ART 341 – DIGITAL ANIMATION

Course Modules

• Instructor-provided demos, workflows, and exemplar project files for Adobe Animate, Character Animator, and After Effects

• Curated readings on animation principles, timing, staging, and visual storytelling (short excerpts + reference clips)

• Technical references for motion graphics delivery, export/codec standards, and basic JavaScript for interactive/automated behaviors

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1) Animation Foundations & Workflow — Principles of 2D animation, frame rates, project organization, and production planning across tools.

2) Sequential Art & Timing — Understanding beats, pacing, and shot structure using sequential timelines and thumbnail planning.

3) Storyboarding & Visual Storytelling — Create boards with clear staging, camera logic, and readable action for short sequences.

4) Adobe Animate Essentials — Symbols, layers, keyframes, and asset prep; building clean files for efficient iteration.

5) Motion Tweens & Easing — Motion paths, arcs, timing, and easing to create believable movement and visual hierarchy.

6) Character Design for Motion — Designing characters for animation: proportions, pivots, reusable parts, and rig-friendly artwork.

7) Character Animator Performance — Puppet setup, triggers, lip-sync basics, and performance capture for expressive motion.

8) After Effects Fundamentals — Comps, precomps, parenting, masks, and typography basics for motion design workflows.

9) Motion Graphics Systems — Building repeatable title/graphic systems, transitions, and lower-thirds that remain consistent.

10) Sound, Dialogue & Polish — Syncing audio, timing to dialogue, and micro-edits that improve clarity and realism.

11) Compositing & Simple Effects — Color, blur, light, and practical FX; integrating assets across apps for a unified look.

12) Intro to JavaScript for Animation — Small scripts for interactive behaviors or automation (variables, events, simple logic).

13) Export, Delivery & Optimization — Formats, codecs, transparency workflows, loops, and platform-ready deliverables.

14) Capstone Short & Portfolio Packaging — Final animated piece plus boards, style frames, and a concise case-study presentation.