CARTOONING & COMIC ART I
ART F195 (3 credit hours)
July 8th – August 15th, Monday-Thursday, 6-9pm, Art Department Room 317
Jamie Smith, Instructor (907-378-6018) jamienuggets@gmail.com

Course Description

An introductory studio class on sequential art - telling a story with images and text - that focuses on the basic elements of creating cartoon and comic art features. Exploration of all stages in production with an emphasis on the conceptual and developmental process, as well as drawing and storytelling skills. No prerequisites/previous art experience necessary.

Objectives

Students will learn materials and techniques in the field of cartoon and comic art, study the work of historical and contemporary creators, and develop an understanding of visual and narrative techniques in combining words and pictures through page and panel breakdowns and thumbnailing, using reference studies and research materials, character development and writing & editing. Students will explore the genres of single-panel/gag cartoons, strips, editorial cartooning, storyboarding, collaborative approaches with traditional comic book scriptwriting, penciling and inking, alternative comics, minicomics, graphic novels, caricature and humorous illustration.

Course Outline

1st Week: materials & techniques, characters, lettering
2nd Week single panels/gag cartoons, editorial cartoons
3rd Week: strips & syndication, history of sequential art
4th Week: comic books (scripting/penciling/inking)
5th Week: graphic novels, storyboarding
6th Week: final pages for class publication
Grading Policy

There will be daily reviews of work-in-progress and weekly critiques of major assignments, and a final class publication of selected student work. Participation in critiques and classroom discussions will be used in factoring +/- of grade. No late work will be accepted. Students are evaluated on the basis of the following:

Five Critiqued Assignments:
10 points – character(s) + materials & technique
20 points – gags & editorials/caricature
20 points – strips
20 points – collaborative pages (script/pencil/ink)
30 points – vignette
100 points total

A = 100-90: B = 79-89: C = 50-78: D = 25-49: F = 24-0

Sample Critique Checklist and Criteria for Grading Work:
(2 points) Complete? - All required work done/on time? Name on it?
(2 points) Content/Concept? – Original, clear communication of idea or point?
(2 points) Composition? – Elements arranged
(1 point) Linework? – Variation, consistency?
(1 point) Value? – Use of textures, spot-blacks, tones, wash?
(1 point) Lettering? – Legible?
(1 point) Presentation? – Smudged, torn, professional looking?
(10 possible points)

9-10 points = A: 7-8 points = B: 4-6 points = C: 3-4 points = D: 1-2 points = F

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, and will factor overall for final grade
Maximum 1 excused absence, after that grade will drop by one letter grade per each absence (ex: 2 absences = A to a B; 3 = C; 4 = D; 5 absences = failure).

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities including equal access to campus and course material. For information contact Office of Disabilities Services 203 WHIT 474-7043.
Materials List

Graphite pencil (*HB or #2*)
Derwent Sketching pencil (medium or heavy wash)
Eraser (*Magic Rub, Pink Pearl*)
12” ruler, metal w/cork backing + T-square
Drafting/low-tack masking tape
Felt-tip pens (*Sharpies – Fine & Ultra-Fine, Flair, Razor Point, etc.*)
Micron Pens (range from thin 01 to thick 08)
*optional PITT/Faber-Castell artist pen set
Assortment of misc. ball-point pens (black ink)
Dip-pens with large + crow-quill nibs (ex: Hunt 108, Gillette 170)
*optional Fountain pen (ex: Rotring Art Pen, Rapidograph)
Brush (#0 or #1 rounds, synthetic blend)
*optional Winsor-Newton series 7 (#2 or #3) and/or Pentell Pocket Brush
Waterproof black India ink  (*ex: Higgins Black Magic, Winsor & Newton, Dr. Phil Martin’s Bombay, Speedball Superblack*)
Whiteout, Dr. Phil Martin’s Bleed Proof White or opaque white acrylic paint
9x12 sketchpad (*drawing paper, wirebound*)
8x10” or 9x12” and 11x14” Bristol Board pad (*smooth – not vellum*)
Tacklebox for storing supplies
Small folio – ex: plastic slipcase/presentation folder
3-ring binder + hole puncher or big clip for keeping handouts and copies together
Setup with adequate lighting and good posture