

Character Design ANGM 3304.001

FALL 2025 Syllabus

FALL 24 - WED Character Design Class Box link:
<https://utdallas.box.com/s/1q09942pst9geqf5smgasb0s0gf7e424>

WED 1p - 345p 15 Weeks

Course Information

Course Number/Section: **Class 82616 / Course 014963/ANGM3304.001.25F**

Course Title: **Character Design for Animation FALL Term 25F 8/19/24 - 12/5/24 WED 1P - 345P**

Professor Contact Information Professor Office Phone Other Phone Email Address - fyg230003@utdallas.edu Office Location - 3.101C Online Office Hours - via Teams & Teams Mobile App

Frederick Gardner Campus Phone: 555-121-1212 email: fyg230003@utdallas.edu

ATC 3.605 UT Dallas - Studio Art Mac Lab
In Person (Wed) Class Supported on Microsoft Teams

Note: MS Teams Link - <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3AKi-h-RdADauQVXIkBO-g8VVq2m8Xb6T3ILM6nxUCfh01%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=09d1a302-85fe-4f47-836b-ce3542b251c2&tenantId=8d281d1d-9c4d-4bf7-b16e-032d15de9f6c>

CLASS HOMEWORK MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS & BOX.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Drawing for Animation (ANGM 2309.001) with a Passing Grade of B or better. Some ability to draw traditionally on paper with pen or pencil and ability to draw digitally on Photoshop CC using a stylus and Cintiq or graphic tablet.

Course Description

Character Design for Animation involves designing characters (human & animal, costumes & props), constructing turns, size comps and developing shape language and model sheets from story outlines and scripts for Visual Development and Production. (3 semester credit hours) Course offers a further exploration of ideas and principles utilized in the animation process. Sections may be devoted to a single aspect of design or to a variety of subjections in the field of Animation or Film. May be repeated for credit as topics vary (6 semester credit hours maximum). Department consent required.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will experience a professional environment, using the current software, tools and techniques to develop various characters, props and concepts from traditional pencil thumbnail through to final digital designs. Live action and animation shape language will be studied and referenced as foundational skills are demonstrated in an online setting.

Required Textbooks and Materials:

- ***The Nobel Approach*** (ISBN 1452102945) by Tod Polson

Required Materials: Tombow Dual Brush Marker Pens Warm or Cool Gray 1 & 2, Sharpie Ultra Fine Point Marker, Moleskin Sketchbook (4.5"x7"), Prismacolor Verithin & Prismacolor Pencils in Indigo Blue, Sepia or Black (1 box), Handheld Pencil Sharpener, Staedtler Plastic Eraser or Design Kneaded Eraser (x2), Smartphone w/ Camera, Microsoft Teams software (for phone & computer)

Suggested Course Materials:

The Illusion of Life (ISBN 0786860707) by Frank Thomas & Ollie Johnston

Drawing Book of Faces (ISBN 1-4177-3399-3) by Ed Emberley

100 Tuesday Tips - by Griz and Norm (ISBN 978-0990875000)

Suggested Course Films:

What's Opera Doc? (1957) Warner Bros, ***A Bear For Punishment*** (1951) Warner Bros, ***Cheese Chasers*** (1951) Warner Bros, ***Sleeping Beauty*** (1959) Walt Disney, ***North By Northwest*** (1959) Alfred Hitchcock, ***The Great Race*** (1965) Blake Edwards, ***2001: A Space Odyssey*** (1968) Stanley Kubrick, ***The Incredibles*** (2004) Pixar, ***Wall-E*** (2008) Pixar, ***Up!*** (2009) Pixar, ***Frozen*** (2013) Walt Disney, ***Muybridge Locomotion*** (1878), ***Primal*** Season 1, 2 (2019) Genndy Tartakovski - Adult Swim, ***Gladiator 2*** (2024) Ridley Scott - Paramount/DreamWorks

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [DickBlick.com](https://www.dickblick.com)) or purchased at the UT Dallas Bookstore.

