

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: VIST 111: Character Design; Tuesdays, 12:30-4:20pm

CLASS SECTION: X01

TERM: Winter 2022

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): F2F

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən 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://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

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: Erin Shuttleworth

EMAIL: shuttleworthe@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Lansdowne, Y315E

HOURS: Tues: 10:30am - 12:30pm; Wed: 10:30am – 12:30pm

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):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

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 size 7x10

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 1: Jan 11	Lecture: Cartoon and caricatures in comics/television/gaming and illustrations. Highlighting character design that allows the reader 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, front and 3-quarter view Discussion of character traits / building a well-rounded character	
Week 2: Jan 18	Lecture: Consistent design at all angles. Clips shown of popular characters, as well as storyboards. Discussion of the art of simplification with examples. Classwork: Character Design Assignment	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 3: Jan 25	<p>Lecture: Expressions, expressions, expressions! A discussion of musculature, bone structure and all things beneath the surface to better enhance your character's expressions.</p> <p>Classwork: Identify the face muscles on iconic characters and deduce how best to emote them realistically.</p>	
Week 4: Feb 1	<p>Lecture: Resources to fast-track character design: name & trait generators, prompts, roleplaying, 20 Questions</p> <p>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 at a tavern.</p>	
Week 5: Feb 8	<p>Lecture: Fire Emblem, Choices Matter, and other games that have complex character interactions. How to simplify traits into character dynamics. The rule of 3, and how to build drama within character groups.</p> <p>Classwork: Begin working on character interaction assignment</p>	Character Design Assignment DUE
Week 6: Feb 15	<p>Lecture: Profiles of several artists and their approach to character design. Compare and contrast original character designs to their more refined final looks.</p> <p>Classwork: DTIYS of the character assignment</p>	
Week 7: Feb 22	NO CLASS – READING WEEK	
Week 8: March 1	<p>Lecture: Sculpting with polymer clay, tools, properties and the benefits of creating a 3-Dimensional mockup of a character. Discussion about comic artists who make use of models in their comics.</p> <p>Classwork: Begin sculpture assignment</p>	<p>Character Interaction Assignment DUE</p> <p>Please bring sculpting materials to this class</p>
Week 9: March 8	<p>Lecture: Stop-Motion Animation and what we can learn from the art form. Discussions of Nightmare Before Christmas, Coraline, ParaNorman and more.</p> <p>Classwork: Continue working on sculpture assignment</p>	Please bring sculpting materials to this class

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 10: March 15	<p>Lecture: Side characters / one dimensional characters – how to design them efficiently with maximum visual impact. Discussion of how creators have worked around having to design background characters in comics and anime.</p> <p>Tutorial: 3D Modeling Introduction</p> <p>Classwork: Begin working on 3D Modeling Assignment</p>	Sculpture DUE
Week 11: March 22	<p>Lecture: Non-human characters and how to achieve a level of believability. Discussions of comics that feature animal/non-human characters like Bone, Pokemon and Bojack Horseman.</p> <p>Tutorial: Advanced 3D Modeling</p> <p>Classwork: Design inanimate object-based characters with two positive/neutral traits and one negative trait.</p>	
Week 12: March 29	<p>Lecture: Exaggerated character design and how to make it look balanced. Discussing Tsubasa, Sailor Moon and Hilda.</p> <p>Classwork: Adjust one of your characters to have exaggerated features and discuss in class what is positive/negative about the changes.</p>	
Week 13: April 5	<p>Lecture: Caricatures, historical characters and all that is inspired from real life. Discussing “Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists”, “Becoming RBG” and “The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees”</p> <p>Classwork: Genre-specific caricatures (How would we draw X in a noir, comedy, romance, etc)</p>	3D Modeled Character DUE
Week 14: April 12	<p>Lecture: Supernatural, creepy and quirky. All other types of character design mishmashed into a frenetic final lecture.</p> <p>Classwork: Pictionary + Class Recap</p>	Sketchbook 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 noticed 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%
Sketchbook Work / In-Class Work	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 is no distracting element. (Please, no experimental dance routines!)

While discussions are an integral part of the class, I request that if any topic becomes too polarizing, we take a breath and move on. We are all unique in our passions and it is important that we respect each other.

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](#) (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.