ANIM 410 EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION FALL 2026

Instructor Name: David Hannon

Course Information:

Prerequisite: ART 317 and ART 318. Open only to animation majors or with departmental permission.

Meeting Times:
Monday / Wednesday / Friday (12:00pm – 1:50pm)

CRN:38442

Office Hours:
Monday / Wednesday / Friday (2:00pm – 3:00pm)

Ball State Academic Calendar:
https://www.bsu.edu/calendar/calendars/academic-calendar

Final Exam:
Wednesday, Dec 9, 2026 (12:00pm – 2:00pm)

Credits: 3 hrs per semester

Canvas Address:
https://bsu.instructure.com/courses/189742

Email: dthannon@bsu.edu

Zoom Personal Room Address:
https://bsu.zoom.us/my/**dthannon**

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:
This course focuses on the practice of illustration as an accompaniment to the written word. Students will investigate the editorial field of illustration and its contemporary use in blogs, news articles, chapter illustrations, and magazines. A variety of digital and analog techniques will be explored.

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Course Overview:
This course examines the variety of image-making opportunities in the field of editorial illustration. Students will examine the rich history and evolving role of editorial imagery while engaging with a wide range of techniques, media, and conceptual approaches. Designed for students seeking to refine their illustrative voice, this course encourages experimentation while responding to contemporary editorial content. Emphasis will be placed on visual communication, critical analysis, and historical context, as well as developing a strong visual vocabulary through regular critique and research.

Course Objectives:

Editorial Illustration: will explore illustration as a vehicle for self-expression and visual communication. This class will equip students with the knowledge and skill of how to illustrate a wide range of problems based on written texts. The course will expand on a foundation of Illustration skills by working on a variety of illustration techniques and approaches. The course will explore historical and contemporary concepts in field of illustration as well as expose the students to a diverse group of influential artists.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of diverse influential editorial artists
- Build on illustration techniques and production via research, practice, and experimentation
- Demonstrate the ability to illustrate and communicate concepts to an audience
- Create a collection of successful illustrations

Course Structure:
This is a studio class that meets in-person three days a week. Projects will be preceded by discussion, technique demonstration, PowerPoint, and will proceed with the instructor's guidance. The format for this class will combine lecture, demonstration, studio work time, group discussion, and critique. Students will work on both in-class and out of class painting projects. There will be homework assignments every week of the semester. There will also be a few homework exclusive painting projects.

Canvas:
Canvas will be the main method of communication and the location to find relevant course information, so it is important that you check it regularly. Grades for the class will be posted on Canvas and you can keep track of your progress there. Our Canvas site will have the assignment sheets, PowerPoints, demo videos when needed, and other helpful handouts. The Canvas course site will also include assignment due dates. You will also use Canvas to submit images of painting assignments when they are complete.

Course Time Commitment:
It is expected that students will spend approximately 3 hours on studio work outside of class for every 3 hours in class. Since this studio class meets 3 times per week for a total of 6 hours, you should expect to study/work a minimum of 6 hours outside of class each week.

Expectations:
For any class to be successful, a positive environment must be created and maintained. Each student will be held responsible to do their part. The standards that will be used to measure the classroom environment are attendance, citizenship, a positive attitude, an open mind, the will to learn, and respect for the mission of the class and your peers.

- Attend scheduled classes, scheduled zoom meetings (if needed) and complete projects on time.
- Communicate with the Professor via email or in person about absences.
- Complete required research, discussions/critiques, and studio assignments on time.
- Contribute to discussions/critiques in a respectful and constructive voice.

Participation:
You are expected to be an active participant in the course. This course is designed to include discussion and other forms of collaboration and communication within the studio and Canvas. You should be willing and ready to regularly communicate with me and your classmates. You will need to log into canvas weekly and check your official BSU University email account daily. Doing so will allow you to participate in class activities, prepare for and complete assignments and assessments. You are expected to complete all assignments, discussion posts, and any other activities by the due date. As a member of the art and design community, one has an obligation to speak honestly, and so that your unique ideas can enrich the class. It is vitally important that our classroom environment promotes a respectful exchange of ideas, where everyone is sensitive to the views and beliefs of others. The capacity to make articulate presentations and offer explanations for your choices is a fundamental skill. Equally important is your ability to give constructive responses to your peers' work. You will do this through in-process discussions and group critiques.

