

Art 132AV

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Class will be held on Wednesdays from 3:00 pm to 5:50 pm in room G2-A. Our course begins January 5, 2005, and our final class will meet on March 23, 2005. This is a 2 unit course.

Course Description

This course introduces students to vector-based animation and interactivity for the Web and CD-ROM using Macromedia Flash. The course focuses on the planning, design, and production of an animated short. Topics covered will include information architecture, keyframing, timelines, tweens, sound, storyboarding, and basic ActionScript. From class tutorials, lectures, and reviews of contemporary animation, we will work together to expand and enhance our understanding and appreciation of the work of both traditional and digital illustrators and animators. Utilizing the course textbook, digital media, and video we will analyze, explain, and explore animation concepts and technique. Our course objective is to gain a greater understanding of the Mac OS X operating system, to understand and use Macromedia Flash efficiently, and to understand the fundamental principles of character development and animation. This course will also address the use of various input devices, file storage and transfer techniques, and output options for print and screen presentations.

Required Textbook

Visual QuickStart Guide Macromedia Flash by Katherine Ulrich

This textbook is required for your participation in class. The text costs about \$25 new. Purchase a copy after the first class. Bring your textbook with you to every class meeting.

Attendance Policy

I encourage you to attend class. If you are frequently absent or tardy from class, your final course grade will be affected. At every class meeting, information will be presented that is not in the required text. Your attendance counts in assessing your final course grade and can truly affect your class experience.

Please be on time. We will use the entire class time to cover the materials. Our course will be going through several techniques of digital illustration in a matter of weeks, so our time together is valuable.

If you need to be absent or tardy please inform me beforehand as a common courtesy. Be prepared for winter conditions and plan accordingly. Call LTCC at 541-4660 for school closures and cancellations.

Course Syllabus for Art 132AV Special Topic: Introduction to Animation

Homework and Journal

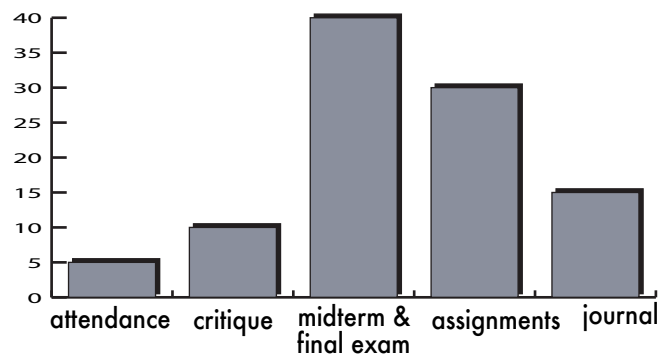
Homework will be assigned as the semester progresses. You will complete and keep some homework assignments in a journal. Three creative assignments will be handed in as digital files. Some class time is dedicated for you to work on these assignments. Refer to the attached class assignments sheet for the dates when the Journal and creative assignments will be collected. In fairness to all students, late creative assignments will not be accepted.

Midterm and Final Exam

There will be two tests, a midterm, and a final exam. No makeup exams will be allowed. The tests may consist of multiple choice, identification, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Refer to the attached class assignments sheet for test dates.

Grading Criteria

Attendance	5%
Critiques & Participation	10%
Midterm & Final	40%
Assignments	30%
Journal	15%



100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, 59% and below = F

Quality of work weighs heavier than quantity. If you are displeased with any of your assignments or test grades throughout the semester, you may improve your grade by completing an extra credit assignment. This opportunity to better a grade is not to be used as a substitute for the assignment, but as a chance to show you can do better. All extra-credit assignments will be graded on a ten point scale. A grade of 0 for a missed test or assignment cannot be improved.

Each student's average will be based on class critiques and participation, attendance, homework grades, creative assignments, a mid-semester test, optional assignments for extra credit, journal entries, and a final exam.

Compliance with the ADA

Qualified students with physical or documented learning disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at Lake Tahoe Community College. For assistance with and clarification of services provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Disability Resource Center in room A205. The telephone number is 541-4660 ext. 249. If you have any problems with any aspect of access to information or facilities in connection with this course, please tell me right away. I will help you get the education you want to work toward.

Supply List

Students are responsible for obtaining the following list of materials for this course. Sources for these materials will be discussed in class.

