Animation in the Alps
FLM 0111
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Course Description:
Animation in the Alps is a comprehensive animation basics course showcasing hand-drawn, replacement, and stop-motion techniques. No prior experience necessary. All assignments are based on the theme: documenting your Talloires immersion experience through animation. This work will be edited by each student into two final individual projects with sound and credits. In addition, the class will attend the Annecy International Animation Festival (the largest in the world) to view award winning films, meet with filmmakers, and participate in unique workshops. A screening presentation of all work to the entire Tufts in Talloires community will serve as the final exam.

Requirements:
A Mac or PC laptop (with at least 16 GB of RAM) + Smartphone, procured by the student, will be necessary for this course.

Additional Course Fees - $75:
Each student will be required to purchase a tripod, camera remote, and a 1 month subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud. Specific models and ordering details will be emailed to the class prior to leaving for France.

Attendance, Grading, and Assessment:
Attendance:
Students are allowed no more than 1 excused absences. Each absence after will drop the student’s letter grade by 1 degree (ex: “A-” will become “B+”.) The assignment are designed to build a skillset class to class. Each student is responsible to get caught up on their own by consulting another student. All technical demos shown in class will not be repeated outside of class.

Grading breakdown:
Talloires Memoir final project: 50%
Animated Response to other course: 30%
Reading + Discussion Participation 10%
Final Presentation/Screening: 10%

Assessment:
Completion of all projects per specific assignment guidelines and benchmarks for preparation of final presentation/screening will be the basis for assessment.

Reading List:
- *Mindfulness (25th Anniversary Edition)* by Ellen J. Langer
- Article: *Everyday Absurd* by Allan Wexler

Animated Short Screenings:
- *Mt Fuji* by Robert Breer
- *Revolver* by Jonas Odell
- *Begone Dull Care* by Norman McLaren
- *Free Radicals* by Len Lye
- *When the Day Breaks* by Wendy Tilby
- *Tall Man* by Michelle Gondry and Noam Chompsy
- *Writings Fly Away* by Ryo Orikasa
- *Furniture Poetry/5 Min Museum* by Paul Bush
- *A Pirate Named Ned* by Steve Gentile
- *Billy’s Balloon* by Don Herzfeldt
- *Here and the Great Elsewhere* by Michele Lemieux
- *The Street* by Caroline Leaf
- *Harpya + Nocturnal Butterflies* by Raoul Servais
- *Big Bang, Big Boom* by Blu
- *Frank Film* by Frank Morris
- *Met State* by Bryan Papciak
- *Art 21: Martha Colburn + William Kentridge*
- *Pas De Deux* by Norman McLaren

Week 1:
SURROUNDINGS
Class 01: Drawn Animation of your host home, commute, food, etc.
- Demo how to animate using notecards
Screen: Mt Fuji, Robert Breer + Revolver, Jonas Odell
Homework: Start animating on notecards
Readings: Article: Everyday Absurd – Allan Wexler

Class 02: Filming Flipbooks with Cell Phone + Writing Narration
- Demo cellphone as camera
- Film each student's flipbooks
- Discuss writing about surroundings.
Screen: Begone Dull Care by Norman McLaren, Free Radicals by Len Lye, When the Day Breaks by Wendy Tilby
HW: Trace Symbolic Object and Write about your surroundings

Class 03: Screen Flipbooks + Present Writing Response
- Discuss When the Day Breaks and symbolic objects
- Discuss Everyday Absurd by Allan Wexler
Screen: Tall Man by Michelle Gondry Noam Chompsy
HW: Fix Flipbook, Prep Writing, Think of Symbolic Object
Readings: Mindfulness, chapters 1-2

Week 2:
CULTURE

Class 04: Animated Writing + Replacement Animation
- Demo Animated Writing (Palimpsest) Technique + Replacement Animation
- Discuss Mindfulness, chapters 1-2
- Discuss writing about culture - specifics + unusual observations
Screen: Writings Fly Away by Ryo Orikasa, Furniture Poetry/5 Min Museum by Paul Bush, A Pirate Named Ned by Steve Gentile
HW: Finish Palimpsest, Make Replacement Animation for transitional/symbolic object (while on Chamonix hike.)
Readings: Mindfulness, chapters 2-3

Class 05: Editing in Premiere
- Look at homework
- Demo Premiere and how to edit assignment
- Discuss Mindfulness chapters 2-3
Screen: Billy’s Balloon by Don Herzfeldt
**Homework:** Try First Edit. Write down 20 observations for each shot. Bring list to class.