Critiques
Expect me to give you constructive criticism individually on a daily basis. Studio group critiques will be frequent (roughly once every two weeks). During these critiques I will employ varied critique strategies to engage dialog, analyze, and interpret your work. You are required to participate in these evaluations. This is your opportunity to discuss Illustration issues as a class. One of the best ways to learn about art is by questioning, forming and vocalizing opinions, challenging and being challenged. Always remember I am here to make you a better artist.

COURSE MATERIALS AND FEES

PLEASE NOTE – This Illustration class is an open media class, so it is your choice what way you work. Both digital and physical artwork will be accepted. If you are unsure which way to work, I can give you advice. As we progress through the semester, we will discuss other potential materials that you may choose to experiment with.

Sketchbook + any bold medium, Media Storage (portable hard drive, blank media, cloud drive, etc.), Recycled Sketchbooks are available at: Village Art Mart, 409 N. Martin Suite 2, Muncie IN. 47303 (765) 284-2919.

Wacom Pen – Please Note - Not all labs use the same pens, as a rule of thumb, all older pen models (KP501E2) work in all labs, new pens (KP504E Pro Pen 2) only work in the newer labs.

Here is a list of BSU
Animation labs in use and the correct pen model for each lab:
AJ 213A - KP501E2
AJ 246 - KP501E2
AJ 254 - KP504E Pro Pen 2
BC 137 - KP501E2 / Large Single monitor KP504E Pro Pen 2
RB 134 - No Cintiq's
RB 353 - KP504E Pro Pen 2

If you plan on working from home or want to have the consistency of always having a pen/stylus to work with, it is suggested that you purchase your own pen for the duration of the three-year program.

COURSE FEES/COST

No course fees. If you decide to work on physical work a reasonable expectation of material expenses to be around $200 for this course. Use what you have and buy what you need.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The Value of Your Work: As an artist/designer/creative, you help to determine the worth of your work and to cultivate respect for the work that you create. You should take care of your work, the execution, craftsmanship and maintenance of your work reflects on you. Maintaining a portfolio (physical/digital) is an important aspect of your development and education.

Editorial Illustration: Projects *70% of your final grade*

These projects are the bulk of your in-class work and homework. There will be around 9 major projects. These are equivalent to exams, in that you will be asked to implement ideas/techniques introduced in the class, and you will be graded on your understanding and application of the course material. You can expect to receive a major Illustration assignment about every two weeks.

Projects:

There are 9 illustration projects. You will be asked to implement ideas/techniques introduced in the class, and you will be graded on your understanding and application of them. You receive project assignments every month:

Due Date*	Points	Format	Assignment	Category
Aug 31	100	10W x 8H 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #1: Inspirobot – Inspirational Posters	Project

Sept 9	100	10W x 15H 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #2: Famous Portrait / Caricature	Project
Sept 21	100	varied formats 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #3: Traditional Editorial Illustration	Project
Oct 5	100	14W x 14H 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #4: Informative Illustration	Project
Oct 21	100	16W x 12H 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #5: Concept Illustration	Project
Nov 4	100	varied formats 300dpi	Editorial Illustration #6: Contemporary Feature Illustration	Project
Nov 18	100	your choice	Style Concentration Project 1:	Project
Dec 7	100	your choice	Style Concentration Project 2:	Project
Dec 9	100	your choice	Style Concentration Project 3: This is due during the final.	Project
	300	**Participation Credits**	Attendance	
	100	**Participation Credits**	Critique and Studio Citizenship	
Totals	**1300**			

**Submitted, ready to view, by the start of class*

Please refer to the course Canvas site for exact due dates for all assignments for this course. All assignments must be completely finished by the assigned due date. Completed assignments will be submitted through the Canvas site assignment for final grading.

Sketchbook: Bring your sketchbook to class at all times! During the semester, you will be continuously using your sketchbook. This will serve as a notebook and Illustration idea collection device. It should contain project research as well as compositional planning, reference drawings, and experimentation with Illustration ideas in the form of drawings.