- Required Textbook: *Visual QuickStart Guide Macromedia Flash* by Katherine Ulrich
- Media Storage: Recommended: A spindle of 25 or 50 CD-Rs.
Media Storage: Recommended: A 258k or 512k Flash Drive.
Alternative Suggestion: CD-RWs. We will discuss CD-RWs in class.
Alternative Suggestion: Zip disks, 100mb or 250mb. We will discuss Zip disks in class.
- Photo Quality Inkjet Paper. We will discuss paper options and quantity in class.
- One 3-ring binder for your Journal.
- Rubber Cement for the Journal is recommended, an alternative option is a glue stick. White glue is not to be used.
- Scissors or X-acto knife for the Journal.
- Drawing utensils (colored pencils, drawing pencils, pens, markers, etc.) for the Journal.
- Plastic sleeves
- Permanent Marker (Sharpie)

Withdrawals

It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you wish to do so. I will not initiate a withdrawal for you. If you merely stop attending classes, this does not automatically drop you from the course and you will fail.

Office Hours

I will be happy to meet you at any mutually convenient time to discuss your course progress or problems you may be having with course materials. Feel free to call or email me at any time regarding problems you have with this course. The course website is designed to assist you with the class, and contains course information and assignments as well as supplemental information.

Engage Yourself

It is your responsibility to create your own assignments, shut down equipment properly, maintain files, and properly use peripherals and printing supplies. Please familiarize yourself with LTCC's plagiarism policies and respect the work of others by not calling it your own. This is a serious matter and will result in failure of the assignment.

I hope to engage you with the material we cover. I hope to excite, intrigue and interest you in class and beyond with the discoveries of digital illustration and animation. I trust you will engage yourself by participating as a mature, questioning, and informed student.

Course Schedule for Art 132AV: Introduction to Animation

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January 5, 2005: Course Introduction

Course introduction and review of syllabus. Introduction to Macromedia Flash MX, animation, and digital art.

Reading Assignment: Read Chapter 1

Journal Assignment: List 10 animated characters or movies you like.

January 12, 2005: Introduction to Flash

Introduction to Flash's interface, keyframes, grouping, layers, tools, and frame by frame animation.

Reading Assignment: Read Chapters 2, 3 and 4

Journal Assignment: Find 3 images which use color or space effectively
List 5 to 10 ideas for Creative Assignment 1

January 19, 2005: Drawing Tools

Drawing tools, shape tweens, motion tweens, frame by frame animation. Basic ActionScript introduced. Rendering to a flash movie. Exercise 1: Create an animation of your name.

Reading Assignment: Read Chapters 5, 6, and 7

Journal Assignment: Draw 5 to 7 original characters

January 26, 2005: Basic Animation Concepts

Discussion of the principles of animation. Introduction to character development and composition. Storyboarding.

Reading Assignment: Read Chapters 8 and 9

Journal Assignment: Create 10 thumbnails for Assignment 1, Due February 2nd

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February 2, 2005: Motion

Journals Reviewed.
Onion skins, motion tweens, motion guides.
Midterm Review.

Journal Assignment: Copy the principles of design & the elements of art definitions in your journal. List 5 different animation techniques and list five different animators.

February 16, 2005: Midterm

Midterm.
Journals Due.
Work in Class.

Reading Assignment: Read Chapter 10 & 11

Journal Assignment: Draw a character in motion.

February 23, 2005: Mask Layers

Mask Layers and review of tweens, motion guides, and layers.
Work in Class.

Reading Assignment: Handouts & Read Chapter 12 & 13

Journal Assignment: Write a project proposal for Assignment 1

March 2, 2005: Rotoscoping and The Walk Cycle

Overview of walking techniques and styles. Introduction to rotoscoping.
Work in Class.

Reading Assignment: Handouts & Read Chapter 14 & 15

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March 9, 2005: Buttons and Interactivity

Working with symbols, instances, scenes, and basic interactivity.
Final Exam Review

Reading Assignment: Read Chapter 17

March 16, 2005: Sound and ActionScript

Incorporating sound into your animations.
Authoring utilities, ActionScripting
Testing and publishing animations

Journal Assignment: List 10 different things you learned this quarter.

March 23, 2005: Final Exam

Final Exam.
Creative Assignment Due
Journals Due
CD-ROMs due
Please include all course work on your final CD

Please be advised:

Be prepared to work in class at anytime. Additional Journal assignments and exercises will be assigned throughout the quarter. You should keep all class work, handouts, and assignments in your journal. You are responsible for keeping all your digital files for the semester and handing them in when due, including at the end of the quarter. Save often and keep your back-ups current! Late assignments are NOT accepted. Use the open labs to work on assignments. Get a library card, it's a wonderful resource. Visit ArtSmart often for links and notes at:

<http://ltccartsmart.blogspot.com/> a link to this site can be found at:
<http://www.innerlight.us/> Click on ArtSmart: links for students.

Email is my preferred method of contact. felicia@felicia.us. I can help you obtain a free email account. I can also be reached at 541-4660 ext. 424. Call anytime.