



SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
WATER TOWER CAMPUS/SPRING 2024

COMM 305 Animation (3 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Alex Damarjian, Ph.D. adamarjian@luc.edu

Class meetings: Tu 4:15PM - 6:45PM School of COMM - Room 100

Student Hours: By appointment only (either in person on campus or on Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on animation with specific emphasis on the creation, refinement, and publishing of a visual story. Students will learn 2D and 3D techniques, cameras, CGI and other software and equipment to create animated works.

Pre-requisite: [COMM 135](#); For FNVC majors/minors, [FNAR 233](#) is the required pre-requisite in lieu of [COMM 135](#)

Course equivalencies: [COMM 305/COMM 455](#)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After taking this course the students will be able to:

- **Understand Animation Fundamentals:** Students will learn the basic principles of animation and storytelling, including timing, motion, and visual narrative techniques.
- **Master 2D and 3D Animation Techniques:** Through hands-on projects, students will gain proficiency in both 2D and 3D animation, understanding the unique characteristics and applications of each.
- **Learn Camera and Lighting Skills:** Students will explore how to use cameras and lighting to enhance their animated stories, learning techniques to bring depth, focus, and emotion to their work.
- **Operate CGI and Animation Software:** Students will become proficient in industry-standard CGI and animation software, understanding how to use these tools to create high-quality animated works.
- **Create a Complete Animated Work:** Each student will conceptualize, create, refine, and publish an original animated story, demonstrating their ability to bring together all elements of animation production.
- **Critique and Improve Animated Works:** Students will learn how to critically analyze animated works, including their own, and understand strategies for refining and improving their animations.

STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATTENDANCE: I am using a discussion teaching method which includes traditional lecturing but stresses interactive discussion during class time between the teacher and students and among students in small groups and small group projects; all students are expected to attend the class regularly and be prepared to actively participate in the discussions and activities after reading the required material.

Participation grade (50 points) is based on student's class attendance (20 points) and active contribution (30 points), on conducting the weekly assignments (short reflection papers, Discussion forums) in a timely manner according to the deadline (the weekly, participation assignments past due date will be automatically marked with 20% points deduction and accepted seven days past the due date; beyond that date no late weekly, participation assignments are accepted).

Maximum Allowable Absences: Each student is permitted to miss up to two (2) classes during the semester without penalty. These absences can be used at your discretion, whether for illness, personal emergencies, or other reasons.

Consequence of Exceeding Absence Limit: Exceeding the maximum of two (2) absences will have a significant impact on your ability to successfully complete the course. Upon the third absence (and any subsequent absence), your overall course grade will be adversely affected,

potentially leading to a failing grade for the course.

Responsibility for Missed Work: It is your responsibility to catch up on any missed coursework or materials. Please consult with classmates or use the course resources to stay abreast of any missed lectures, discussions, or assignments.

Special Circumstances: If you have extenuating circumstances that may affect your attendance, please communicate with me as soon as possible. Accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with appropriate documentation.

This policy underscores the importance of engagement and consistent participation in our course. Your success is directly linked to your active involvement, and regular attendance is key to achieving the learning outcomes of this class.

No show to class means no attendance points [three unexcused absences are acceptable; beyond that number you will not receive a passing grade in Animation 305 class]. If you miss a class with a scheduled assignment, such as peer review, you will be given the opportunity to make it up **ONLY** if you provide a medical doctor's excuse or an official letter stating you were representing Loyola University Chicago at an event.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES: I strive to create a learning environment for the students that supports a **diversity** of experiences, perspectives, and thoughts, and honors our unique identities (including race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, ability, etc.). We start with a land acknowledgement, that is by our awareness that Chicago sits on the homelands of the Council of the Three Fires--Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa, as well as the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk nations. Speaking of names, if you have a name and/or set of pronouns different from those on your Loyola records, please let me know. I am here to help guide you through the course materials and address any questions/concerns you might have. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences in- or outside the class, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond to your requests in a timely manner (within 24 hours when possible) and will provide constructive feedback on them (this also includes the assignments). I am still (like many of us) in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said/posted in class by classmate or instructor that made you feel unsafe, please contact me. I will be available to meet with you either on campus or online by appointment.

