MFA Project In Lieu of Thesis: EXHIBITION

ASTU 5020 Spring 2024
Instructor: Andrew (Andy) DeCaen
Meeting: periodically on Friday afternoons (see Calendar PDF)
Office Hours: by appointment Thursdays 11:30am-1:30pm in person or on Zoom Personal Meeting ID 562 058 6888
Email: andrew.decaen@unt.edu

Course Description

Creative project presentation and extended artist statement in lieu of a written thesis.
*Must be taken with your major professor.

Course Outcomes

- Individuate an approach to visual artmaking and address self-defined research projects with distinct and challenging parameters
- Demonstrate the visual, verbal, and writing skills needed to engage with contemporary discourse in contemporary art
- Display a familiarity with historical and contemporary approaches to visual art and their interrelationships
- Demonstrate an ability to communicate through oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and meet deadlines

Course Structure

We will meet periodically on Friday afternoons as a group at 2pm, or individually as follows:

- 2pm Chenxi: in your private studio or another place scheduled.
- 3pm Magaly: in your private studio or another place scheduled.
- 4pm Sunil: in your private studio or another place scheduled.

There are 4 modules, each with several graded assignments. The first Module will examine professional documentation of creative research. The second module will examine the progression of the Extended Artist's Statement. The third Module will cover prestnations (Review and Defense). The fourth module will idetify a series of deadlines for completion of this capstone cours and the MFA degree.
We will meet weekly as laid out in the Calendar.

Course Calendar

Please review the PDF calendar for descriptions of what we will address each meeting.

Communication

- Please use regular email. Messages sent via the Canvas site are usually flagged as "Clutter."

Course Requirements and Grading

Graded Assignments:

- Photo-Documentation of individual works, **4 points** **Due May 10**
- Photo-Documentation of exhibition installation, **4 points** **Due May 10**
- MFA Exhibition Press Release & Digital Postcard, [**4 points Due March 1**
- Starting Draft Extended Artist's Statement, **1 point Due Jan 26**

- Exhibition Draft Extended Artist's Statement, **4 points Due Variable Dates:**
  Chenxi: Due March 8
  Magaly: Due March 29
  Sunil: Due: April 12
- Final Draft Extended Artist's Statement, **1 point** (approx. 5% of total, **Due by May 1**

- MFA Supervisory Committee Meeting Presentation. **1 point** (approx. 5% of total, **Due by Feb 9**
- MFA Defense (During Exhibition) **1 point** (approx. 5% of total, **Due during your exhibition week**

Additional Deadlines Required for completion of this course:

- Apply for Graduation with UNT Registrar. **Deadline Feb 16**
- Submit Oral Defense Announcement Form to Studio Art Dept. **Due Variable Dates:**
  Chenxi: Due March 1
  Magaly: Due March 29
  Sunil: Due: April 12
- Submit Signed Final Defense Form to Studio Art Dept **Deadline May 3**
- Apply for Graduation with Studio Art Dept through Slideroom.

- Links to an external site. **Deadline May 6-10**
- Submit MFA Catalogue materials to Studio Art Dept Office. **Deadline May 6-10**
- Vacate your studio; as per procedures in Studio Space Agreement, **Deadline May 17**

Each assignment is posted in Canvas Modules where there are specific requirements.

Point Grade Scale for Projects/Assignments:

4-point projects:
A (4.00 points) Excellent work that exceeds objectives, is very high in originality, and extremely well-conceived and executed.
A-(3.75 points)
B+(3.25 points)
B (3.00 points) Good work that meets the objectives, is high in originality, and well-conceived and executed.
B-(2.75 points)
C+(2.25 points)
C (2.00 points) Average acceptable work that meets the objectives, is fairly well-conceived and executed.
C-(1.75 points)

D+(1.25 points)
D (1.00 points) Inferior work that is minimally complete, but falls short of the objective of the project.
D-(0.75 points)
F (0.00 points) Failing work. Significantly incomplete, does not meet the objectives, and is poorly executed and/or conceived

1-point projects:
A (1 points) Excellent work that exceeds objectives, is very high in originality, and extremely well-conceived and executed.
A-(.94 points)
B+(.81 points)
B (.75 points) Good work that meets the objectives, is high in originality, and well-conceived and executed.
B-(.69 points)
C+(.56 points)
C (.5 points) Average acceptable work that meets the objectives, is fairly well-conceived and executed.
C-(.44 points)
D+(.31 points)
D (.25 points) Inferior work that is minimally complete, but falls short of the objective of the project.
D-(.19 points)
F (0.00 points) Failing work. Significantly incomplete, does not meet the objectives, and is poorly executed and/or conceived

Grade Scale for End of Semester:
UNT only allows whole-letter grades for the semester grade.

A (20 - 17.46 points)
B (17.45 - 12.46 points)
C (12.45 - 7.46 points)
D (7.45 - 2.46 points)
F (2.45 - points)

Late Work Policy

Deadlines are final in this class. No late assignments will be graded. It is imperative to complete assignments by the deadlines. Drafts of the Extended Artist's Statement are reviewed regularly. If little progress has been made on these items, the grade will be low for that draft. In order to make good use of individual meeting class times, be prepared to show progress on assignments as listed in the calendar.

Late Work Policy // Project Re-Submissions

If you cannot complete an assignment when it is due, you may turn-in a partially finished assignment. The grade will reflect this. The incomplete assignement may be re-turned-in by following these directions:

- 1: Complete the project and read the Canvas Grade Comments.

