Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Martin McNamara
Office Location: Clark 324 (My assigned office, Art 211, is too far from class.)
Telephone: There is no classroom phone. Email me to set up a call.
Email: Martin.McNamara@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, 6:10 – 6:30 & 9:20 – 9:50 PM
Class Days/Time: Class #48835, Tuesday, 6:30 – 9:20 PM
Classroom: Clark 324
Prerequisites: None
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Not applicable now
Course Fees: None

Course Format

Face to face. Internet access will be required to receive class messages and to submit term paper(s). No other technology requirements. This course does not have a service-learning component.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Important course materials such as the syllabus, term paper prompts and other major handouts will be emailed to the class. It is imperative that both the instructor and SJSU have your current email address. All AI students are also expected to join and monitor the main AI Yahoo! Group website for important announcements to our majors. Students are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU and the main A/I site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SJSU_Animation_Illustration/
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname.

Course Description

Survey of animation practice and its respective impact on modern culture. Evolution of both will be examined relative to current paradigms in the screen arts industry.
Lecture 2.5 hours
Normal Grade Rules
3 units
Course Goals

The primary role of the course is to introduce new A/I students to Animation Studies, expose them to the wider cultural context in which they work, and encourage further exploration into the societal impact of the screen arts.

Our screenings and discussions in this course are designed to:

• examine the evolution of the animated short subject and view masterworks produced by men and women from all corners of the globe.
• perceive how films reflect the social attitudes and political issues of the cultures and time periods in which they are produced and how they, in turn, influence those cultures
• address key aesthetic and ethical questions facing the animated film.
• understand the production techniques employed in these films, develop criteria by which to assess their quality, and evaluate the director's choice of art medium.
• evaluate animation's capacity for emotional involvement with its characters
• discern differences in cinematic vocabulary between animated and live-action films

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the practice of animation with a broader understanding of its role in society and culture.
2. Recognize and recall significant work from animation genres starting in the nineteenth century and continuing to the present.
3. Become familiar with the terminology current in the field including terminology used in Storyboarding, Modeling, and Animation in 2-D and 3-D.

Required Texts/Readings

The following books are suggested as basic references for the required papers, depending on the topic chosen by each student. Other pertinent volumes will be brought to class; students are encouraged to seek out additional information on their specific paper topics. Links will be provided for online reading and viewing assignments. Recommended:

**Cartoon: 100 Years of Cinema Animation** - Giannalberto Bendazzi, ISBN #0253209374

*Long format only:*

**100 Animated Feature Films** – Andrew Osmond, British Film Institute, ISBN #9781844573400

**The Animated Feature Film** - Bruno Edera (international focus - out of print), ISBN #0803823177

*Chronological surveys, emphasizing the short subject:


**The Animated Film** - Ralph Stephenson (up to early 1970s), ISBN #0498012026

*Collections of essays from the Society for Animation Studies and American Film Institute:*

**A Reader in Animation Studies** - ed. Jayne Pilling (expanded SAS conference papers), ISBN #1864620005

*SAS website: http://journal.animationstudies.org/

**Pioneers, including abstraction and alternative art media, most before World War II:**

**Before Mickey** - Donald Crafton (animation of the silent film era), ISBN #0262030837

**Experimental Animation** (2nd ed.) - Cecile Starr & Robert Russett (alternative), ISBN #0442271956

**The golden age of American animation, 1933-1949:**


Biographical material and critical perspectives on contemporary independent animators:
**Masters of Animation** - John Halas, director of “Animal Farm” and many other films, ISBN #0881623067
**Unsung Heroes of Animation** - Chris Robinson (director, Ottawa International Festival), ISBN #0861966651

Other requirements

Internet links to complementary animated films, documentaries on their creation and background material on the film creators and their production houses will be emailed.

Library Liaison (Optional)

Teresa Slobuski is the new Library Liaison for Animation. Her office is in King Library and she encourages students to contact her with research questions. She can be reached via e-mail at Teresa.Slobuski@sjsu.edu or by telephone at (408) 808-2318.

