CARTOONING & COMIC ART I  
ART F195–F71 (3 credit hours)  
July 1–August 9, Monday-Thursday, 6-9pm  
Art Department Room 317, Fine Arts Complex  
Jamie Smith, Instructor jamienuggets@gmail.com or jtsmith@alaska.edu  
Office hours by appointment (907) 474-7530

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).
University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043

2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599

3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721

UAF is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity employer and educational institution. UAF is obligated to provide accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student who has a disability. Please identify yourself to UAF Disability Services by applying for accommodations. To be considered for UAF Disability Services accommodations individuals must be enrolled for at least one credit as a UAF student. For more information send Disability Services an e-mail at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu by phone at (907) 474-5655, or by TTY at (907) 474-1827
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, Gillotte 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