**Class 06:** Recording Sound on Phone  
- Discuss homework, answer questions  
- Demo how to record on phone w/ tripod using 20 Observations  
- Add to Premiere Project  

**Screen:** *Here and the Great Elsewhere* by Michele Lemieux, *The Street* by Caroline Leaf, *Harpya + Nocturnal Butterflies* by Raoul Servais  

**HW:** Write a response to 2 Paragraphs and Observation List. Record the reading of response on phone. Add this to your Premiere Project + save as 1 QuickTime movie.  

**Readings:** *Mindfulness*, chapters 4-6

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**Week 3:**  
**DISCOVERY**

**Class 07:** Pixilation Animation  
- Demo how to animate large-scale outside in garden (foreground, middle, back with replacement animation)  
- Screen all QuickTime Movies and give editing suggestions  
- Discuss *Mindfulness*, chapters 4-6  
- Demo importing frames into Premiere  

**Screen:** *Big Bang, Big Boom* by Blu  

**HW:** Animate your Weekend with Narration using any combination of techniques + Proposal for Animation Response to Other Class + Read *Mindfulness*, chapters 7-8

**Class 08:** Premiere Editing Demo 2  
- Demo advanced editing picture and sound techniques in Premiere  

**HW:** Animated Response Proposal

**Class 09:** Proposal for Animation Response to Other Class  
- Finish editing  
- Discuss proposal for other class and storyboarding  
- Demo Adding another Sound Track  

**HW:** Write up proposal, storyboard, finish all other projects  

**Readings:** *Mindfulness*, chapters 8 - 10

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**Week 4:**  
**ANIMATION RESPONSE Project**
Class 10: Animation Response Proposal Presentation
- Strategize animation options for each student
- Discuss *Mindfulness*, chapters 8 – 10
- Demo Morphing on 5 sheets of Acetate
- Demo Masking and Split Screen + Background Plate
- Discuss Annecy Int. Animation Festival Itinerary

Screen: *Frank Film + Met State*

HW: Start animating Animation Response + Annecy Festival Sound Gathering

**ANNECY INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL EXCURSION**

Class 11: Guest Filmmaker from the Annecy Festival
Discuss the Annecy Animation Festival

Class 12: Priory Walk-Through Animation

Screen: *Art 21: Martha Colburn + William Kentridge, Pas De Deux*

HW: Duplicate Sequence of just audio, Import Priory Walk-Through Animation into it, use for synch sound.

Week 5:
Public Speaking Skills + Final Show Prep

Class 13: Alexander Technique for Public Speaking
- Screen and Discuss Animation to Found Sounds
- Discuss Final Presentation Screening
- Edit all Priory Walk-Through Animations together
- Review Grade Determination
- Alexander Technique Homework

HW: Alexander Technique: Video of Sitting in a Chair

Class 14: Alexander Technique Practice Presentations
- Discuss Video of Sitting in a Chair + Alexander Technique

HW: Write a 2 Paragraph Reflection of your Talloires Experience

Class 15: Conclusion Animation
- Present Alexander Technique Presentations
- Discuss Conclusion Animation to organize the Talloires Memoir Animation

HW: Edit and Fix All Work:
Flipbook + Replacement + Animated Writings (Edit 1), Animated Weekend, Animated Trips, Found Sound Animation, Priory-mation, + Conclusion Animation + Animated Response.

Week 6:

FINAL SCREENING PREP

Class 16: Final Presentation Outline and Requirements
- Demo voice strengthening exercises and public speaking strategies
- Demo how to edit all work into 1 short film

HW: Edit Flipbook, Cut-Out, and Stop-Motion into 1 film

Class 17: Screen Work in Class for Final Editing Suggestions

Class 18: Screen Work in Class for Final Editing Suggestions

FINAL SCREENING OF ALL WORK in MacJanet Hall