STUDENT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: As Loyola's mission statement holds, "We are Chicago's Jesuit, Catholic University-a diverse community seeking God in all things." Together, as a community rich in diversity, we are called to "expand knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice and faith." Recognizing and appreciating the diverse collection of identities, experiences, perspectives, and abilities of the students, faculty, staff, and community partners with whom we collaborate, the School of Communication commits itself to enriching academic experiences through the advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive practices. For more information visit OEC site at:

[Office for Equity and Compliance: Loyola University Chicago \(luc.edu\)](#)

SAKAI (<https://sakai.luc.edu>) is an online learning tool that allow us to communicate and collaborate with each other during the semester. You will find on it the course syllabus, e-mail addresses of all course participants, announcements, online assignments, online gradebook, etc.

LOCUS (<https://locus.luc.edu>) is Loyola's information portal for a wide variety of tasks. The instructor posts on Locus the midterm academic alerts and the final grades.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: A basic mission of a university is to search for and to communicate truth as it is honestly perceived. A genuine learning community cannot exist unless this

demanding standard is a fundamental tenet of the intellectual life of the community. Students of Loyola University Chicago are expected to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty.

Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Academic cheating is a serious violation of academic integrity. **Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher; providing information to another student during examination; obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination; using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor; attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted; unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom; falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines or any other action that, by omission or commission, compromise the integrity of the academic evaluation process.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standards of academic honesty; it is the appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of other without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited, to submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc.; submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material; allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit, or purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper. The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at

<http://www.luc.edu/english/aboutthewritingprogram/theuseandmisuseofsourcematerials/#d.en.238783>

In addition, a student may not submit the same paper or other work for credit in two or more classes. A student who submits the same work for credit in two or more classes will be judged guilty of academic dishonesty and will be subject to sanctions described below. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard. Plagiarism or any act of academic dishonesty will

result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the appropriate area head and to the Office of the Dean of the School of Communication.

The Office of the Dean of the School of Communication may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. In the case of multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the Dean's office may convene a separate hearing board to review these instances. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Dean of SoC. If the student is not a member of the SoC, the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled shall be part of the process. Students have the right to appeal the decision of any hearing board and the deans of the two schools will review the appeal together. Their decision is final in all cases except expulsion. The sanction of expulsion for academic dishonesty may be imposed only by the Provost upon recommendation of the dean or deans.

Students have a right to appeal any finding of academic dishonesty against them. The procedure for such an appeal can be found at:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml

The School of Communication maintains a permanent record of all instances of academic dishonesty. The information in that record is confidential. However, students may be asked to sign a waiver which releases that student's record of dishonesty as a part of the student's application to a graduate or professional school, to a potential employer, to a bar association, or to a similar organization.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY CENTER (SAC): If you have a special circumstance that may have some impact on your course work and for which you may require accommodations, please contact SAC as soon as possible. Formal arrangements must be made through the office before course adjustments can be made. Additional information about the services available at:

<https://luc.edu/sac/sacstudents/>

MANAGING LIFE CRISES AND FINDING SUPPORT: Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (e.g., securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the Office of the Dean of Students by submitting a CARE referral at [CURA Network: CURA Network: Loyola University Chicago \(luc.edu\)](#) for yourself or a peer in need of support. To learn more about the Office of the Dean of Students, please find their websites here: <https://www.luc.edu/dos/>; 773-508-8840; deanofstudents@luc.edu.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: The attendance is taken at the beginning of the class! Up to fifteen-minute lateness is acceptable according to the academic rules; beyond that it is on your own discretion to decide whether you should interrupt the class already in progress or not; in any case, if you enter the classroom after the attendance has been taken it is **your responsibility** to check with the instructor after the class to be sure to get the attendance credit.

ASSIGNMENTS: As stated below, there are several short, weekly assignments which are part of Participation grade, as well as a Book Review 3,000-word essay and a Case Study Team Project consisting of In-Class team presentation/teaching and Team 2,500-word essay due during the Finals week.

GRADING ASSIGNMENTS: I am using the cumulative point system which means each assignment carries a certain number of points—the points grading scale is listed below (to receive an A letter grade in the class you need to earn 237 points; for an A- letter grade you need 230 points ... to get a D letter grade you need to earn 162 points out of 250). Please respect the **24/7 grading policy**—wait 24 hours after receiving the grade to talk to me about it but talk to me about the grade within seven days if you have a question. After one week has passed, I will not discuss the grade for that assignment.