Artistic/Drawing Requirements

Character Design is being offered at UTD In order to build competency and precision in Structure, Form, Caricature, Anatomy, Expression, Genre, Visual Story Telling and Concept Iteration skills. In addition to weekly assignments, a traditional Life Drawing & Concept Sketchbook will be maintained for 15 weeks that includes Plein Air (Outdoor) studies of wildlife, farm animals, birds and interesting people. Students will use **Photoshop, Cintiq, Ultra Fine Point Sharpie, 10 - 20% Gray Marker Brush Pen, Prismacolor & Verithin in Sepia or Black, White Prismacolor Pencil, 20lb Laser Printer Paper**. At the end of 14 weeks, you will submit a Character Design portfolio and 30 Plein Air/Animal Studies Sketchbook pages will be submitted for the Final Exam/Presentation.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website to access Microsoft Teams & Box. Please see the course access and navigation section of the Getting Started with eLearning webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. Wednesday classes are held in the 3rd Floor Cintiq Lab.

Life Drawing opportunities are available every Wed morning from 10-1115a in the 4th Floor Studio Art Gallery (ATC 4.910). Friday, Plein Air Sketch classes are held outside (10-1115a), around campus and at the Spring Creek Nature Area, Richardson, TX 75082. Exact meeting location for Life Drawing will be coordinated with the professor in advance and location details shared on Teams.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances, usually through Teams or Outlook email.

Students are required to Communicate and Participate in the Lectures and Work Reviews to earn an A or B in the course. Questions are better asked than forgotten. Detailed Note-Taking is Required for this course.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The AccessAbility Resource Center, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Academic Calendar

University Closings

Labor DayMonday, Sep 1
Fall BreakMonday, Nov 24 - Wed, Nov 26
Thanksgiving HolidayThursday, Nov 27 - Sunday, Nov 30
Winter BreakMonday, Dec 22 - Thursday, Jan 1

Classes Begin

Full TermMonday, Aug 25
End of Late Registration
Last Day to Add/SwapFriday, Aug 22
Census Day
Last day to drop a class without a "W"Wednesday, Sep 10
Mid-Term Grades Due and Viewable Online
All midterm grades will be submitted online.
Midterm (undergraduate courses only)Saturday, Oct 18

Last Day of Classes (Not including final exams)

Full TermTuesday, Dec 9
Final Presentation/Exam
Full TermThurs Dec 11 - Fri Dec 19 (Final Date TBD)

Texas State FairWed Oct 8 - 10a-6p (Final Date/Time TBD)
 LightBox Expo 2025Wed Oct 22 - Sun Oct 26
 Harry Potter: The ExhibitionFri Nov 14 (Final Date/Time TBD)

Lecture Outline:

WEEK/DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
WEEK 1 8/27 1P - 345P	SHAPE LANGUAGE	Syllabus, Class Structure	Circle, Square, Triangle/ Life & Gesture Drawing	9/3
WEEK 2 9/3 1P - 345P	CHARACTER IN DESIGN & SHAPE	Developing Character, Basics of Comp	Charley Harper Bug Design	9/10
WEEK 3 9/10 1P - 345P	CHARACTER MODEL DEVELOPMENT	Size Comp, Thumbnail Sketching	Rubber Hose Self Portrait & Turn	9/17
WEEK 4 9/17 1P - 345P	CARICATURE & MODEL SHEETS	Caricature v. Realism, Character Props	Character Props & Costume Changes	9/24
WEEK 5 9/24 1P - 345P	SIZE COMP, PERSPECTIVE, COLOR	Intro to Color, Comp, Char Perspective	Size Comp of Props w/ Characters	10/1
WEEK 6 10/1 1P - 345P	STYLE, GENRE & COSTUMES	Character Details, Turning Objects, Genre	MID TERM Exploration, Cast Lineup, Genres	10/8
WEEK 7 10/8 1P - 345P	HEAD TURNS, EXPRESSIONS, TX STATE FAIR	Turn & Articulation for Pose, Mouth	TX State Fair Model Sheets, Phonemes	10/15
WEEK 8 10/15 1P - 345P	CHARACTER BUILDING & AGE DESIGN	Age, Posture, Masq v. Fem Shapes	Design Character Aging (Up!)	10/22
WEEK 9 10/22 1P - 345P	PROPS/HANDS & FEET LIGHTBOX EXPO	Mechanics of Hands & Feet, Action Poses	Develop Model Sheet Callouts for Hands/Feet LightBox 2025	10/29
WEEK 10 10/29 1P - 345P	HAIR, HATS & WALK CYCLES	Drawing Texture, Run/Walk Cycles	Design Hair Models & Texture Callouts	11/5

