

# Topics in Animation : Editing for Animation

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**Class:** ANGM 4319.003  
**Term:** Spring 2025  
**When:** Mondays @ 10:00am – 12:45pm  
**Where:** ATC 2.914 / eLearning / Box / MS Teams

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**Instructor:** Professor Amy Grieshaber  
**Email:** amy.grieshaber@utdallas.edu (She/Her)  
**Office Hrs.:** Tuesday/Thursday, 9-10am REMOTE via Teams or by appointment  
**TA/s:** Uma Akalkotkar (uma.akalkotkar@utdallas.edu)

*\*\*Please see communication expectations below\*\**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In *Making the Cut at Pixar: The Art of Editing Animation*, Bill Kinder and Bobbie O'Steen state, "[Marc] Davis famously said that animation is the ultimate art form, involving drawing, acting, music, dancing, and painting, all combined into one medium. 'Editing' is here, but hiding—not in the list of arts, but in the verb "combined," bringing all the disciplines together, in time."

Editing for Animation is a unique artform that requires broad knowledge and framework, from the basics of storytelling structure to the timing of storyboards and layering of sound to create compelling story narratives, and the organization required to track media elements over the life of a production and beyond.

In this course, students will start to form a foundational awareness of the broad skillset required to be part of an editorial team in the animation industry. Students will be introduced to both the history of the editor in the context of animation productions as well as the theoretical and technical frameworks that build effective processes and cuts. You'll discover the breadth of knowledge required to be successful at anticipating what a moving story needs to keep the audience enthralled from the first frame.

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## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES

- Enhance their comprehension of the history of the editorial role in animation
  - Learn the differences and similarities of non-linear editing software and the technical requirements for use
  - Direct each other as scratch talent and build radio plays with sound effects
  - Cut short segments that show the proper understanding of different cutting styles (comedic, action, dramatic, etc)
  - Analyze contemporary animations for editorial style and techniques, identifying if it is effective or not and why
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## ONLINE MATERIALS & ACCESS

### File Organization: eLearning and Box.com

- Students will need to log into eLearning and Box.com to access lectures, assignment information, and supplemental materials.
- All homework will be turned in via eLearning, which will also be used to post all grades.
- Please check eLearning weekly for updates and class announcements.

## Lectures & Discussion: In-Person & Remote via Microsoft Teams

- Students will meet in our classroom ATC 2.914 for in-person classes
- On occasion, students will need access to Microsoft (MS) Teams to join lectures remotely and participate in conversation. MS Teams is free for all UTD students – [learn more on OIT's website](#).
- **This is NOT a hybrid course.**

## Adobe Premiere Pro Software Access

- We will use the non-linear editing software, Adobe Premiere Pro, in this class. We will be meeting in the Mac Lab for each class and there will be time allotted for working on editorial projects during class. **\*\*Please note\*\*** You will also need to access the lab outside of class hours to meet expectations for this course.

## Remote Computer Access

- While this class does not require you to access specific software other than Premiere Pro (which supplied free to enrolled students in this course), you may want to utilize the computers and software found in ATEC labs. You can do this in person or remotely by registering for [UTDallas VPN access – more information on atec.io](#).

## Required Textbook/s

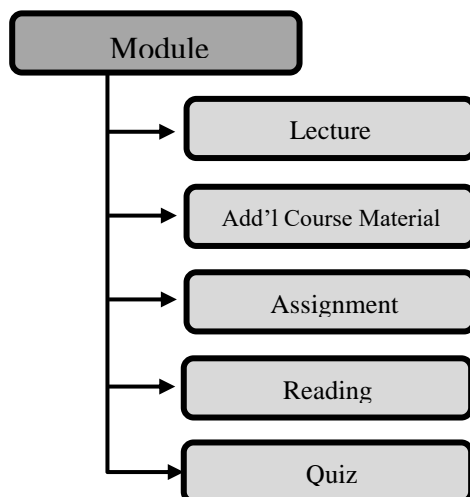
Sections of the following books will be required reading for this course. You can access them all for free via the UT Dallas Library at [www.utdallas.edu/library](http://www.utdallas.edu/library)

- **Grammar of the Shot, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition**
  - Written by Christopher Bowen
  - Published August 2023
- **Grammar of the Edit, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition**
  - Written by Christopher Bowen
  - Published August 2023
- **Making the Cut at Pixar**
  - Written by Bill Kinder & Bobbie O'Steen
  - Published August 2022

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## CLASS STRUCTURE

All lectures and class assignments will be grouped into **Modules**.



Each Module is one week's worth of content. All Modules will be available on eLearning for students to review and complete at their own pace through the week.

In the **Modules**, you will find .PDFs of the **Lectures**. (Lectures will be posted shortly after class)

**Additional Course Material** will be links, files, videos, or general information needed for **Assignments** or **Lecture**.

Each Module will also contain **Assignments**, many of which can be completed during class.

Each Module will have a **Quiz** based on the **Lectures** and any **Reading** assigned that week. Quizzes will open shortly after class and you will have one week to complete the quiz. The duration of the quiz is 1 hour (but normally doesn't take

that long to complete).

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## GRADING POLICY

Students must demonstrate satisfactory achievement of course objectives through fulfillment of course assignments and by contributing to class discussions and exercises.

Grades and instructor feedback will be presented via eLearning. Coursework evaluation will be based upon the following.