- 2: Respond to the Canvas Grade Comment by attaching the revised version of your complete project *Note: if you just "resubmit" your assignment on Canvas, the previous submission attempt will be deleted, so you must submit all the files in the project.
- 3. Send a normal email to decaen@unt.edu (Not Canvas message) to let me know you have turned in a completed version of the assignment so that I know you want it re-graded.
- The deadline for turning in an assignment for re-grading is the meeting day.
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Submitting Projects On Canvas

Assignments are to be also turned-in on Canvas by the due date in the assignments. Some assignments do not show a due date on canvas because the date is variable according to when your MFA Exhibition dates. These variable dates are written in the project description and in the Calendar PDF.

Photographic documentation assignments must be professional quality.

Written assignments must follow standards of spelling and grammar and citation.

Integrity of Authenticity

Turn in the products of your own creative work.
If you are using the words that someone else wrote in a written assignment, you must use quotation marks and cite your sources. If you have any questions on this topic, please ask me or read the following link:
https://teachingcommons.unt.edu/teaching-essentials/academic-integrity/academic-integrity-primer. Using using Artificial Intelligence software to write any part of a written assignment is not allowed without explicit permission.

If you are using Artificial Intelligence software as part of your image ideation or image creation process, please do this with thoughtful conceptual purpose that demonstrates more than creative deficiency, and address your conceptual motivations in your project/artist's statement.

***NOTE: *I retain the right to change the syllabus and post changes on Canvas Announcements if the needs of the course or students change*

Attendance Policies sp24 ASTU 5020
Attendance Policies

Attending all scheduled class days is essential to success in this class. Attendance may be in-person or virtual when suitable.

Two absences will reduce the semester Grade by one letter grade.

Three absences will reduce the semester Grade by two letter grades.

Four absences will reduce the semester Grade by three letter grades.

If you must be absent: Email me before class to let me know and so that we can see if we can meet another time.

If you must be absent, Email me before class to let me know. I appreciate knowing so that I won't wait for you to arrive late,

I may excuse only up to three absences in the duration of the semester.

Download Calendar 5020 Exhibition Sp24.pdf (98.3 KB)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Access to reliable Wifi with bandwidth suitable for Zoom calls.
- Device capable of Zoom features: audio, video, chat, share, etc
  (including webcam and mic if not already in this device)
- MS Word or comparable word processing app capable to save as a PDF.
- MS PowerPoint or comparable visual presentation app capable to save as a PDF.
- DSLR Camera, good smartphone camera, or scanner capable of making clearly focused images at 300 pixels per inch.
- Adobe Photoshop or other digital imaging software for editing photos and/or creating artworks.

Canvas Requirements

Please familiarize yourself with the technology requirements to use Canvas

- Hardware and Software Requirements for Canvas
- Canvas Browser Check

Optimizing Weak Wifi Bandwidth on Zoom

We may all experience unpredictable internet periodically, but I want to offer some suggestions that may help with this. When you are on a zoom call it may help to:

- Close all other unnecessary apps (on a computers or and on phones).
- Ask others using the same wifi to pause their use until your call is complete. (I know this is not always possible.)
- Turn off Video and/or Audio features if you are experiencing a bad connection.

Online Rules of Engagement

Online Rules of Engagement. refers to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online.

Technology Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. The UNT Student Help Desk can help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm
Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

CVAD Computer Lab

https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/labs/cvad-scl
CVAD Computer Lab has computers with software available during open hours. They also have laptops and other equipment available for short-term check-out.

UNT Willis Library Computer Lab

https://library.unt.edu/services/computer-labs/
UNT Willis Library Computer Lab has computers with software available during open hours. They also have laptops and other equipment available for short-term check-out.

UNT Willis Library Spark Lab

https://guides.library.unt.edu/spark
UNT Willis Library Spark Lab has Cricut Machines for digitally cutting small (up to 12" x 24") paper or vinyl. Training required. The Spark Lab is open at the start of the semester.

CVAD Fabrication Lab

https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/fablab/
CVAD Fab Lab has Vinyl Cutters, Laser Cutters, and many other digital fabrication toos available during open hours. Training required. The Fab Lab is open after the 12th class day of the semester.

Adobe Creative Cloud

UNT Students may subscribe for a discount to buy Adobe® Creative Cloud™
All the apps. All the time. 100GB of free storage!
One Time Cost with your UNT-student discount
Details: https://news.cvad.unt.edu/adobe-news

Links to an external site.
Purchase: https://unt.edu/adobe

UNT & CVAD Policies

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 Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations 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.

CVAD Health and 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. (also available as PDF in the Files of this course)

Health & Safety Best Practices for Printmaking Studios

Please read the appendixes of the H&S manual for the Printmaking Program https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafetyLinks to an external site.

Emergency Notification and Procedures

UNT Emergency Guide: https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us

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.

Student Evaluations of Teaching

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 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 or email 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

Important Academic Dates

- Registration Guides by Semester
- Online Academic Calendar
- Final Exam Schedule.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, 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.

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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The Dean of Students Office enforces the Code of Student Conduct. The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and the sanctions that can be assigned. When students may have violated the Code they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is

experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Visit Title IX Student Information for more resources.

Content in the Arts Disclaimer

Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Download Handbook_Heath-Safety_8-12-18-1.pdf (12.4 MB)
Download Printmaking HealthSafety-1.pdf (111 KB)

Printmaking Syllabus Agreement (online Quiz)