

Associate Professor Alicia Eggert

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Creative project presentation and project report in lieu of a written thesis.

\*Must be taken with your major professor.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

- Display an understanding of contemporary visual art
- Demonstrate the intention, motivation, and tools required to pursue a career as an artist and sustain a rigorous fine arts practice
- Demonstrate the visual, verbal and writing skills needed to engage with contemporary discourse in contemporary art
- Produce artwork that makes use of the interdependence between content, form, process, and context
- Display an intimate familiarity with historical and contemporary approaches to visual art and their interrelationships
- Demonstrate enhanced critical reasoning with broad historical overviews and social insight
- Deliver critiques of your own work
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate through oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and meet deadlines
- Individuate an approach to visual artmaking and address self-defined research projects with distinct and challenging parameters

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & SCHEDULE

Checklist of required activities during your final semester in Studio Art. Discuss deadlines with your Supervisory Committee Chair.

When	What	Completed
Early in the Final semester	Attend a check-in advising meeting with department Chair and Committee Chair	
Early in the Final semester	Work with your Supervisory Committee to plan: 1. Confirm dates and location for your art documentation, to be held before April 22 2. Schedule date/time/location for your Oral Defense, to be held before April 17 3. Schedule meetings with your Committee Chair and full committee	
All Semester	Work on your Brief Artist Statement, approximately 100 words long.	
All semester	Work on your Project Report The MFA Project Report Template in the <a href="#">Studio Art Forms Library</a> must be used. Additional information about the report is found below in this syllabus.	

All semester	Regularly meet with Supervisory Committee Chair to review drafts of your Project Report and Artist Statement. (reminder: you must meet with your full committee two times during the last two semesters). Your full committee must sign off on your <a href="#">Final Defense</a> and <a href="#">Project Report Approval</a> forms.	
All semester	Continue taking professional-quality, high-resolution photos of your work for graduation requirements—record titles, sizes of works, mediums, etc., in a table or spreadsheet. <i>Do not</i> take these images with your phone. Photograph the work unframed or as appropriate. Review the images with your committee chair. Keep in mind the image size requirements – 1280 pixels on longest side x 72ppi	
February 26, 2021	Last day to apply for Spring 2021 Graduation with the Toulouse Graduate School; this is required to graduate. <a href="#">Instructions here</a>	
10 days before your Oral Defense	Submit your <a href="#">Oral Defense Announcement Form</a> to the department office. Submit your <a href="#">Oral Defense Notification form</a> to the Toulouse Graduate School	
Before April 17, 2021	Document your work Finalize your MFA Project Report Hold your Oral Defense	
April 19, 2021	Your Supervisory Committee Chair will submit these items to the Chair of the Department of Studio Art: Your signed <a href="#">Final Defense Form</a> Your MFA Project Report Your signed <a href="#">MFA Project Report Form</a>	
By April 30, 2021, midnight	Apply for MFA Graduation with the Studio Art Department through Slideroom. <a href="#">(1211) Studio Art MFA Candidate Graduate Submission - Spring 2021</a>  Except for the forms, these submitted materials will be publicly available online in the <a href="#">UNT Graduate Student Works Collection</a> .  Image size requirements– 1280 pixels on longest side x 72ppi	
By April 30, 2021	Submit to Department office ( <a href="mailto:studio@unt.edu">studio@unt.edu</a> ) •the completed MFA Catalogue Information Sheet – emailed to each MFA candidate in early April •your headshot - 1280 pixels on longest side x 72ppi; please see <a href="https://www.untstudioartmfa.com/">https://www.untstudioartmfa.com/</a> for examples.	
By May 10, 2021	Vacate your studio following the Vacation Procedures in your <a href="#">Studio Space Agreement</a> .	

