

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: VIST-111: Character Design

CLASS SECTION: X01

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-Person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Gareth Gaudin

EMAIL: gauding@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Y315E

HOURS: Monday, Thursday, and Friday 11:30 - 12:30

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will design and create imaginary characters and costumes that can be used in comics, graphic novels, gaming, illustration, storyboards and animation. Through practical drawing exercises, students will learn to exaggerate, caricature, and cartoon to make their characters believable and give them personality.

PREREQUISITE(S):

Restricted to students in Comics and Graphic Novels

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Design both realistic and exaggerated characters from their imagination.
2. Produce drawings of their characters from memory at any angle.
3. Apply characters to visual storytelling for comics, graphic novels, storyboards, gaming, illustration and animation applications.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Sculpting materials (more information provided closer to that portion of the class)

Sketchbook, mixed media, minimum 7x10 inch

Assorted drawing tools – pencils, ink, markers, watercolours

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week One Monday January 8, 2024	Lecture – Introduction to Character Design. Cartoon and caricatures in comics/television/gaming and illustrations. Cereal Mascots. Highlighting character designs that allow viewers to relate. Discussion of iconography in Scott McCloud’s “Understanding Comics.” Classwork – Taking inspiration from real life and photos, facial expressions, stylized self portraits in profile, straight-on, and three-quarter view. Discussion of character traits/building a well-rounded character.	
Week Two Monday January 15, 2024	Lecture – Consistent design at all angles. Some popular and iconic characters such as Felix the Cat, The Simpsons, and Calvin and Hobbes visually dissected. The art of simplification. Classwork – Character Design Assignment	Assignment is due on February 5 th .
Week Three Monday January 22, 2024	Lecture – Expressions, expressions, expressions! How to depict different moods, attitudes, and subtleties in your character. Classwork – Identify the face muscles on iconic characters and deduce how best to emote them realistically.	
Week Four Monday January 29, 2024	Lecture – Resources to fast-track character design: Name and trait generators, prompts, roleplaying, 20 questions. Classwork – Students will design a roleplaying character of their choice and do a quick sketch of the completed character. They will get into groups and roleplay a conversation in a classroom.	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week Five Monday February 5, 2024	Lecture – Discussion of video game characters and their traits. Visual traits vs. digital personality. How to simplify traits into character dynamics. Classwork – Begin working on character interaction assignment. Team-up with another student’s character perhaps?	Character design assignment due
Week Six Monday February 12, 2024	Lecture – Profiles of several artists and their approach to character design. Compare and contrast original character designs to their more refined final looks. Classwork – Work on the Character Interaction Assignment.	Please bring sculpting materials to NEXT class (in TWO weeks)
Week Seven Monday February 19, 2024	No class. Reading Week.	
Week Eight Monday February 26, 2024	Lecture – Sculpting with polymer clay, tools, properties, and the benefits of creating a 3-Dimensional mock-up of a character. Discussion about comic artists who make use of models in their comics. Classwork – Begin sculpture assignment.	Character Interaction Assignment due Please bring sculpting materials to this class.
Week Nine Monday March 4, 2024	Lecture – Stop-motion animation and what we can learn from the artform. Discussions of Nightmare Before Christmas, Coraline, King Kong, and Gumby. Classwork – Continue working on sculpture assignment.	Please bring sculpting materials to this class too.
Week Ten Monday March 11, 2024	Lecture – Side characters, one-dimensional characters – how to design them effectively and efficiently with maximum visual impact. Discussion of how creators have worked around having to design background characters in comics and anime. Classwork - 3-D Modelling introduction	Sculpture due.
Week Eleven Monday March 18, 2024	Lecture – Non-human characters and how to achieve a level of believability. Discussion of comics which feature animal/non-human characters like Bone, Pokemon, and Bojack Horseman. Classwork – Design inanimate object-based characters with two positive/neutral traits and one negative trait.	
Week Twelve Monday March 25, 2024	Lecture – Exaggerated character design and how to make it look balanced. Discussing Sergio Aragones’ Groo the Wanderer and Hilda. Classwork – Adjust one of your characters to have exaggerated features or properties and discuss in class what positive or negative effects this has on the character.	3-D Modeled Character due.
Week Thirteen Monday April 1, 2024	No class – Easter Monday	
Week Fourteen Monday April 8, 2024	Lecture – The supernatural, the creepy, and the quirky. How to make something horrible into something loveable. Classwork – Pictionary and prep work for CCAF!	Sketchbooks due

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Character Design Assignment	30%
Character Interaction Assignment	20%
Sculpted Model	20%
3D Modeled Character Assignment	20%
Participation	10%
	TOTAL
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Students will be expected to engage in the subject matter and contribute to class discussions. Drawing/working on assignments during lectures is perfectly fine, as long as there are no distracting elements.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising

<http://camosun.ca/advising>

Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning/) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.