Projects may be graded multiple times at different phases of completion. Assignments will generally be evaluated by the following criteria: handling of technique and concept, effort, creativity and thoughtfulness, and compositional elements. Specific criteria will be handed out with individual projects and may vary between assignments.

Final Review
will be during finals week and the final assignment will be reviewed in-person during our final exam period. By the end of the semester all work must be completed and submitted to Canvas in order to receive credit for this course. All projects will be critiqued in person and graded in Canvas. Every major and minor assignment must be present so save all of your work until the semester is complete.

Class Participation *30% of your final grade*
Students are expected to be prompt and prepared for class. Even though a student is absent, you are responsible for any new assignments or class work that may be due on that day. Being absent, poor planning, or lack of materials does not constitute a valid excuse for coming to class unprepared. You are required to be prepared to participate in individual and group critique and discussions.

Participation includes thoughtful, consistent contribution in discussions and critiques, as well as consistently demonstrated physical and mental effort towards work, research, and intellectual growth. Areas considered are overall effort toward your work, observance of classroom studio etiquette, class preparation, and oral participation. Participation in all aspects of the course is mandatory and weighs heavily in the final average.

Participation Points
There will be two assignments in Canvas that receive a grade. The two assignments will be Attendance and Critiques / Studio Citizenship A total of 400 total points will be available with 300 for attendance and 100 for critiques and studio citizenship.

Following the studio rules are covered by the participation portion of your grade

Animation Studio Rules

- No food allowed in class or lab at any time.
- Edible items brought to class or lab must be thrown out.
- Please log out of computer when done working. The lab will be updated remotely, and this is the easiest way for the tech to know that the computer can be updated.
- Break times are scheduled by the instructor at appropriate intervals.
- No private software is to be brought to lab or loaded onto school computers.
- No software games are allowed in lab (unless in course curriculum).
- Headphones are required if listening to music during lab. No headphones are allowed in lecture/critique.
- There will be no movie watching, instant messaging, texting, electronic social networking of any kind, or internet browsing during class hours unless it is class related.

Art Studio Rules

- No eating or drinking in the classroom or studio spaces
- Everyone must wear gloves if you are painting per OSHA guidelines
- Run exhaust fan at all times when painting in the studio
- Always clean up after yourself when using the studio
- Never pour solvents or sand into the sink
- Never eat or bring food into the studio per OSHA guidelines
- No spraying of fixatives, glue or paint except in spray booths
- Keep your locker and painting storage space clean
- Clean the studio and lockers of all your belongings by the end of the semester
- Studio Clean-Up Checklist to be submitted during finals week
- Keep your oil palette free of paint
- Keep your mediums and dirty oil-soaked rags in the yellow cabinet

Grading:
Your grade in this class is based on my assessment of the following areas.

- Your level of fulfillment of the already objectives.
- Your overall ambition and thought that is evident in the course work.
- Willingness to move outside your “comfort zones”.
- Evidence of growth
- Seriousness of purpose (effort and productivity at home and in classroom).

For information concerning grade appeals, consult the Ball State website.

Guidelines for Grading:
Grades are determined by quality of work, progress, effort, participation, and attendance. Specific criteria will be handed out with individual assignments. Projects that are presented and are unfinished will result in a below C grade.

Assigned work will generally be evaluated by the following criteria: handling of technique and concept, effort, use of materials, creativity and thoughtfulness, and compositional organization. Expect to turn in most of your work in a digital format through Canvas although original work will be required throughout the semester at specified times.

Meaning of Grades:
A = Excellent / Consistently superior effort, completion of all work, strong attendance, evidence of significant growth and commitment. Consistently exceptional work that raises the standards for one’s entire peer group.

B = Above Average / Strong effort, high quality of work and above-average growth; good participation and understanding of concepts; Exceeding the expectations of the class

C = Average / Average performance, work, and attitude that meet bare minimum expectations; work shows promise but has not been developed to full potential.

D = Below Average / Inconsistent effort, poor attendance/participation, below-average quality of work. Completion of most, but not all course requirements.

F = Failing Grade / Failure to meet the requirements of the course.