Participation (attendance [20pts] and active contribution to class discussions and activities including short weekly reflections; Discussions forum topics, quizzes, oral presentations, peer feedbacks ...)	50 points
Classroom Assignments	100 points each
Video Tutorial/Homework	100 points each

TOTAL= 300 POINTS:

A (EXCELLENT) =237-250

A- =230-236

B+ =221-229

B (GOOD)=213-220

B-= 206-212

C+ =198-205

C (AVERAGE)=191-197

C-=183-190

D+=176-182

D (FAIR)=162-175

F (POOR)=161 and below

STATEMENT OF INTENT: By remaining in this course, students are agreeing to accept this syllabus as a contract and to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

Weekly Breakdown

Week Number	Lesson Name	Homework Due
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Blender and Basic Animation Concepts • Animating and rendering a Bouncing Ball - Basic Motion and Timing 	
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compositing the Bouncing Ball Animation with Live Footage 	Complete Bouncing Ball Animation
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Space Ship Modeling • Basic Space Ship Animation: Movement and Mechanics 	Submit Bouncing Ball Compositing Project
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compositing spaceship Animation into a live action scene 	Spaceship model and animation rendered
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Character Animation • Compositing Character Animation with Live Footage 	Complete Spaceship Compositing
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animating a Character Walk Cycle 	Character Animation Compositing Exercise
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animating a Character Walk Across a surface 	Complete Character Walk Animation
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animating a Character Run Cycle 	Walk Compositing Assignment
Week 9	Break	Break
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Acting Piece: Emotions and Expressions, Blockout, in-between and spline • Discuss Final Project: Compositing Your Character Acting Piece (1-to-3-minutes) • Final Project: Script Writing for animation 	Complete Character Run Animation
Week 11		Final Project P01: Animation Script

Week Number	Lesson Name	Homework Due
Week 12		Final Project P01: Blockout
Week 13		Final Project P01: In-between and facial Animation
Week 14		Final Project P01: Spline and render
Week 15		Submit Final Character Acting Compositing Project

WEEK FOUR of February 6: Individuals, Networks, and Participation

Social Movements and Organizations

READ: SM Chapters 5 & 6

WEEK FIVE of February 13: Action Forms, Repertoires, and Cycles of Protest

The Policing of Protests and Political Opportunities for Social
Movements

Social Movements and Democracy

READ: SM Chapters 7, 8 & 9

WEEK SIX of February 20: EXAM (Monday, 2/20)

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE INTERNET AGE

READ: “Prelude to a Revolution” NOH

WEEK SEVEN of February 27: “The Egyptian Revolution”

“Dignity, Violence, Geopolitics”

READ: NOH p. 54-112

GDP In-class presentation

WEEK EIGHT of March 6: **SPRING BREAK—ENJOY!**

WEEK NINE of March 13: “A Rhizomatic Revolution”

“Occupy Wall Street”

READ: NOH p. 113-219

GDP In-class presentation

WEEK TEN of March 20: “Networked Social Movements: A Global Trend?”

READ: NOH p. 220-245

GDP In-class presentation

WEEK ELEVEN of March 27: “Changing the World in the Network Society”

READ: NOH p. 246-271

GDP In-class presentation

BOOK REVIEW ESSAY DUE (3/31)

WEEK TWELVE of April 3: “Networked Social Movements and Political Change”

READ: NOH P. 272-313

GDP In-class presentation

NO CLASS ON FRIDAY (GOOD FRIDAY)

WEEK THIRTEEN of April 10: **NO CLASS ON MONDAY (EASTER MONDAY)**

“Beyond Outrage, Hope”

READ: NOH p. 314-316

GDP In-class presentation

WEEK FOURTEEN of April 17: TEAM PRESENTATIONS

WEEK FIFTEEN of April 24: TEAM PRESENTATIONS

LAST DAY OF CLASSES IS FRIDAY, 28 APRIL; THE EXAM WEEK IS MONDAY, 1 MAY TO SATURDAY, 6 MAY (OUR CLASS’ FINAL EXAM/DUE DATE FOR THE TEAM PAPER IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, 5 MAY AT 4:15 PM CST).



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