

**Instructor:** Laska Jimsen, Assistant Professor of Cinema & Media Studies  
**Office:** Weitz Center 128 / ljimsen@carleton.edu / 507.222.7679  
**Time/Place:** Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:10pm-4:55pm / Weitz Center 136  
**Office Hours:** Mondays/Wednesdays 11:15am-12:15pm and by appointment

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES/EXPECTATIONS

Animation will explore both traditional, handmade animation, including drawing by hand and stop motion, and animation software including Toon Boom Studio, Boinx iStopMotion for iPad, and Dragonframe Stop Motion. The course will emphasize skills in observation, perception, and technique using both old and new technologies. Exercises and projects will focus on line, form, locomotion, and time-based moving images. Frequent writing assignments will help clarify students' goals and reflections on their developing animation skills. The final project asks students to delve more deeply into one, or a combination, of the techniques covered in class to create a significant, self-directed project.

#### **Late Work Policy:**

All work due in-class is due at 3:10pm. If you arrive late the day an assignment is due, the assignment will be considered late. The same penalty will be applied to work handed in after the start of class and work handed in within 24 hours after of the start of class. It is preferable to be in class on time without the assignment than to arrive late.

#### **Required Text:**

There is no required textbook. Course readings will be available via Moodle.

#### **Required Materials:**

- One 7200RPM external hard drive with FireWire 800 and/or Thunderbolt connectivity, 500 Gigs and bus-powered recommended
- A calendar (either paper or electronic)

#### **Resources:**

The CAMS Production Office / Weitz 139/<https://wiki.carleton.edu/x/LZa6>  
Paul Bernhardt / pbernhardt@carleton.edu / 507.222.5698  
Anna Swanson/swansona@carleton.edu/507.222.5434  
The Idea Lab: <http://apps.carleton.edu/idealab> / 507.222.7999

#### **Lynda.com:**

Carleton has purchased **lyndaCampus** for the 2012-2013 year. All students, faculty and staff now have access to hundreds of tutorials and thousands of videos. You can use it in your office or dorm room, in the classroom, at home, at the coffeeshop, or even abroad. Most videos range in length from 2-8 minutes.

All you need is a web browser, and your Carleton username and password.

Directions for logging in are here: <https://wiki.carleton.edu/display/itskb/Lynda.com+-+Instructions+for+Web+Access>

**Grades and Grading Policies:**

Your final grade in this course is determined by your performance on animation projects, writing, and your participation and attendance. Points are assigned as follows:

Black Ink/White Paper (Hand-Drawn): 14%

Animal Locomotion (Toon Boom Walk Cycle): 16%

Group Stop Action Project: 20%

Rotoscope: 15%

Individual Final Project: 23%

Class Participation and Attendance: 12%

## PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE

**\*Note:** Pacing of assignments and course content may be modified based on the needs and interests of the class. Please remember to refer to Moodle for updates.

### Week One: September 11 & September 13

#### **Tuesday:**

TOPIC: Drawing; Movement & Light at 24 frames per second

LAB: Drawing & Scratching on 16mm Film

ASSIGN: McCloud's Pyramid & Frame #1

#### **Thursday:**

**\*\*Frame #1 Due in Laska's mailbox by Noon\*\***

**DUE: McCloud's Pyramid**

SCREEN: Drawn & Scratched films; Uman; McLaren; Steele

ASSIGN: Hand-drawn Black Ink/White Paper Animation

READING DUE: McCloud, *Understanding Comics* (excerpt)  
Morse, "Common Tendencies from 1500 Entries," from *Secrets from the Selection Committee: Zagreb Animafest 2004* (pgs. 3-4)

### Week Two: September 18 & September 20

**\*\*Due, Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm: Black Ink/White Paper cards\*\***

#### **Tuesday:**

SCREEN: Hand-drawn Black Ink/White Paper Animation

SCREEN: Muybridge

ASSIGN: Animal Locomotion Walk Cycle

#### **Thursday:**

LAB: Introduction to Toon Boom

READING DUE: John Whitaker & John Halas. *Timing for Animation* (excerpts)  
Kit Laybourne. *The Animation Book* (excerpts)

