

**CHARACTER ANIMATION  
ARTS 4350, SECTION 01**

3 Credit Hours  
Fall Semester, 2017

**Class Location:** Farrington Bldg., Room 217  
**Class Meeting Times:** M, W 12:00-3:20 pm  
**Instructor:** Professor Glasscock  
**Office Location:** Huntsville Campus, Academic Bldg. III, Room 114D  
**Instructor Contact Information:** (936) 294-4350  
E-Mail: mxg102@SHSU.EDU  
**Office Hours:** M, W 3:00-4:00

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the techniques of character animation and rigging using pre-rigged characters and models in 3D computer software.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After completing this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

1. The principles of animation, as applied to a rigged character
2. Working knowledge of the graph editor
3. Knowledge of IK and FK animation and constraints
4. Character acting and lip sync

**TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Sketchbook

Three Button Mouse

*Character Animation Crash Course!* by Eric Goldberg

*The Animator's Survival Kit* by Richard Williams

*Disney Animation: The Illusion of Life* by Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Each instructor is to establish attendance policy for their class(es) based upon Academic Policy Statement [800401](#) as follows:

- 1.01 Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
- 1.02 It is expected that each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
- 1.03 Each faculty member will announce to his/her classes the policies for accepting late work or providing make-up examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
- 1.04 A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor.

1.05 Each instructor is obligated to clarify his/her classroom policy regarding absences in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session.

In this course, you may miss three class periods before your final grade is affected. For each absence after the third, your grade will be reduced by a full letter. If you miss more than five classes, you will not pass the course. Students are expected to come to class with all needed materials and remain for the entire class period. You are responsible for all assignments and information given when you are absent.

#### **GRADING POLICY**

Your final grade will be weighted using the following percentages:

Submissions: 20%

Projects: 40%

Final: 30%

Class participation: 10%

In this class 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F

The grade of 'C' is given for average work that also meets the basic expectations of the assignment. Above average work that exceeds basic expectations for the given assignment is considered a 'B'. Exceptional or production quality work is considered and 'A'. Work that fails to meet the minimum criteria for an assignment will receive a 'D' or 'F'.

Work that was submitted on time may be resubmitted for credit during the semester.

#### **MAKE-UP POLICY**

All work must be turned in on time for full credit. You will have 2 classes to submit work for reduced credit. After one late class, a 'B' is the highest grade the submission can receive. After two classes, a 'C' is the highest grade a submission can receive.

#### **TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

(1/17) Class 1: Review syllabus and requirements for the course  
Begin Bouncing Ball Project

(1/22) Class 2: Lab for Bouncing Ball, Discuss Graph Editor, Introduce  
Sketchbook Project

(1/24) Class 3: **Submission due/Critique:** Bouncing Ball  
Discuss Principles of Animation for CG and Body Mechanics,  
Introduce Walk Cycle, Lab for Walk Cycle

(1/29) Class 4: Labor Day

(1/31) Class 5: **Submission due/Critique: Walk Cycle Blocking**

(2/5) Class 6: **Project Due/Critique:** Walk Cycle Final  
Final Project Introduced and Groups Assigned  
Discuss overlapping action, S-Curves, C-Curves, Introduce Half-body Animation

(2/7) Class 7: **Submission due: Half-body Animation Blocking I**

Lab for Half-body Animation

(2/12) Class 8: **Submission Due:** Half-body Blocking II

(2/14) Class 9: **Project Due/Critique:** Half-body Final Spline

(2/19) Class 10: Discuss timing, weight and constraints

Introduce Animation of Character Picking up Heavy Object

**Submission due: Final Project Storyboard**

(2/21) Class 11: **Submission due:** Weight Blocking I

Lab for Weight Animation

(2/26) Class 12: **Submission due/ Critique:** Weight Blocking II

(2/28) Class 13: **Project due/ Critique: Weight Animation Final**

Shoot reference for final animation

(3/5) Class 14: Introduce Character Pantomime, Acting from reference

(3/7) Class 15: **Submission due/ Critique:** Pantomime Blocking I

Lab for Pantomime Animation

(3/12) Class 16: Break

(3/14) Class 17: Break

(3/19) Class 18: **Submission due/ Critique: Pantomime Blocking II**

Lab for Pantomime Animation

(3/21) Class 19: **Project due/ Critique:** Final Pantomime Spline

Discuss pipeline and character import for final

(3/26) Class 20: Lip sync lesson, Introduce lip sync project

**Submission due: Blocking I for final**

(3/28) Class 21: Lab for Lip sync project

(4/2) Class 22: **Submission due: Lip Sync Blocking**

Lab for Lip Sync and Final Project Blocking

(4/4) Class 23: Lab for Lip Sync

(4/9) Class 24: **Project due/Critique: Final Lip Sync Animation**

(4/11) Class 25: Lab, Blocking II/ Blocking I revisions

(4/16) Class 26: Lab for Blocking II

(4/18) Class 27: Lab for Blocking II revisions \*\*\*All Resubmits Due

(4/23) Class 28: **Submission due:** Sketchbook

**Submission due:** Spline for final animation

(4/25) Class 29: Final Lab

(4/30) Class 30: Lab for Final Animation Spline revisions

(5/2) Class 31: **Project due/Critique:** Final Project Spline

Finals (5/7) Final Project Due Date TBA

**POLICIES REGARDING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS CAN BE FOUND AT**  
**[HTTP://WWW.SHSU.EDU/SYLLABUS/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/)**

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3810213)**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

#### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY #811006)**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can

be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

#### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3 861001)**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

#### **ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES POLICY (ACADEMIC POLICY 3 861001)**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/bb0d849d-6af2-4128-a9fa-f8c989138491.pdf>

#### **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

#### **USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM (ACADEMIC POLICY #100728)**

*(Possible text)* Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ART BFA REVIEW**

The purpose of the BFA Review is to ensure that students have learned basic principles and techniques needed for advanced art courses.

All Art students must successfully complete all of the Art Foundation courses and the BFA Review before being accepted into a BFA program in Computer Animation, Photography, or

Studio Art or Graphic Design. Graphic Design students must also pass a separate Graphic Design Review after the BFA Review.

The Art Foundation Courses are WASH, Drawing, and Foundations in Digital Art. (ARTS 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, & 2313). Students must pass each course with a grade of C or higher to take the BFA Review and proceed to upper level courses.

The semester after all of the Foundation courses are complete, students must sign up for the BFA Review. Students should see an art advisor every semester to ensure they take the BFA Review on time. It should be taken the semester immediately following the completion of the Foundation Courses.

Students who do not pass the BFA Review may re-take it the following semester. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue as BFA majors, but may follow the degree plan for the BA in Art. Non-participation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review.

Graphic Design students must pass the BFA Review, complete Principles of Graphic Design (ARTS 2323) and participate in a BFA Review at the end of the semester that they are enrolled in Typography (ARTS 3322).

For more information on the BFA review see the Department of art web page: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/review/>

#### **DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY**

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police.

Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ART LAPTOP REQUIREMENT**

Students in the Department of Art are required to own a laptop as specified by each BFA program. Macintosh laptops are strongly recommended and can be purchased at discounted rates for students. The specifications for each BFA program and links to the Apple Store can be found on the Department of Art website: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/resources/laptop-initiative.html> . Students will be required to have laptops and the Adobe Creative Suite software in art courses that require computers. Laptops must meet or exceed the specifications described and be capable of interfacing with Department printers and other peripheral devices.