mike's New Car Monster Inc  Scat's Missing Adventure Ice Age (Disk two)</p>
<p>Week 15:</p>	<p>(5/14):</p> <p><b>You made it!</b>  End of Semester</p>

## Animation Resource Guide

Animatoon. 71-6 Munjung-Dong, Songpa-Ku Seoul, Korea 138-200 Tel: 822-400-2566, Fax: 822-406-8950

Animation Journal. [www.animationjournal.com](http://www.animationjournal.com) AJ Press 108 Hedge Nettle Crossing Savannah, GA 31406-7220 USA Tel: (912) 352-9300, Fax: (912) 352-7588

Animation Magazine. [www.animag.com](http://www.animag.com) 30101 Agoura Court, Ste 110 Agoura Hills, CA 91301-4301 Tel: (818) 991-2884, Fax: (818) 991-3773

Animation Report. 20722 Lull Street Canoga Park, CA 91306-2035 Tel: (818) 713-9701, Fax: (818) 346-1948

Animation UK. Venue Publishing 65 North Road Bristol, England BS6 5AQ Tel: 0117-942-8491, Fax: 0117-924-0521

Animation World Network, [www.awn.com](http://www.awn.com) 6525 Sunset Blvd. Garden Suite 10 Hollywood, CA 90028 Tel: (323) 464-7805, Fax: (323) 466-6614

Cartoon Research. [www.cartoomesearch.com](http://www.cartoomesearch.com) 7336 Santa Monica Blvd. #650 West Hollywood, CA 90046 Tel: (323) 658-8892

Cinefex: The Journal of Cinematic Illusions. P. O. Box 20027 Riverside, CA 92516-0027 Tel: (909) 788-9828

Computer Graphics World. [www.cgw.com](http://www.cgw.com) 10 Tara Blvd., 5th Floor Nashua, NH 03062 Tel: (603) 891-0123, Fax: (603) 891-0539

Daily Variety. [www.dailyvariety.com](http://www.dailyvariety.com) 5700 Wilshire Blvd., #120 Los Angeles, CA 90036-3659 Tel: (323) 857-6600, Fax: (323) 857-0494

Digital Video Magazine. [www.livedv.com](http://www.livedv.com) 600 Harrison Street, Suite 500 San Francisco, CA 94107 Tel: (415) 905-2200

Hollywood Reporter. [www.hollywoodreporter.com](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com) 5055 Wilshire Blvd, 6th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90036-4396 Tel: (323) 525-2000

Kidscreen. [www.kidscreen.com](http://www.kidscreen.com) Suite 500, 366 Adelaide St. W. Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1R9 Canada Tel: (416) 408-2300

Millimeter Magazine, [www.millimeter.com](http://www.millimeter.com) 6700 Fallbrook Ave, Suite 222 West Hills, CA 91307 Tel: (818) 763-2874

Toon Magazine, [www.toonmagazine.com](http://www.toonmagazine.com) 2828 Cochran Street, Suite #481 Simi Valley, CA 93063 Tel: (805) 526-7287

ToonTalk [www.donbluthstoontalk.com](http://www.donbluthstoontalk.com) 3416 S. 48th Street, Suite 2 Phoenix, AZ 85040 Tel: (888) 363-8343

Whole Toon Catalogue: Access to Toons, [www.facets.org](http://www.facets.org) Facets Multi-Media 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 Tel: (800) 331-6197, Fax: (773) 929-5437

**Key Organizations**

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, [www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org)

Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, [www.emmys.org](http://www.emmys.org)

The Animation Academy, [www.theanimationacademy.com](http://www.theanimationacademy.com)

Animation Film Society, [www.asifa.com](http://www.asifa.com)

Animation Nation, [www.animationnation.com](http://www.animationnation.com)

Director's Guild of America (DGA), [www.dga.org](http://www.dga.org) Motion Picture Screen Cartoonists Union #839 [www.mpsc839.org/mpsc839](http://www.mpsc839.org/mpsc839)

Producer's Guild of America (PGA), [www.producersguildonline.com](http://www.producersguildonline.com)

Screen Actor's Guild (SAG), [www.sag.org](http://www.sag.org)

# Students' Understanding

I have carefully read through the Syllabus and Animation Program Attendance & Grading Policy for this class, and understand what will be expected of me in this course.

This page is to be signed, dated, removed from the syllabus, and returned to your instructor at the end of the first class.

Your name printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_