

» » » » » » » » » » » » » » VISUAL STORYTELLING

COMM. 312
FALL 2020 | SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
PROFESSOR EVAN DANIEL
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CHRISTY 201
TU+TH 10:50AM-12:05PM
OFFICE HOURS M-F 12:00PM- 1:00PM

Visual storytelling resonates with us in a way few — if any — other paradigms do. Many studies have shown that Americans spend over a third of their waking hours following visual stories through video. Yet visual storytelling goes deeper than video alone: data visualization often tells a story; fine art is often understood through stories (about the work or the artist); and visual narrative techniques are proven to aid in memorization.

In this course, we will examine visual storytelling as a sequential digital art. Using sophisticated digital illustration techniques, we will explore visual storytelling as a means of constructing a narrative through sequences of discrete images. The psychological and historical nature of our work will be examined. We will also use video to address issues of motion.

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COMM312/Lecture/A - Visual Storytelling | Credits 3.00
This course focuses on visual storytelling with strong production values using state-of-the-art shooting and editing stations. Students will create a project in one of the following areas: Video Essay, Still Photography, Animation (cartoon or stop motion), Original Short Fictional Feature, Short News Documentary, or Video Profile, with a view toward entry in regional or national competitions. Prerequisite: COMM 114 or consent of instructor. Credit 3 hours.

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- Fluency in the working methodology of creating narrative stories through sequences of visual images.
 - 50 minutes in-class per week.
 - 2 hours 20 minutes out-of-class per week.
- Proficiency in one industry-standard illustration software, and familiarity with one video editing software.
 - 50 minutes in-class per week.
 - 2 hours 20 minutes out-of-class per week.
- Informed analysis skills pertaining to narrative visual art; familiarity with art history and art theory literature informing narrative visual art discourse; articulation during critiques of narrative visual art.
 - 50 minutes in-class per week.
 - 2 hours 20 minutes out-of-class per week.

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Attendance can be in-person or through Zoom. Attendance will be recorded, but there is no penalty for absences (including "total absence"; neither in-person nor on Zoom).

If a student is absent on a day an assignment is due, they are required to set up a meeting with the instructor to be held within one academic week (or five "business" days) of returning to class. It is their responsibility to set up this meeting, to be prepared to present their work, and to allot ten minutes to discuss each assignment. If they do not do so, they will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment.

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Assignments will be assessed through class discourse (the dialogue

Each assignment will have a grade recorded between 0 to 1 (e.g. "0.5"; "0.875"). At the end of the semester, these grades will be averaged with a perfect grade of 1 and multiplied by 100 (e.g., if the student's average grade is 0.75, their final grade will be $(0.75 + 1.00) / 2 * 100$, or 87.5%).

Students whose verbal communication prevents or precludes others from being part of our community or discourse will be asked to leave the course meeting, and can be made subject to further academic discipline. Submitted work that prevents or precludes others from being part of our community or discourse will not be assessed, with no points awarded. Note that plagiarism is detrimental to our discourse and therefore falls under this category.

- I will know and check for COVID-19 symptoms daily
- I will stay in my residence when I have a temperature about 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- I will practice frequent hand-washing
- I will maintain 6-feet of social distance wherever possible
- I will wear a mask in buildings when outside of my residence room or individual office
- I will avoid large social gatherings
- I will limit my personal travel as possible and necessary
- I will follow and abide by directions and guidelines of college and Public Health officials related to the need to identify and contact trace any possible COVID-19 cases or exposures

Students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their academic abilities should contact Steve Kramer, Disability Services Coordinator as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations. Steve Kramer's office is located in the basement of the Christy Administration building, through the double glass doors. He can be reached at (620) 229-6307 or at

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disability.services@sckans.edu. In the event of his absence, Arthur Smith, Disability Services Coordinator for Professional Studies will respond. Please also consult the [Disability Services Webpage](#).

Southwestern College has an office specifically designed to help you, the student, with any issues you may have. We will guide you to the help you need and have the expertise to make difficult problems more manageable. You can reach us at Student.Success@sckans.edu, you will see us around campus or you can come by the office in the basement of Christy through the double glass doors. We are here for your success.

Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Illustrator is an industry-standard tool for illustration, and in particular for sequential art, comics, and visual narratives. It offers sophisticated tools and a highly-considered workflow.

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