

WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

College of Architecture

Animated Processes

Summer 2020

Course Number: Arch7800

Instructor Name: Austin Samson

Classroom: Online

Office Location: Architecture Department

Class Schedule: Online

Appointments and Meetings: T/Th Upon Request

Lecture/Lab/Total Credits: 3/0/3 (Optional 4th Credit)

Office Telephone Number: Please contact via email below

Email address: samsona@wit.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seven-week course will focus on digital animation as a primary tool for developing and exploring spatial relationships in architecture. Starting with basic three-dimensional modeling and digital diagramming skills, students will develop a series of animations and diagrams that create, modify, and combine different arrangements of volume and massing studies – exploring thickness, thinness, intersecting geometries, carving, addition, and subtraction. Animation techniques allow designers to develop a choreographic approach to architectural design, to track iterations through a series of movements or sequences, and to effectively alter common spatial language. Students will learn techniques such as camera movement, lighting, and the use of animated sections to showcase their design outcomes.

This is a 3-credit course, offered with an optional additional credit of directed study for a total of 4-credits. The directed study will consist of an extra project in which students will apply animation techniques to a personal project.

The course will use Autodesk Maya, Rhino3D, and multiple Adobe programs to create the animations and diagrams. All software will be available to students for free through educational licenses. Students are not required to have prior knowledge of these programs, though some experience with 3D modeling is preferred. Students will also need a laptop that can run this software – please reach out to the Department of Technical Services for their recommended computer specs at <https://wit.edu/tech-services>.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites or corequisites.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):

- Di Mari, Anthony, Conditional Design: An Introduction to Elemental Architecture. BIS Publishers, 2017.
- Di Mari, Anthony and Yoo, Nora, Operative Design: A Catalogue of Spatial Verbs. BIS Publishers, 2018.

THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE:

Location: 103 Ward Street Boston MA 02115
Telephone: 617-445-8814

RECOMMENDED LEARNING MATERIALS:

All recommended learning materials will be provided by the professor in the form of online tutorials and PowerPoint presentations for each assignment.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Research an architectural precedent and extract relevant design concepts.
2. Analyze architectural imagery like diagrams and renderings.
3. Apply animation as a technique to showcase architectural concepts and spatial relationships.
4. Organize design concepts into a narrative or story using various types of media centered around video editing.
5. Evaluate the successes and failures of different spatial conditions and architectural relationships.
6. Create a series of animations which convey a meaningful analysis of architectural concept.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES:

All assignments will be accompanied by an online tutorial created by the professor. Additional instruction can be offered through Zoom upon request.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to turn in their assignments on time – see calendar below. Should a student be unable to turn in the assignment on its specified due date, they should contact the professor to discuss a proper course of action given the student's circumstances. If an assignment is late without an excused absence, the grade will be reduced by a full letter grade.

Excused absences will only be accepted for religious reasons, medical emergencies accompanied by a doctor's note, or personal emergencies submitted to the office of the Dean of Students. Athletes should present a schedule of anticipated absences for athletic events (not practices) at the beginning of the semester.

Please refer to the section titled "Attendance" in the 2019-2020 Academic Catalog.

GRADING POLICY:

Students will be given 5 assignments over the 7-week course. Each assignment will be worth 20% of the overall grade. Please see grading rubric for a breakdown of the grading method applied to each assignment.

Students who choose to enroll in the 4th credit option for the class will be given an additional 6th assignment. In this case, each assignment will be worth 16.5%

WENTWORTH GRADING SYSTEM:

Grade	Weight	Numerical Definition	Definition
A	4	96-100	Distinction
A-	3.67	92-95	High Pass
B+	3.33	88-91	Pass
B	3	84-87	Pass
B-	2.67	80-83	Provisional
F	0	0-79	No Pass

ADD/DROP:

Students should check the academic calendar to confirm the add/drop deadline. Dropping and/or adding courses is done online. Courses dropped in this period are removed from the student's record.