Final grade is determined according to the following point scale:

A = 100-94	B = 86-84	C = 76-74	D = 66-64
A- = 93-90	B- = 83-80	C-= 73-70	D- =63-60
B+ = 89-87	C+= 79-77	D+= 69-67	F = 59 or lower

Grade Appeals:
Here

COURSE STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is mandatory. Since studio time is the only opportunity for me to directly assist in your artistic development, you are required to attend class. I'm required to take and maintain records of class attendance. It is your responsibility as a student to keep track of and/or confirm with your professor how many sessions you have missed.

Absences- If you have a personal situation that causes an absence or absences, it is your responsibility to keep up with class assignments via Canvas. A personal situation could be if you become seriously ill or have a death or serious illness in the family again it's your responsibility to let me know when you will return to class via email. I don't need details but please keep me informed about your situation. Three missed class periods are permitted. After your 4th unexcused absence your grade will be lower one letter grade (for example: a B+ will become a B) this will be factored into your Participation Points assignment in Canvas, and more than eight absences will result in failure of this course.

Excused absences that are university-approved are reserved for funeral or bereavement, serving on a jury or as a court witness, participation in military duties, observance of a religious holiday, medical absences due to pregnancy or chronic/prolonged illness, or representing the

university at official athletics or academic events. Such absences must be justified by solid written documentation sent via email to instructor within one week of the missed class(es).

More information on excused absences is available here: https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student- services/attendance-policies

Late arrivals and early departures will be recorded (three of these will equal one regular absence). Extremely late arrivals will also be recorded as an absence. Again, more than four unexcused absences will lower your grade one letter grade (for example: a B+ will become a B. Missed Work- In the event of absence, students are responsible for all missed work. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with your professor within 48 hrs. to discuss missed work and how you can meet assignment due dates, regardless of absence.

Feedback Policy:
Emails addressed to me will be respond to as quickly as I quickly as I can, but this may take up to 24 hrs (Monday – Friday 8am to 9pm) within 48 hours on the weekend. Please be patient with me. I will make every effort to grade your assignments as soon as possible. Please feel free to email me or send a message in Canvas before that time if you have any questions or concerns about your performance in class.

Late Assignment Policy:
All assignments are due by the beginning of class on the due dates indicated. Late or incomplete assignments will affect your grade in a negative way. One class period late will lower your grade one letter grade and two class periods late will lower your grade two letter grades and so on.

Assignment Submission Policy:
The in class and homework assignments will be used to enhance your Illustration studio experience. All assignments are created to improve your Illustration knowledge and skills. Please refer to the Canvas site for exact due dates for in class and homework assignments for this course. All assignments must be completely finished by the assigned due date. Completed assignments will be submitted through the Canvas site assignment page.

Making Back-ups:
Students are responsible for their digital work. Never rely on the local computer HD or Desktop in the art labs or the Art Lab Share Server for any overnight storage or long-term storage. The Art Lab Share Server will be wiped every Sunday afternoon. The local HD and Desktop on each computer will be wiped clean on a daily basis. The Workspace drives on the computers will not be touched until the end of the semester over the breaks for cleanup. **The loss of class work due to the lack of backup is not a viable excuse in this class.** Hard drives corrupt or break - expect it and plan ahead for it. Always backup everything and do not leave all your files in one location (one location = one CPU).

Naming Conventions and File formats:
Completed assignment files must conform to naming conventions and requested file formats. Files should be named accordingly – “LastName_FirstInitial_ProjectName.fileextension”. Naming applies to layers, nodes, controls, effects, and other components within an file, “colorLayer_hi-lites”, “blur filter - bkgd”, “BKGD”.

Examples:

Beane_Andy_FinalRig.mb Baxter_James_FirstDraftAnimation.mov

Andrews_Mark_FinalStoryboard.pdf Violet_Gauntlets_revised1.fbx

File Formats:
When saving your digital work, it is best to save the image as a .png or .jpg.

AI Policy:
As part of this course, students are permitted to use text-based AI tools, including ChatGPT, to support their creative and technical work. However, the responsible and ethical use of AI is essential and should align with the principles of academic integrity, originality, and respect for the creative process.