Library Resources specific to animation are available online at http://libguides.sjsu.edu/animation
All of the University Library Resources can be accessed at http://libguides.sjsu.edu/a-z

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf). Periodic film viewing and reading assignments complement class screenings and are subject to spot quizzes. Grades are based on one five-page paper of original comparative criticism (60% of grade – topic chosen from options in separate handout) and two exams (20% each). The paper addresses learning outcome #1; the exams outcomes #2 and #3. There are no make-up exams. An optional second paper, using the assigned topic list, can eradicate one low exam score. Directions for all assignments must be followed accurately or grades will be lowered. Late work will not be accepted unless instructor has given prior approval. The penalty for cheating or plagiarism will be failure in the course. Students are responsible for completing all work assigned during their absences and must make arrangements for their work to be turned in (on due date) by another student.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Grades are based on one five-page paper of original comparative criticism (60% of grade – topic chosen from options in separate handout) and two exams (20% each). There are no make-up exams. An optional second paper, using the assigned topic list, can eradicate one low exam score. Directions for all assignments must be followed accurately or grades will be lowered. Late work will not be accepted unless instructor has given prior approval. The penalty for cheating or plagiarism will be failure in the course.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) for more details.
Shrunkenheadman Club

All AI students are encouraged to join and participate in The Shrunkenheadman (the A/I student organization). Active participation in this group has proven to be an accurate predictor of post-graduate success. The camaraderie and informal peer advising has also been an advantage to our students. For information, visit www.shrunkenheadman.com

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, respecting their fellow students and their shared facilities. Students will be held accountable for classroom participation, maintaining silence during film screenings, and making thoughtful contributions to collaborative learning. Mature topics will be discussed. Lectures and discussions of all film screenings during the entire class period each week are obligatory, and students are expected to be in attendance, fully prepared, and on time. Failure to accomplish any of the above will result in a lowered grade. If an absence is unavoidable, students are expected to notify the instructor immediately.

Cell phones must be turned off during class and laptops closed during film screenings. Phone or laptop technology being used for non-class-related activities will be confiscated. There is no eating or drinking during class, except water in screw-cap bottles, so arrive well fed. At the end of each class, students are expected to leave the classroom clean.

Finally, students should be aware of the safety of their surroundings, belongings, and classmates. When working in the building or entering and leaving after hours, students should accompany one another or call the University Police for an escort. Report any suspicious persons or behavior to the University police at 408-924-2222 or by picking up a blue emergency phone.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
• In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

• “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on quizzes or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to submit a paper or assignment that includes any material you have submitted, or plan to submit, for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
## Course Schedule

Subject to change with fair notice via email

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | 8/25   | Animation Pioneers at the Birth of Cinema  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 2    | 9/1    | The 20s: Silent Film Stars, a Shadow Feature and the Rise of Anthropomorphism  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 3    | 9/8    | Ascent of American Studios with Color and Sound Technology  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 4    | 9/15   | Early European Abstraction, Experimental Art Media, First Stop-Motion Feature  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 5    | 9/22   | Hollywood’s Golden Age  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 6    | 9/29   | World War II and International Propaganda  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 7    | 10/6   | The 50s: Graphic Revolt at UPA and Political Repression in America  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 8    | 10/13  | Iconic Figures from the Eastern Bloc: Poland and Czechoslovakia  
**Midterm Exam** – bring Scantron 882-E and #2 pencil for all exams  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 9    | 10/20  | Cold War Features I: political perspectives from the “free world”  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 10   | 10/27  | Cold War Features II: political perspectives from behind the “Iron Curtain” |
| 11   | 11/3   | The 60s: Zagreb, Russia and Other Emerging European Cinemas  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 12   | 11/10  | Unique Art Media from Asia and Latin America  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 13   | 11/17  | The 70s: Peak Eras of the Canadian Film Board  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 14   | 11/24  | The 80s: First Wave of the British Invasion  
**Paper Due** – bring hard copy after emailing digital copy |
| 15   | 12/1   | Artists in Residence: Folimage, Studio Bilder and Independents  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| 16   | 12/8   | Here and Now: Neo-Primitive Media and Digital Technologies  
Assigned supplementary viewing and reading via enumerated links |
| Final Exam | 12/15 | Films, plus **Final Exam** (Scantron). Clark 324, 7:45-10:00 PM. Note later start.  
Optional bonus films will start at 6:30, if room is free. |