

THE LEADER IN GLOBAL EDUCATION



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

Storytelling Spring 2023

Course Number and Section: ANIM_5300_91 Spring 2023

Course Name: Storytelling

Instructor Name: Frank Ippolito **Instructor Email:** fip@fdu.edu **Number of Credit Hours:** 3 Credits

Term Period: Spring, January 26, 2023 to May 11, 2023

Meeting Time: Thursdays from 2:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Office Hours: Thursdays 2 – 2:30 by prior appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a studio course in Storytelling. This course covers how to write animated stories that create vivid experiences through plot, structure, conflict, crisis points and climax. Examples of well-developed storylines, told in a variety of mediums, will be viewed and discussed. Students will learn to convey non-verbal stories through hand-drawn storyboards and animatics. Students will work with digital programs, including Photoshop and After Effects, to transform and enhance their storyboards into effective digital pre-visualization. Brainstorming and critique sessions will help develop a stronger narrative based on instructor and peer feedback. In the second half of the semester, a vocabulary of cinematic storytelling devices and conventions will be introduced to allow students to add unspoken, visual elements to enhance and extend their storytelling capabilities.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will have mastered:

1. The basic understanding of visual storytelling and narrative through images.
2. The understanding of the principles employed in storytelling and in its translation into the digital medium..
3. The ability to develop and work within a digital environment to create animations.
4. The ability to communicate complex concepts employed in video production using only simple images, graphics, and text.

Prerequisite: None

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES

Lectures, demonstrations, and instructions.

Critiques and group discussions.

Class direction on projects and one on one individual development.

REQUIRED RESOURCES:

1. It is essential that you have large capacity removable media with you during class.
2. The Software Applications required: Adobe Photoshop, After Effects, and Illustrator.

Important Note: File management is an essential aspect of digital production. Students are required to back up their work in a safe place. This includes images and project files being incorporated into your project. Loss of files is not an excuse to hand a project in late. Projects left on the hard drive of the FDU computers without backup may be subject to removal which will result in permanent loss of work (i.e. the project must be recreated by the student.)

MINIMUM TECHNICAL SKILLS EXPECTED

1. Photoshop basic skills.
2. Communicate and send assignments via email.
3. Create a basic account on Vimeo.com to house assignments.
4. Upload and download compressed files and decompress as needed.

NOTE: A minimum of 4 hours of time outside of class is required each week to practice techniques and to work on individual projects. Any problems or questions can be raised in class and addressed either as a group lesson or on an individual basis. More time spent on projects will ultimately enhance the quality of your work. Additional individual help beyond the class time is available and can be scheduled upon request.

EVALUATION:

The final class grade will be based upon:

1. Projects and Assignments.
3. The Final Project.
4. Attendance, In Class Participation and Extra Credit Work.

Projects handed in late for any reason will be graded down for lateness by 10% for each week.

All important information such as past lecture notes and assignments can be found in the Archive section of the class website.

GRADING POLICY:

The final weighted grade average will be based on 100% effort (shown incrementally): Project Homework : (12 Assignments in total)

- 1. Projects and Assignments = 60 %
- 2. Midterm = 20%
- 3. The Final Project = 30 %
- 4. Attendance, In-Class Participation and Extra Credit Work = 10 %

The skills, originality, creativity, attention to detail, and ability to follow specifications that are reflected in your assignments will constitute the grade for each milestone of the project. An average of your accumulated grades and attendance will comprise your final grade for the semester. Poor attendance will be reflected in your final grade.

GRADING SCALE (Letter Grades: GPA Points vs. Numeric Percentage):

100-90%	A		79-75%	C+
89-85%	B+		74-70%	C
84-80%	B		69-60%	D
Below 60 = F				

PARTICIPATION

Work handed in late will affect the grade of the assignment.

Attendance is mandatory. Absences will be reflected in your final grade. More than three (3) absences will result in an “F” for your final grade. If you miss a class you need to make up for it.

If you come after attendance was taken, at the beginning of class, you will be marked late. Two lateness will equal one (1) absence. Leaving a class early by one hour or more is equivalent to one absence. Leaving a class 30 minutes before class is dismissed is equivalent to a lateness. In the event of an emergency, contact me immediately to explain the absence.

Week 1: Introduction / The Arc of the Narrative

Week 2: Storyboarding / Intro to Photoshop

Week 3: Character Development

Week 4: The Hero's Path

Week 5: Developing the Animatic / Intro to After Effects

Week 6: Midterm Project Assigned

Week 7: Midterm Production

SPRING BREAK

Week 8: Midterm Review

Week 9: The Filmmaker's Visual Vocabulary

Week 10: Framing and Composition

Week 11: Misdirection

Week 12: Breaking the Mold

Week 13: Final Project Assigned

Week 14: Final Project Production

Week 15: Final Presentation

Disability Statement

Any student with documented medical, psychological or learning disabilities, who feels he/she may need in-class academic adjustments, reasonable modifications, and/or auxiliary aids and services while taking this course, should first contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss his/her specific needs. For Florham Campus including the School of Pharmacy and study abroad programs contact the Director of Disability Support Services at 973-443-8079. For Metropolitan Campus, online and off-campus programs contact the Deputy Campus Executive at 201-692-2477.

All students, regardless of their sexuality and gender identity, are welcome at FDU and in this class. Resources for the LGBTQIA+ community include the following contacts on the Florham campus: The student LGBTQIA + club Progress Pride (progresspridefdu@gmail.com), President Oli Yee, Faculty Advisor Prof. Nandita Ghosh (nghosh@fdu.edu).

Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success offers academic assistance to all students through the use of services including tutoring, workshops, and access to computer based programs. For further information, please visit the Center for Academic Success on Blackboard. Here is a link:

<http://view2.fdu.edu/florham-campus/academic-support-center/>

Health and Safety

All homework – including work originally created on physical paper—must be handed in using digital means, such as Word Documents, PDFs, and JPGs. The instructor will indicate what formats are required for individual projects. Standard delivery will be email attachments or online links.

Everyone, regardless of their vaccination status, is required to wear masks while indoors in instructional spaces including classrooms, labs and when meeting with faculty in their offices. The face mask must cover the mouth and nose and must be a minimum of two-ply. Please note that face shields alone without masks are not acceptable and neither are neck gaiters. Students not complying with this mask policy will be warned once and, in cases of repeat non-compliance, will be asked to leave the session. Work missed due to such dismissal must be made up on the student's time.

Academic Integrity

Each student must create his or her own projects. If you did not create the projects that you are handing in, it will result in a grade of "F" Plagiarism is unacceptable. Please review the FDU Academic Integrity Policy at: <http://www.fdu.edu/academicintegrity>

Changes to this syllabus are possible and at the instructor's discretion.