

ART420 ANIMATION STUDIO I/MICRO-SHORT PRODUCTION

Central Michigan University Fall 2025

3 Credits

Syllabus

This course brings together design, animation and production skills in a small studio-like environment where students will learn design practices, production methods and studio-based workflow. Students will work in pairs in their preferred media to design, implement and deliver portfolio-ready, micro-short animations on time and on budget.

Objectives:

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Adopt principles of collaboration and adapt individual work habits to meet the needs of a studio-based project.
2. Utilize project management skills to create animation within a prescribed client/artist relationship.
3. Prioritize tasks, estimate time commitments and plan production steps according to weekly milestones.
4. Conceive and create animated resources within strict design parameters and a limited time-frame.

Software: Students will work in collaboration with assigned partners in their media of choice.

Weekly Milestones, Revisions and Lab Time:

Each project will be broken down into four production milestones. Teams will be expected to meet each milestone as indicated on the weekly schedule, discuss possible revisions and shape parameters for the next milestone.

Milestone presentations are due on dates indicated in the weekly schedule. Students are expected to utilize Open Lab days exclusively toward micro-short productions.

Assignments, Feedback and Critiques: Students will submit work through the Basecamp Dropbox. Files should be properly named and formatted for presentation before class begins. Late work is not acceptable and will be docked accordingly.

Students will use the #420 Discord channel to communicate with production partners and to post progress of their work on for the rest of the class to see. Classmates are encouraged provide constructive comments throughout the week as updates are posted.

Instructors will provide direct feedback through weekly milestone critiques.

Attendance and use of Lab Time:

Students are expected to be working during Open Lab and during Milestone Critiques. Please notify instructors in advance for excused absences. Unexcused absences and/or excessive tardiness will not be tolerated and will affect your grade significantly.

Grades: Semester Total 1000 pts

Project grades will be weighed by the quality of production, execution of weekly milestones and input from *Partner Evaluation* forms.

Assignments	
Micro-short 1: Square - 5 seconds	400
Micro-short: TBA - 10 seconds	500
Pitch Development for Spring Semester	100
Semester Total	1000 pts

Required Text: None

Supplies: Specialized materials may be required by students depending on the choice and complexity of their projects.