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & SCHEDULE

Assignments	Due Date	Worth
Creation of artworks	Before exhibition	30 points
Project Report - 2nd Draft	Midterm	15 points
Project Report - Final Draft	1 week Before Oral Defense	15 points
Exhibition installation & de-installation per gallery guidelines and contract	Based on exhibition dates	10 points
Documentation of works in exhibition and installation views	Before Oral Defense	15 points
Oral Defense Presentation	At Oral Defense	10 points
Submission of Project Report & Studio Administrative Paperwork	End of Semester	5 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>100 points</b>

## PROJECT REPORT

Your Project Report will be an “Artist’s Talk” on paper, where you discuss your exhibition and your work, specifically covering these aspects, in one of the following ways.

WHY	WHAT	HOW
WHAT	HOW	WHY
HOW	WHY	WHAT

You must use the MFA Project Report Template, found in the [Studio Art Forms Library](#), for your paper. The Project Report should include a separate title page with the names of your Committee Chair, your Committee Members, and the Chair of the Department of Studio Art. You may use any writing style guideline, as long as you use it correctly. <https://guides.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides/basics>

Your written report should include images of your work or works you refer to, with appropriate labeling, e.g., **Fig. 1. Yayoi Kusama. *Flowers*. 2002. Lithograph; 20 x 14 in.** Images can be in the text of the paper or placed at the end. Do not wrap text around images.

Cite your sources in a bibliography.

### Here are two examples of well-done MFA Project Reports:

Keela Dooley, [MFA Project Report](https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1538808/) (https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1538808/)

Karla Garcia, [MFA Project Report](https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1538811/) (https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1538811/)

## GRADING

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc...) and at mid-term. Note: There are no pluses and minuses given at UNT.

A = Excellent (100-90%)

B = Above Average (89-80%)

C = Average (79-70%)

D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]

F = Failure (59% or below)

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

## DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas' Office of Risk Management. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>

## HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION (SCULPTURE SHOP)

### 1. Hazards (Inherent)

#### Metal Shop and Wood Shop Equipment

Most wood and metal shop equipment/hand tools involve high speed rotating or revolving blades or sanding disks that can be dangerous if not used properly. Lifting heavy materials, equipment, and tools can lead to strain injuries. Electric tools cause vibrations, which can also lead to strain on the muscles. Noise from percussive equipment and tools can damage hearing.

#### Metals and Metal Compounds

Metalworking produces toxic and/or irritating dust and fumes. Welding, heat cutting/bending and brazing produces toxic fumes and radiates UV light. Both electrical and structural soldering produces toxic fumes from flux (hydrochloric acid and phosphors). Solder may contain lead, which is toxic. Corrosion products used in patinas (oxides, carbonates, sulfides, or sulfates) produce toxic fumes and irritating dust.

#### Metal Casting and Mold Techniques

Metal casting produces toxic fumes. Cast mold techniques (resin bonded sand, traditional investment and ceramic shell) produces fumes and/or irritating dust and generates liquid hazardous waste. Silica sand generates toxic, irritating dust when mixing, and exposure can cause silicosis.

#### Woodworking Sanding and Cutting

Sanding and cutting wood produces toxic and/or irritating dust. The organic chemicals produced by trees (terpenes, paraffin, fatty acids, phenols, phthalic acid esters, sterols, stilbenes, flavonoids, and

cyclic or acyclic tannins) can be toxic if absorbed through the skin, the respiratory tract, or orally. Lumber intended for use in contact with the outdoor elements is chemically treated with additives (fire retardants, pesticides, and preservatives) and produce highly toxic fumes and dust. Plywood and Composition Boards contain wood glues and adhesives (urea-formaldehyde, phenol-formaldehyde resins or urethane plastics) which cause toxic fumes and irritating dust when cutting or sanding.

#### Spray Paint, Stains, Solvents, Paint Stripper and other Aerosol Sprays

Spray paint, stains, Paint Strippers and other aerosol sprays produce toxic fumes, skin irritants and generates liquid hazardous waste in excess paint and solvents used in cleaning (acetone, mineral spirits).