Guidelines for AI Use:

1. **Purposeful Assistance**: AI tools may be used for brainstorming, generating ideas, refining written content, or solving technical challenges. AI should serve as a supplement to your own critical thinking and creativity, not a replacement.
2. **Transparency**: Clearly document when and how AI tools were used in your project.
3. **Originality and Ownership**: Ensure that the final work reflects your personal vision and effort. AI-generated content must be reviewed and integrated thoughtfully, not submitted as-is, to maintain the integrity of your artistic voice.
4. **Critical Evaluation**: Verify the accuracy, relevance, and originality of AI-generated content. Be cautious of relying on AI-generated outputs that may perpetuate biases, inaccuracies, or unoriginal ideas.
5. **Respect for Collaboration**: If collaborating with peers, discuss and agree upon the role AI will play in your shared work to maintain fairness and equitable contribution.

Ethical Considerations:

1. **Moral Responsibility**: Recognize the broader ethical implications of using AI tools, including potential issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism, and over-reliance on automated processes.
2. **Cultural Sensitivity**: Be mindful of biases or culturally insensitive outputs generated by AI tools. It is your responsibility to evaluate and adjust content to reflect ethical and inclusive values.

3. **Creative Integrity**: Understand that your capstone project is a demonstration of your skills and creativity as an artist and professional. Misuse of AI tools to shortcut the creative process can undermine the purpose of the course and your learning experience.

Consequences for Misuse:
Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in academic penalties, including loss of credit for assignments or projects where misuse is identified. Additionally, such behavior may be reported in accordance with the university's academic integrity policies.

Studio Access:
Key Cards: Your BSU ID is your key card. Your ID keycard will be activated for this class and will give you 24 hrs a day access to the AJ building and the illustration studio. The Art office has been working all summer with key control to get these cards working for us so if it doesn't work let me know.

After-hours access to School of Art labs and studios:
The School of Art students and faculty will need to have access to the labs and studios after or before regularly scheduled class period days and times. Please use the studios.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure:
Stairways at both ends of hall and next to department office.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Syllabus Statement:
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Ball State Academic Ethics Policy:
Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the complete Student Academic Ethics Policy.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is not acceptable, unless otherwise indicated for all assignments, you must work independently by yourself. Sharing of files is not permitted for any reason.

Potential Violations

Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Use or possession of a file created by someone else.
- Reusing work from another semester, course, or section.
- Fraudulent submission of work.
- Using unauthorized materials during Exams.
- Impersonating someone else or having them impersonate you.
- Making fraudulent or dishonest statements regarding your work.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.
- Posting course files and resources on study or content sharing websites.

Title IX mandatory reporting:
Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit www.bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator, the Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward. If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

CANVAS AND STUDENT PRIVACY

Canvas Accessibility:
Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is

designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010. Find more information by visiting the Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).

FERPA and Privacy:
As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Learning Center:
The Learning Center offers free tutoring for many courses. We also provide writing and study skills tutoring. Tutoring is delivered in-person in NQ 350 or online via Zoom: you decide! To make an appointment, visit my.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Additional Tools section, or just go directly to **https://bsu.navigate.eab.com**. You can also download the Navigate Student app. The Learning Center also has drop-in tutoring (no appointment necessary) for math, chemistry, and biology. Check our **website** for more information. Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center. For more information about all of our programming, visit **bsu.edu/learningcenter** or call 765-285-1006. Email us at learncenter@bsu.edu.

The Counseling Center:
The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State now also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found Here.

Cardinal Kitchen: Cardinal Kitchen is Ball State's campus food pantry. The pantry is open to all Ball State students Tuesday nights from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. throughout the year. It is located in Room L26 of the Student Center and you can contact them by phone: (765) 285-2621 or email: cardkitch@bsu.edu

The Basic Needs Hub:
If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the Basic Needs Hub. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a Basic Needs Assistance Form.

Financial Wellness:
The Ball State University Financial Wellness Office provides free and confidential financial education services to all students. Our mission is to help you take control of your finances and achieve your financial goals. We are located in Lucina Hall, Room B32, and can be reached at 765-285-3939 or via email at financialwellness@bsu.edu. Our services include personalized financial coaching, workshops, and resources on topics such as budgeting, debt management, financial aid literacy, credit building, and planning for your

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.