### Week Three: September 25 & September 27

#### **Tuesday:**

**DUE: Animal Locomotion sketches**

LAB: Toon Boom; small group feedback

#### **Thursday:**

**TOPIC: Stop Motion**

SCREEN: Quay; Svanmajer; The Seattle Animation Team (SEAT): Gruber, Johnson, Martin, Petersen,

ASSIGN: Group Stop Motion

*Note: The Visual Learning Conference will happen October 28-30 at Carleton. Scott McCloud will give the keynote address at Skinner Chapel, Friday, October 28 at 7:30pm. Arrive early to secure a seat!*

### Week Four: October 2 & October 4

**\*\*Due Monday, October 1 6pm: Animal Locomotion to hard drive\*\***

#### **Tues:**

**DUE: Animation Notebook #1**

SCREEN: Animal Locomotion

LAB: Boinx iStopMotion for iPad

**Thursday:**

**DUE: Group Stop Motion proposals; Pitches**

SCREEN: Disney; Fleischer

LAB: Rotoscope; Capture with Dragonframe Stop Motion Software

READING DUE: Joanna Bouldin, "Cadaver of the Real: Animation, Rotoscoping and the Politics of the Body," *Animation Journal*, 2004 Special Issue

**Week Five: October 9 & October 11**

**Tuesday:**

**DUE: iStopMotion Digital Storyboards for Stop Motion**

LAB: Workshop Stop Motion Projects

**Thursday:**

LAB: Hinged Puppets

SCREEN: Steele; Johnson

**Week Six: October 16 & October 18**

**\*\*Due Tuesday, October 16, 1pm: Stop Motion to class hard drive\*\***

**Tuesday:**

LAB: Pixilation (Stop Motion with Live Actors) – Bring costumes, props, and ideas!  
(Meet in Studio A)

**\*\*DUE Thursday, October 18, 1:00pm: Stop Motion projects to class hard drive\*\***

**Thursday:**

**DUE: Animation Notebook #2**

SCREEN: Group Stop Motion

(More discussion of final projects)

*Note: Monday, October 22 – Thursday, October 30 are Advising Days*

**Week Seven: October 23 & October 25**

**\*\*Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5pm artist talk and screening with Britta Johnson, Weitz**

**Cinema\*\***

**Tuesday:**

**Visiting Artist/Animator Britta Johnson ('97) Workshop**

From Britta: "Freaky Tuesday: Please bring a flexible/poseable object (a string, a leaf, a sock, a doll, an electrical cord, etc) and everyone will do a short motion test of their object doing a gesture that is outside its usual vocabulary."

**\*\*Due Wednesday, October 24, 6pm: Rotoscope to class hard drive\*\***

**Thursday:**

**DUE: Animation Notebook #3**

**DUE: Final Project Proposals**

SCREEN: Rotoscope

Discussion of sharing resources (animation studio, Dragonframe, etc.) based on student projects

**Week Eight: October 30 & November 1**

**Tuesday:**

SCREEN: Animation Shorts Festival

**Thursday:**

**Individual Meetings for Final Projects**

*Note: Filmmakers Robert Beavers and Ute Aurand will be artists-in-residence October 28-31*

**Week Nine: November 6 & November 8**

**Tuesday:**

**DUE:           Rough Cuts of Final Projects**

**LAB:           Small Group Workshops of Final Projects**

**Thursday:**

**Individual Feedback Meetings on Final Projects**

**Week Ten: November 13**

**\*\* Due Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Noon, to class hard drive: Final Projects\*\***

**\*\*Due Tuesday, November 13, 6pm: Post Final Project to class Vimeo site\*\***

**Tuesday:**

**Final Projects Screening! Weitz Cinema!**

Thursday, November 15 – Friday, November 16: Reading Days

Saturday, November 17 – Monday, November 19: Exams

**\*\*Due Saturday, November 17, Noon: Animation Notebook #4, posted to Moodle\*\***