WEEK 11 11/5 1P - 345P	VILLIANS & MINIONS	Good v. Bad Shapes	Design Cast of Villains	11/12
WEEK 12 11/12 1P - 345P	CHARACTER VEHICLES & TURNS HARRY POTTER	Vehicles w/ Faces HP Exhibit	Interior/Cutaway Designs Using Thumbnails	11/19
WEEK 13 11/19 1P - 345P	ANIMAL CHARACTERS & SCALE	Animal Differences/ Anthropomorph	Design SM & LG Animals to Scale/Size Comp	12/3
WEEK 14 12/3 1P - 345P	FANTASY CREATURES & CHARACTER MOUNTS	Non Animal Creatures & Fantasy/ Complex Shape	Final Character Design Models & Presentation Orientation	12/10
WEEK 15 12/10 1P - 345P	FINAL CHARACTER DESIGN PRESENTATION	Final Pitch of Class Designs to Jury Final Grade	Portfolio & Sketchbook Review & Assessment	12/10 FINAL

Proctored Final Exam Procedures

This course does NOT have a proctored exam requirement, please see the UTD Testing Center webpage and Distance Learning Proctored Exams webpage to make arrangements. There is only a Final Exam and that is a presentation of your coursework in the form of a Character Design Portfolio (previous 14 weeks of designs) w/ Life Drawing Sketchbook Submission, using Teams & Box. No online remote proctoring tools will be available.

Class Materials

The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class, requiring Microsoft Teams to be downloaded to your smart phone and to be checked at all times. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Missing 2 classes will result in a reduction in letter grade. **Each additional class missed will receive an additional reduction in letter grade.**

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. **Due to strict copyright guidelines and Intellectual Property Protections, recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.**

Note: SPECIAL SYLLABUS LECTURE RECORDING STATEMENT:

The instructor may record or photograph meetings of this course. These recordings or photos will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Discussion of course material in a private Discord is prohibited.

Grading Policy

Grades are given for Work Submitted, Following Directions, Attendance, Participation, Technical Acuity, Professional Demeanor, Meeting Deadlines, Assignment Appeal, the Mid Term Assignment and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, the FINAL EXAM PRESENTATION. C is Average.

Course Policies

There are NO Make Up Exams. The Final Exam/Presentation is Mandatory.

Extra Credit is arranged for some assignments, provided all of the original assignments are successfully completed with competence.

Extra Credit may involve Off Campus Excursions to museums, zoos, etc.

Assignments are due the following week. Late Work is due BEFORE the Final Presentation. No Exceptions.

Special Assignments may be given during the semester and will be due at the Final Presentation. You MUST Take Detailed Notes.

Classroom Citizenship is manifested through a professional atmosphere, an empathetic exchange of ideas and effective listening skills. No Phones or Cameras. They must remain OFF during the entire lecture/lab class except when in the Plein Air setting. No food is allowed, except outside. Water is allowed, and required for the Plein Air or any outdoor drawing exercises.

Copyright Violations & Licensed Material

It is a federal crime to reproduce copyrighted software, images, film or music. Anyone caught reproducing any of the above from the UTD labs will be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, anyone caught reproducing outside software or licensed studio material in the lab will automatically lose all lab privileges and will be subject to other disciplinary action as deemed necessary.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: ***“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”***

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please go to Academic Support Resources webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the UT Dallas online link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to UT Dallas Syllabus Policies webpage for these policies. This Syllabus is constantly evolving and subject to change at any moment for relevance.

Email Use:

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange.

The University encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account.

This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel.

The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Please use some kind of professional salutation (ie. “Hi Professor,”) and a closing (“Regards, *Your Name*”) in your correspondence to me, especially if it’s the first time you’re writing to me. If I can’t easily tell who you are (ie. *mg1062000*), your note will likely be deleted without a response.

Release Documents:

This course will involve travel off campus. Photography for drawing reference and University use of course photos and drawings will happen weekly. You will be asked to sign several documents on the first week of class to allow travel off campus and to give UTD ATEC permission to use your photos, film and drawings to promote the course and program. Your signing is not required, but mandatory if you plan to travel with the class for the Plein Air sessions, Texas State Fair, LightBox 2025, Harry Potter, etc.

Withdrawal from Class:

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog.

Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures:

Procedures for student grievances are found in *Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities*, of the University's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other general fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first:

- Make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, professor supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent").
- **Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the student grievance must be submitted in writing to the course Professor with a copy sent to the ATEC School Dean.**
- If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final.
- The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

*** *The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change, any time, at the discretion of the Professor (a regular occurrence in the professional world).***