Welcome to Character Animation

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
Bring your imagination to life in **Character Animation**, a self-paced, semester-long course that introduces you to the art and science of animating characters with personality, emotion, and movement. Learn foundational techniques like timing, squash-and-stretch, and expressive gestures that turn static drawings into dynamic, lifelike characters.

Through interactive lessons and creative projects, you'll gain the skills to animate scenes that captivate and tell compelling stories. Whether you're a budding animator or an experienced artist, this course provides the flexibility and tools to develop at your own pace while building a professional portfolio of animated works that highlight your unique talent.

Syllabus
Unit 1: Introduction to Character Animation
- Understanding the principles of animation.
- Exploring the tools of the trade: software and hardware overview.
- Setting up your workspace for success.

Unit 2: Movement Basics
- Mastering the principles of timing and spacing.
- Animating simple objects to understand motion arcs.
- Practicing anticipation, action, and follow-through.

Unit 3: Bringing Characters to Life
- Exploring squash-and-stretch for dynamic motion.
- Creating believable walk cycles and basic locomotion.
- Introducing personality through posture and movement.

Unit 4: Expressions and Emotions
- Designing character faces for clear emotional storytelling.
- Animating eyes, eyebrows, and mouths for natural expression.
- Synchronizing gestures with emotions for enhanced storytelling.

Unit 5: Advanced Techniques in Character Animation
- Animating dialogue and lip-syncing to audio.
- Integrating secondary actions to enrich character movement.
- Exploring effects like shadows and exaggeration for dramatic impact.

Unit 6: Storytelling Through Animation
- Building compelling character arcs.
- Storyboarding short animated sequences.
- Setting up dynamic scenes to drive narratives.

Learning Outcomes
By completing this course, students will:
1. Master core animation principles, including timing, spacing, and squash-and-stretch.
2. Create lifelike character movements and expressions.
3. Develop original characters with compelling personalities and stories.
4. Build confidence in using animation tools and software.
5. Produce a professional-quality animation portfolio piece.

Conclusion
Character Animation is your gateway to the thrilling world of digital storytelling and visual art. This self-paced course empowers you to unleash your creativity, learn industry-standard techniques, and build skills at your own speed. By the end, you'll have the tools and confidence to bring any character to life. Start animating your dreams today.