



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIL 322 Animated Film Theory

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers a critical exploration of animated media worldwide, emphasizing the theoretical foundations of animated films. Through readings, screenings, and discussions, students will explore key concepts, historical developments, and various techniques of animation, gaining insights into its cultural, artistic, and technological significance. The course aims to develop a critical understanding of animation as a form of visual expression, storytelling, and communication.

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

1. Develop a foundational understanding of animation as an art form and a cultural phenomenon.
2. Explore the historical evolution of animation, from its early beginnings to contemporary trends.
3. Analyze the key principles and techniques employed in animation production.
4. Examine the impact of animation on society and popular culture.
5. Foster critical thinking and analytical skills in the interpretation of animated works.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Analysis Papers	40 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Project and Presentation	40 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

There is no required textbook for this course.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

1. Paul Wells, *Understanding Animation*, 1st Edition, Routledge, 1998.
2. Maureen Furniss, *A New History of Animation*, Thames & Hudson College, 2016.

Additional readings and articles provided throughout the course.

Screenings:

A curated selection of animated films representing various styles, genres, and historical periods.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Thinking about Animated Films Topic 2: Key Concepts in Animation Studies Topic 3: Brief History of Animation Topic 4: Foundations of the Animation Industry Screening 1 Assessments: Analysis Paper#1



Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Origins of Animation Topic 6: Early Animation: Animation as Modern Art Topic 7: Disney's New Aesthetic Topic 8: Early Television Animation Stop-Motion Approaches</p> <p>Screening 2</p> <p>Assessments: Analysis Paper#2</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: New Contexts and Voices Topic 10: Computer-Generated Animation in Features Topic 11: Experimental Animation Topic 12: Digital Animation and New Technologies</p> <p>Screening 3</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm Exam Analysis Paper#3</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Notes Towards a Theory of Animation Topic 14: Narrative and Animation Topic 15: Aesthetics and Style Topic 16: Cultural and Social Perspectives</p> <p>Screening 4</p> <p>Assessments: Analysis Paper#4</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Critical Frameworks for the Analysis of Animation Topic 18: Different Theoretical Perspectives Topic 19: Animation Worldwide Topic 20: Final Project Presentations</p> <p>Assessments: Final Project & Presentation</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.