Storyboarding and Sequential Art
Course Syllabus

AD 490 Storyboarding and Sequential Art

Instructor : Jessica Nersesian
Email : jcr37@njit.edu
Office : TBD
Office Hours: Set by appointment

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:
- Video Game Storytelling by Evan Skolnick
- Exploring Storyboarding by Wendy Tumminello
- Comics and Sequential Art by Will Eisner
- Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative by Will Eisner
- Character Mentor by Tom Bancroft
- Creating Characters with Personality by Tom Bancroft

Supplies:
Sketch Book
Mechanical Pencil
Intuos Pen – This course is taught in a computer lab with Cintiq Touch monitors, and so it is primarily a digital course. There is no required textbook so this is the only money you will have to spend for this course. The Intuos 4 Grip Pen is the most popular and widely used in this field. Buy it for $62 direct from Wacom at Amazon [here](). For those who are perusing digital illustration or animation careers, an Intuos pen and tablet are worthwhile investments that you will eventually be required to own. Pens can be sold at the end of the semester to new DD students, if you plan on not using it for other classes.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course will cover the fundamentals of storytelling and the various applications of the visual narrative. Techniques for art direction are covered including using storyboards, concept art and animatics to communicate ideas visually for animations, video games, interactive media, and graphic novels. You will choose one story to focus on for the semester and explore its locations, characters, and set direction. You will learn how to translate a written narrative into a visual experience with the use of camera framing, camera angles, gesture, and expression. We will also explore other elements of storytelling such as lighting, color, and mood. By the end of this course, you will have a full story pitch which you will present at the end of the semester.

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED:
- Storytelling Elements: Basics of Art Direction
  - Intro to screen writing
- Concept Art: Environments, Characters & Props
  - Basic Design Elements and Principles/ Basic Drawing Techniques
  - Composition, Perspective
  - Drawing Landscapes and Environments
  - Anatomy / Life Drawing
  - Utilizing color palettes
  - Lighting and Texturing
- Storyboarding
  - Camera Movements, Angles
  - Sequences, Scenes, Shots
  - Movement, Timing, Composition
  - Animatics

Grading:

- Class Participation: 10%
- Character Concept Art: 20%
- Environment Concept Art: 20%
- Storyboard: 30%
- Animatic: 10%
- Final Presentation: 10%

NJIT uses the following grades:

A/4.0 (superior)
B+/3.5 (excellent)
B/3.0 (very good)
C+/2.5 (good)
C/2.0 (acceptable)
D/1.0 (minimum)
F/0.0 (inadequate).

Kepler

Project grading is not officially applied to student standing until project deliverables have been uploaded in the proper format to the Kepler system. Failure to upload work to Kepler will result in an F for the course.

Project Deliverable Criteria:

Your overall grade will be determined by the following:

(1) How thoroughly you complete the assignments by the DUE dates, your professional demeanor, and participation in the class discussion, sessions and critiques
(2) The artistic and creative quality of the work you produce in the process
(3) Attendance, please see the attendance policy
(4) A final critique, presentation and project that will become 15% of your final grade.

Assignments will be reviewed on the DUE / critique date. All work will be presented on the critique date in a finished state.

Class Policies

Assignments:
Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments that are not clearly labeled will not be accepted or graded. Late homework will be graded down one letter grade for every class late.

Academic Warning:
Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.

Data Backups:
You are expected to keep multiple backups of all course data and to have your current project files available at all times during class time. You are encouraged to keep a cloud storage account in addition to a physical backup.

Lab Policies:
No food or drink is allowed in the computer lab. Lab door codes are to be kept private within the roster of enrolled students. Lab projectors and speakers are only for instructor use. You are expected to use good judgement in setting lengthy rendering tasks using lab facilities. Failure to adhere to these policies can result in your being locked out of the labs.

Academic Warning:
Students who do not complete and submit assignments on time and to a satisfactory standard will fail the class. It is the student responsibility to obtain missed assignments from other classmates and make up work in time for the next class.

Class Policies:
Cell phones, email, music players, social networking and music streaming software should not be used during class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with either freshman or sophomore standing also have an attendance requirement overlaid on the grading criteria. No more than three unexcused absences are permitted without a grade reduction. Each unexcused absence above the three (starting with the fourth) will result in a grade reduction of 1 for the semester. In other words, four absences would result in a maximum grade of B (assuming everything done is of "A" quality), five absences would result in a maximum grade of "C", six in a maximum grade of "D", etc. Students do NOT receive extensions for submission of work due to any unexcused absences. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the individual instructor. Absences for illness in order to be excused MUST be accompanied by documentation from professional medical personnel who are NOT members of your family. Since religious holidays are known in advance, students who expect to be absent due to religious holidays must notify their instructor by the second week of class.

NJIT and instructors will endeavor to make any accommodations required and necessary for the success of students with disabilities. However, in order to receive accommodations disabilities MUST be documented with the NJIT Disability Office AND notification of request for accommodation must be made to the instructor by the second week of class. No accommodations can be granted "after the fact" unless due to a situation (injury/illness/etc.) that occurs or is documented during the semester. In those instances accommodations will commence upon notification or observation of the disability.