### Assignment Percentages:

- Attendance: 10%
- Quizzes (Readings): 20%
- Discussion Board 20%
- Assignments: 20%
- Final Project: 30%

### Late Turn In

Adherence to deadlines is expected and necessary for this course. It is your individual responsibility to keep track of the goals and deadlines and to present the work to the instructor and TA on the specified dates. See below for details regarding late turn in based on the item that is due:

- **Late quizzes can be turned in for up to half possible points through April 04, 2025 @ 11:59 pm.**
- **Late Discussion Board/Assignments will be penalized 10% per 24 hours they are submitted late.**
  - 24-48 hrs late: 10% grade reduction
  - 48-72 hrs late: 20% grade reduction
  - 72-96 hrs late: 30% grade reduction
  - 96-120 hrs late: 40% grade reduction
  - 120-144 hrs late: 50% grade reduction
  - More than 144 hrs late: contact professor for catch up plan
- **No late turn-ins will be accepted for the Final Project.**

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## COURSE & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

### Attendance

- I strongly encourage students to attend the live class lectures and take advantage of the in-class work time. This will help you grasp the materials as well as give you the chance to ask questions of the instructor, TA, and classmates.
- Attendance will be taken every lecture and is worth 10% of your overall grade.
- Discussion Boards will allow students to discuss the readings and assignments as a collective and are required supplements to the lectures
- Assignments will build on each other to help you understand the fundamental processes of building an edit. Each lecture will advance your knowledge and understanding of the next applicable phase of the editing process. This is why late assignments are highly discouraged via the grading penalty. If you fall behind or find it is difficult to stay on top of the weekly assignment, please make an appointment with the professor to discuss a makeup plan.
- The Final Project will be a culmination of the work done throughout the semester. Ultimately, the goal of this class is to help you build a story in an edit. Utilizing provided materials, each student will build an edit to a completed state including effective panel timing, sound design, and music that supports the moment.

## Virtual & In-person Conduct & Participation

When In-Person:

- Students are to behave in a respectful manner by not speaking over the professor, showing up on time, and being fully engaged in the lecture, class activities, and discussions.
- Cell phones should be silenced during formal class hours.

If/When Virtual:

- Please mute your microphone when not speaking and use the hand-raise feature or chat channel to request to speak or ask a question.
- Please unmute your webcam when possible so the instructor and class can see your face, especially when you are speaking.
- Refrain from too much multi-tasking (side chats, texting, surfing, etc.) during class or group work sessions.
- In this new virtual classroom setting, it is on you to be proactive. PLEASE raise your (virtual) hand, ask questions in the chat, and take advantage of the instructor and TA office hours to ensure you understand the material being taught.

## Generative AI Usage Policy:

Understanding how and when to use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E) is quickly emerging as an important skill for future professions. To that end, you are welcome to use generative AI tools in this class as long as it aligns with the learning outcomes or goals associated with this course. **However**, to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to succeed and to preserve the integrity of the course, students **are not permitted** to submit work that **is generated by** artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT, Bing Chat, Claude, Google Bard, or any other automated assistant for any course submissions.

Please keep in mind that you are fully responsible for the information you submit based on a generative AI query (such that it does not violate academic honesty standards, intellectual property laws, or standards of non-public research you are conducting through coursework). Your use of generative AI tools must be properly documented and cited for any work submitted in this course. You are encouraged to speak with your instructor before aligning any of your course submissions with the use of generative AI tools to ensure you thoroughly understand the perimeters under which it's use is appropriate and acceptable.

## Communication Expectations

For all grade questions and assignment clarifications, please reach out to your TA/s before contacting the instructor. If you contact the instructor first, she will direct you to the TA/s.

The TA/s will try to respond to all pertinent emails within 48 hours. Within 24 hours of class, you may not get a response. It is ok to send a polite follow-up email if you have not heard back after a few days.

## Preferred email subject line:

- Course & Section - broad topic
- Example: 4319.003 – Premiere Pro question
  - Please include the section of the course that correlates with your enrollment. I am teaching 2 special topics sections this semester. The section definition helps us tremendously.

*Do not direct message the Professor or TA/s on MS Teams.*

*For private communication, send an email.*

*For public communication that may benefit the whole class, such as homework clarification, write in the MS Teams "Question" channel and "@ the Prof & TA/s."*

## COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

**Classroom Safety and COVID-19** To help preserve the University's in-person learning environment, UT Dallas recommends the following:  
Adhere to the University's [CDC Updated Guidelines](#). All Comets are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status.

**Accommodations for Students Who Miss Class for Reasons Unrelated to COVID-19**  
Individual faculty maintain their discretion on whether and how to accommodate student absences unrelated to COVID-19.

**Accommodations for Students Who Must Isolate or Quarantine Due to COVID-19**  
To keep the UT Dallas community as safe as possible, the University requires students who test positive for COVID-19 or who are close contacts as determined by the campus contact tracing program to isolate or quarantine as applicable. Faculty must make lectures available for those students during the period the students must isolate or quarantine. Faculty have the discretion to set an attendance policy for their in-person meetings, but the absences due to COVID-19 cannot be counted against an isolated or quarantined student.

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## UT DALLAS SYLLABUS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

More Syllabus Policies Here: <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

- COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources
- Sharing Confidential Information
- Technical Support
- Field Trip Policies, Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities
- Student Conduct and Discipline
- Social Media Use
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Notice
- Email Use
- Class Attendance
- Class Participation
- Withdrawal from Class
- Student Grievance Procedures
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Religious Holy Days
- Making a False Alarm or Report Involving a Public or Private Institution of a Higher Education
- Interactive Campus Map – Locate Severe Weather Shelters, Elevators, and Bathrooms

## Academic Support Resources

Resources to Help You Succeed: <https://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>

- Comet Cupboard
- Comet Cents
- Intercultural Programs
- Student Counseling Center
- Testing Center
- eLearning Helpdesk
- Graduation Help Desk
- Student Success Center
  - Academic Success Coaching
  - Communication Lab
  - Peer-Led Team Learning
  - Peer Tutoring
  - Supplemental Instruction
  - Writing Center