Non-attendance does not constitute dropping a course. If a student has registered for a course and subsequently withdraws or receives a failing grade in its prerequisite, **then the student must drop that course**. In some cases, the student will be dropped from that course by the Registrar. However, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that he or she meets the course prerequisites and to drop a course if the student has not successfully completed the prerequisite. The student must see his or her academic advisor or academic department chair for schedule revision and to discuss the impact of the failed or withdrawn course on the student's degree status.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Students will be required to make-up work on their own time using the learning materials provided. Please reach out to the professor to further discuss options and due dates.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

The Center for Academic Excellence facilitates Wentworth students' academic success and helps them to achieve their full learning potential. Students may choose to receive individual assistance through one-on-one tutoring in many subjects, including math, science, writing, and major classes. In addition, the Center for Academic Excellence offers Facilitated Study Groups (FSGs), tutor-led study tables, academic workshops, and learning-strategy consultations. The peer-tutoring program is certified by the College Reading and Learning Association's International Tutor Training Certification program. To make an appointment or to review our drop-in offerings, please visit www.wit.edu/cae. For additional assistance or support on subjects not listed, please reach out via email at cae@wit.edu.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT:

Students at Wentworth are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, prohibited collaboration, coercion, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, tampering with computers, destroying other people's coursework or lab or studio property, theft of course materials, posting coursework/course materials to websites, or other academic misconduct. If you have any questions, contact your professor prior to submitting an assignment for evaluation. See your academic catalogue for a full list of definitions and the WIT Academic Honesty website for the procedures: wit.edu/academic-honesty.

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT:

Students caught plagiarizing or otherwise using other students work as their own will first be given a warning along with a brief discussion as to how to generate their own work. If the student continues to plagiarize, they will receive a grade of 0 for the given assignment.

THE CENTER FOR WELLNESS:

College can be challenging, and it is common to feel overwhelmed or stressed at times. If these feelings are related to course work or academic performance, please talk to me. For more significant mental health concerns, **The Center for Wellness (003 Watson Hall, 617-989-4390)** provides free and confidential mental health counseling.

If you or someone you know needs support around thoughts of suicide, the following resources are available:

- The Center for Wellness, Watson 003, 617-989-4390, M-F 8:15-4:45
- Campus Police, First level of 610 Huntington Avenue, 617-989-4444, 24/7
- Samaritans, call or text 1-877-870-4673
- Crisis Text Line, text "start" to 741-741
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, call 1-800-273-8255
- GLBT Youth Hotline, call 1-866-488-7386
- Beth Israel Deaconess Emergency Room, 190 Pilgrim Rd Boston, MA

Students requiring academic accommodations must provide an official accommodation memo from **The Center for Wellness** and contact me privately to discuss logistics.

COLLEGE OF THE FENWAY STUDENTS:

If you are enrolled in this course through COF Cross Registration, notify your course instructor. Please provide her/him with your email address to be sure that you receive course information in a timely way. You should also discuss how to access online applications that might be used in the course.

SYLLABUS OUTLINE:

Week	Assignment	Topic
1	Assignment 1 - Use 3D modeling and rendering to produce massing diagrams of an assigned precedent study.	Digital Diagramming
2	Assignment 2 - Create a 10 second animation of your massing model that explores different spatial sequences.	Your First Animation – Part 1
3	Assignment 2 - Revise and edit your first animation based on feedback provided by your instructor.	Your First Animation – Part 2
4	Assignment 3 - Create a 10 second “subtraction” animation to add a second layer of complexity to your massing model.	Animated Carving
5	Assignment 4 - Take the resulting massing model from assignment 3 and use it to produce a complex animated section cut that lasts 15 seconds.	Animated Section Cuts
6	Assignment 5 - Sequence your animations into a single and coherent video while adding text, labels, and inserting diagrams.	Sequencing – Part 1
7	Assignment 5 - Revise and finalize your final video based on feedback provided by your instructor – turn in your final video.	Sequencing – Part 2