#### Epoxy, Natural and Synthetic Polymers, Polyester Resins

Epoxies, resins, glues, plastics/acrylics and body fillers produce toxic fumes, skin irritants and generate both toxic and liquid hazardous waste. All of these (including some stones) can contain silica causing toxic fumes when sanded. Some polyester resins, plastics, urethane rubbers, and silicon rubbers are used in mold making and can be even more toxic and irritating to the skin when in liquid form.

#### Stones, Plaster, Cement and other Dusts, Clays and Powders

Minerals in stone, ceramics, glass, and abrasives (e.g. flint, steatite, dolomite, fluorspar stone, silica, garnet) produces toxic and irritating dust. Plaster is calcium sulfate, which produces toxic, irritating dust when mixing. Cement is a mixture of finely ground lime, alumina, and silica, which produces toxic, irritating dust and skin irritation when mixing. Cement is also highly alkaline and can burn then skin when exposed.

## **2. Best Practices**

- All students must attend an orientation before using the wood and metal shops. During the orientation all shop rules and policies are presented as well as a discussion of the proper and safe use of shop tools.
- If you have never before used a specific tool or machine, please ask an Instructor, Shop Technician, or Graduate Student Assistant for a hands-on demonstration of the equipment. You must demonstrate your ability to properly operate the equipment prior to using it without supervision.
- Work in a well-ventilated area (or outside) while working with any material or practice that produces toxic or irritating fumes or dust (Resins, chemicals, oil-based paints, and solvents may not be mixed indoors).
- Purchase a good half face respirator that fits snug on your face (3M is a good brand)
- Never share your respirator with another peer (exchanging germs can cause illness)
- It's best to get a respirator that has a filter for both vapors and particulates
- Shave facial hair so respirator fits face snug
- When not in use, store respirator in a plastic bag to prolong the longevity of the filters – the filters will continue to work if not properly sealed.
- Change filters often depending on use (see instruction manual of specific respirator)
- ALWAYS clean up all messes produced by any material or practice to prevent from exposing others to the hazards of that material and/or practice.
- Steel-toed boots or metatarsal covers are best for many practices in the sculpture area.
- Shield eyes with approved safety wear. Safety goggles and face shields are most commonly used for many different sculpture methods.
- Wash hands (including under fingernails) after using toxic materials and chemicals (even if you were wearing gloves). Pumice hand cleaners are available in the shop.
- Wear Nitrile gloves and use plastic drop cloth to contain chemicals, paints, and stains when applying.
- Make sure to wear the proper safety gear for each process.
- All spray painting must be done in spray booth and you must put wood, plastic, or cardboard down on the surface that you are spraying on as to prevent any permanent back spray.
- Welding, soldering, and brazing should be done in a well-ventilated area. Never produce metal sparks or fire near the wood shop. All hot metal working needs to be done in the designated area or outside.
- Always use common sense, avoid distractions and concentrate on the task at hand.
- To prevent hearing loss, use proper hearing protection when working with loud equipment/tools. Earplugs are available in the shop.

- Sculpture materials can sometimes get messy. Make sure to wear clothes that you are ok with getting dirty or you may want to purchase an apron (note: an apron cannot be used with all materials, it can sometimes be a danger when working with wood shop or metal shop equipment).

### 3. Links

<http://www.uab.edu/ohs/>  
[https://www.osha.gov/Publications/woodworking\\_hazards/osha3157.html](https://www.osha.gov/Publications/woodworking_hazards/osha3157.html)  
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/metalworkingfluids/>  
<https://www.osha.gov/doc/outreachtraining/htmlfiles/weldhlth.html>  
[http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS\\_library/sculpturehazards.txt](http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS_library/sculpturehazards.txt)  
<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/artsafety/sec14.htm>

