



## **GRA 3747c Intermediate Illustration**

### **Visual Sequential Narrative**

School of Visual Arts & Design  
University of Central Florida

#### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Charlie Abraham

**Office:** VAB 105I

**Phone:** 407-823-2860

**Email:** [Charlie.Abraham@ucf.edu](mailto:Charlie.Abraham@ucf.edu)

**Website:**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursdays 1-3pm

**Term:** Fall 2016

**Class Meeting Days:** Fridays

**Class Meeting Hours:** 11:00 am - 4:50 pm

**Class Location:** VAB 213b

**Lab Location:** VAB 213b

#### **Course Overview**

Classes meet once a week, on Fridays from 11am -4:50 pm. Students will make use of the Internet and UCF library as well as other sources for research relating to the class assignments. Lectures, demonstrations and critiques will take place during the first half of time period. The second half of class will be studio time dedicated to working on assignments given and supervised by the instructor. You will be graded on all visual material produced during the semester including concepts, thumbnails, roughs and sketchbooks. This course will be treated as a real world model. Students are expected to show up on time and act in a professional manner. Students are expected to be present and work on projects in class during the scheduled studio time, as well as to participate in critiques. All work must be turned in on time and deadlines met matching the criteria set for the assignment.

#### **Course Objectives**

Through a series of assignments on pictorial problems as they relate to the field of illustration for sequential content (graphic novels and comics) the student will build a repertoire of illustration skills and techniques. Practical real-world assignments begin with the student working in black and white media to produce works in sequential narrative across a wide gamut of genres. Emphasis is placed on finding and developing a personal style of storytelling through visual expression and authentic technique. This is achieved through an exploration of traditional and digital media for reproduction. The ability to draw in a representational manner is essential for this course.

#### **Course Prerequisites**

ART 2201c, ART 2203c, ART 2300c, ART 2301c and a satisfactory portfolio review.

## **Recommended Reading**

Comics and Sequential Art: Principles and Practices-**Will Eisner**

Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative-**Will Eisner**

Writing for Comics and Graphic Novels-**Peter David**

Dynamic Anatomy-**Burne Hogarth**

Dynamic Light and Shade- **Burne Hogarth**

## **Materials**

Students will have the option of working with traditional materials or with digital media. Traditional materials will be of a specialized nature you will need to purchase certain supplies over and above what is normally covered by lab fees. Final versions of all assignments will be presented digitally and key works will be printed in class. Changes are that if you have had any studio course you may already have some of these materials, if not they are readily available at local art supply stores that offer student discounts

### **These materials are:**

1 pad Hot Press Bristol Board -14 x 17

1 pad Tracing Paper 11 x 14

Archival Ink –Disposable Pens (Micron, Faber Castell etc. various sizes 0,2, 3,5)

Archival Ink Brush Pens S, M, L

Non-Reproducible Pencils

2-b or Mechanical pencils

Kneaded Eraser

Magic Rub Eraser

Dip Pen with Cartooning Nib- 512 Extra Fine

Rulers, Triangle, Curves and Templates

Various brushes (cheap)

Xacto knife

Dr. Martin's Pro Opaque watercolor (white)

## **Schedule of Assignments**

Each assignment will concern itself with media and effects covered in tutorials discussed during the lectures and demonstrations. The content will be based on editorial works of fiction drawn from a variety of genres. The bulk of the content for this semester will be drawn from the works of pulp fiction authors or from original storylines. Most of the work produced will concern character design and environment to convey a sense of story, concentrating on creating scenes that move the story forward through the character's action. Emphasis will be placed on creating multiple point perspective environmental backgrounds and the incorporation of characters into these environments, along with the use of the figure in action.

### **Topics Covered: Partial List**

Visual Narrative techniques

2, 3 and 4-point perspective

Creating natural textural effects

Typographic and hand lettering

Human physiology

Chiaroscuro effects for impact

Type and panel layout

## Schedule of Assignments

- Assignment 1** (Due Friday August 26th)  
Sign and return syllabus receipt page
- Assignment 2** (Due Friday, September 9th)  
Character development outline
- Assignment 3** (Due Friday September 16th)  
Pencils for character design
- Assignment 4** (Due Friday September 23rd)  
Story synopsis
- Assignment 5** (Due Friday October 7th)  
Character design inked
- Assignment 6** (Due Friday October 21st)  
Pencil roughs for splash page (page 1)
- Assignment 7** (Due Friday October 28th)  
Pencil roughs for pages 2-3
- Assignment 8** (Due Friday November 4th)  
Pencil roughs for center spread layout (pages 4-5)
- Assignment 9** (Due Friday November 18th)  
Pencil roughs for splash pages 6-8
- Assignment 10** (Due Friday December 6th)  
All pages plus cover-final ink and type

## Grades

Grades are based on mastery of medium, drawing ability and overall compositional design of the final illustration work as well as meeting the deadline and defined criteria for each assignment. You will be graded on all visual material produced during the semester including concepts, thumbnails and roughs.

### Grade Rubric

Syllabi sign and return	100 points
Projects 1-10	1500 points (10 @ 150 points each)
Final Project	400 points
Maximum	2000 points

**Grade Scale**

1800–2000 A

1600–1799 B

1400–1599 C

1000–1399 D

Below 800 F

**Grades: Grade Breakdown**

**A** Indicates superior achievement. The work shows consistently original, appropriate, well resolved solutions as a result of in-depth research. Deadlines and attendance are met. Execution is at a professional level.

**B** Work is determined to be slightly lower in quality of creative solution and execution, but above average. It may be lacking in polish or appropriateness as a solution.

**C** Work is average, (not inferior). May lack originality, be less of an appropriate solution or unprofessional in execution.

**D** Meets only the minimum quality requirements

**F** Indicates failure to meet minimum quality requirements

**Grade Dissemination**

Graded materials in this course will be returned individually. You can access your scores at any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

**Course Policies:****Deadlines**

All projects must be completed and turned in during the first 20 minutes of class on the date due. Ten points will be deducted from project turned in late on the due date. Projects not turned in during the class period of the due date will result in a zero and cannot be redone and resubmitted. You may arrange to submit your work early or send it in with a colleague but you are always responsible for submissions to be turned in on time.

**Extra Credit Policy:**

There is only one extra credit assignment and that involves creating work that meets the criteria for a B grade in terms of artistic merit and by the creation of additional pages above the amount listed in the assignment area.

**Grades of "Incomplete"**

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

### **Communication**

All communication with student's to/from faculty will take place through the students Knights email account. Academic Conduct for communication will be held to the standards put forth in the UCF Student Handbook.

### **Student Expectations**

#### **Disability Access:**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to be on time and stay for the full class period. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. Since this class meets only once a week and is 6 hours long, attendance will be taken before and after the 30-minute mid class break. After three unexcused absences have been recorded your final Grade will be dropped by One Letter. You can withdraw from the course but it must be before the final date allowed. Family emergencies or other circumstances will be taken into consideration.

#### **Professionalism Policy:**

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. **should be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

#### **Academic Conduct Policy:**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Drop/Swap Deadline:	Thu, August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Add Deadline:	Friday, August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Withdrawal Deadline:	Mon, October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016
Labor Day:	Mon, September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Veterans Day:	Friday, November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Final Examination:	Friday, December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2016

### **Religious Observances**

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.