### 4. Area Health & Safety Rules

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

- Follow all CVAD Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found here: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>)
- Follow the CVAD Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted
- In case of emergency, call campus police at (940)565-3000 or call 911
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the CVAD H&S handbook and in the main office. Turn completed forms into the Studio Art Departmental Office within 48 hours of the event).
- Do not prop classroom doors. Doors are to remain closed to ensure the building HVAC and ventilation work properly.
- No food or drink in the studio.
- Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor or the shop technician.
- Use best practices for material handling. If you have questions about a material, ask an instructor for guidance or check the MSDS sheet.
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash station and first aid kit. Notify your instructor if first aid supplies are low.
- Do not spray any aerosols in any CVAD classroom/studio/doorway or exterior wall/floor. Use the spray booth.
- No eating, consumption of alcohol or smoking is permitted in the studios.
- Wear close-toed shoes only – NO SANDALS!
- Tie up any long hair and remove any loose jewelry or clothing.
- ALWAYS clean up all messes produced by any material or practice to prevent from exposing others to the hazards of that material and/or practice.
- ALWAYS make sure that you are 100% sober and awake! Drugs, smoking and alcohol are not allowed in the studio and anyone under the influence should not attempt to use the facilities.
- Make sure to wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for each process. The proper eye protection, hearing protection, clothing, shoes, and gloves must be worn when using any power tools/equipment. Earplugs, welding jackets, leathers, face shields, welding helmets and goggles, leather gloves, and Nitrile gloves are available in the shop. Students need to purchase their own dust masks, respirators and safety goggles (do not share – exchanging germs can cause illness).
- Students are prohibited from taking home any UNT property.
- Newspaper or plastic must be used to protect table and floor surfaces from paint, glue, stains and plaster.
- Any trash that does not fit in the trash can must be immediately taken to the dumpster. Broken glass must be packed inside paper and labeled on the outside as broken glass and walked to the dumpster. The trash guidelines are to ensure the safety of anyone encountering the trash. Liquids, medical waste, yard waste, appliances and pallets are prohibited from disposal in the dumpster.
- Students are prohibited from storing materials or projects in the wood or metal shops, please use the shelves & lockers provided.
- Do not use stationary equipment to cut painted, recycled or chemically treated lumber.

- Never wear head phones when working with power tools/equipment (you need to hear the machine or other people if something goes wrong).
- Dust off tools and/or equipment, tables and sweep the floor when finished using any equipment and tools
- Do not block doorways or walkways with materials.
- Put back all tools, safety gear, and extension cords in their designated location.
- Scrap material must be relocated in the designated scrap wood bin or scrap metal bin. Please do not leave any materials out or on the shelves that you do not want. Properly discard any unwanted materials in the trash or the Satellite Waste Management area and properly labeled.
- No hazardous materials, cement, wax or plaster down the sinks.
- Do not block doorways or block access to lights.
- Do not remove furniture from rooms or borrow furniture from rooms without permission from the area coordinators.
- Do not create “daisy chains” with multiple electric cords.
- No hazardous materials down sinks.
- Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.
- All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.
- Follow the **CVAD CONTAINER POLICY** (see below)

There are 3 types of labels used in CVAD.

All containers must have a label identifying the contents at all times.

#### UNIVERSAL LABELS (while chemical is in use)

All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials (or what might be perceived as hazardous - i.e. watered-down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents) must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice. Labels can be found in the studios. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened.

#### UNIVERSAL WASTE LABELS (when material is designated as waste)

All containers solely containing a universal waste must have a universal waste label identifying the contents as “Universal Waste - (type of universal waste)” that are designated as waste for proper disposal. The label must also include the date the first item of universal waste entered the container.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE LABELS

All hazardous waste containers must have a label identifying the contents as hazardous.

Labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item. All constituents should equal 100%.

## **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

UNT Emergency Guide: <https://emergency.unt.edu/emergency-guidelines-0>

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

## **STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

## **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

## **SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & ASSAULT**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources\\_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.