MFA Print Praxis
ASTU 5001.501
Instructor: Andrew (Andy) DeCaen
Office Hours: by appointment M 3-5pm on Zoom Personal Meeting ID 562 058 6888
Email: andrew.decaen@unt.edu please contact through email (not canvas).

Course Description

Readings, discussion and/or studio exploration of various art issues. Praxis graduate seminars are intensive topical or single discipline-based courses which encourage innovation, the development of a new method, idea and results. Seminars vary in structure offering a blend of reading/writing/presentation/discussion and studio practice/group critique.

Course Content

Each graduate student will develop a portfolio of artworks according to their experience. The course will frame printmaking in within and an expanded context including traditional, experimental, and interdisciplinary processes. This course is not a process-specific course so there will be no mandated technical demonstrations, yet if a student wants to learn a new process, they may “shadow” a more experienced student to learn basics. Always ask when you have technical questions. In addition to making artworks for this class, students will engage in related contextual research, and professional documentation. Course content will also cover contextual research and assignments to lay a foundation for professional studio practice.

Course Structure
(Fall 2021, In-Person Plan)

This course is structured with an in-person modality. We will meet twice per week (from 2:00PM - 4:50PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays). In-person attendance on both days is necessary to successfully participate in this class.

This course meets simultaneously with ASTU 4600 BFA Senior studio. The course structure and calendar is shaped to with days when the instructor will focus primarily on the MFA Praxis group and days when the instructor focuses primarily on the BFA Senior group while the MFA Praxis group works independently making progress in the printmaking studios.

There are 3 Projects plus a holistic evaluation of the Cumulative Semester Portfolio. Students will do Contextual Research Presentations and Project Statements with each project, and a Professional Documents Assignment. Canvas will be a means to me to relate course structure, deliver additional content, and make weekly announcements and /or reminders. Projects will be turned-in on Canvas. Students will create independent projects with new work complete at 3 critiques. Class time will include discussions, presentations, critiques, and studio work time in which students are expected to be self-directed and productive. Attendance and participation at all classes and the final clean up session is mandatory. The last 10 minutes of each class will
be reserved for a mandatory studio cleaning time. We will use a class session at the end of the semester for a holistic group clean-up session.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a Graduate-level command of creative research with the ability to:

1. Form creative research questions related to the content of their artwork.
2. Technically manipulate materials through Lithography and related processes.
3. Create a unified portfolio of artworks resulting from the prior objectives.
4. Engage in critical dialog related to this portfolio and portfolios of peers.
5. Apply standards for formal documentation of the artist’s creative practice.

**Prerequisite(s):** Must be a current Studio Art MFA student.

**Communication**

- Instructor: Andrew (Andy) DeCaen
- Office Hours: by appointment M 3-5pm on Zoom Personal Meeting ID 562 058 6888
- Email: andrew.decaen@unt.edu

I prefer you to communicate personal concerns or questions directly in class or via regular email. Messages sent via the Canvas site are flagged as "Clutter," so it is better to send a regular email. I am available for professional advising or academic advising during office hours by appointment in-person or via Zoom.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

- **Cumulative Semester Portfolio** [8 points (approx. 29%) of total, graded at end of term] *Cohesion & progression of conceptual themes, imagery, & form.*
- **Professional Documents** [4 points (approx. 14%) of total, graded at end of term] *Cumulative Artist’s Statement, expanded JPG images, Image ID sheet, & Artist’s Resume*
- **Project #1: Your Choice** [4 points (approx.14%) of total] JPG images showing complete consistent Limited Edition, complete Monoprint Series, or another format.  
  Project #1 Statement  
  Project #1 Contextual Research Documentation.
- **Project #2: Variations Using the Matrix** [4 points (approx.14%) of total]  
  JPG images showing complete consistent Limited Edition, complete Monoprint Series, or another format.  
  Project #2 Statement  
  Project #2 Contextual Research Documentation.
• **Project #3: Mixed Process** [4 points (approx.14%) of total]
  JPG images showing complete consistent Limited Edition, complete Monoprint Series, or another format.
  Project #3 Statement.
  Project #3 Contextual Research Documentation.

• **Participation in Class & Critiques** (graded at each project module, accumulated to 3.99 points (approx.14%) of total)
  Participation grade with project 1: 1.33 points
  Participation grade with project 2: 1.33 points
  Participation grade with project 3: 1.33 points

*All Projects are graded on mastery of technical craft (imaging+printing), conceptual investment, & compositional strength along with a project statement and contextual research presentation. Each assignment will be posted in Cavas Modules where there will be specific requirements.*

*(Failing to return borrowed tools in good condition at the end of the semester will reduce the course semester grade by one full letter.)*

**Point Grade Scale for Projects/Assignments:**

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

**Point Grade Scale for Each of the Three Participation Grades:**

A (1.33 points) Consistently excellent productivity for both in-person and at-home classes, fully engaged on Zoom/Canvas classes, AND Thoughtfully excellent engagement in live+online critiques.
A-(1.25 points)  
B+(1.09 points)  
B (1 point) Consistently good productivity for both in-person and at-home classes, engaged on Zoom/Canvas classes, AND Thoughtfully good engagement in live+online critiques.  
B-(0.92 points)  
C+(0.77 points)  
C (0.67 points) Acceptable productivity for both in-person and at-home classes, acceptably engaged on Zoom/Canvas classes, AND acceptable engagement in live+online critiques.  
C-(0.58 points)  
D+(0.43 points)  
D (0.33 points) Inconsistent productivity for either in-person or at-home classes, fully engaged on Zoom/Canvas classes, and/or inconsistently engaged in live+online critiques.  
D-(0.75 points)  
F (0.00 points) Significantly unproductive for either in-person or at-home classes, disengaged on Zoom/Canvas classes, and/or disengaged in live+online critiques.

Grade Scale for End of Semester:  
*UNT only allows whole-letter grades for the semester grade.*  
A (23.99-21 points)  
B (20.99-17 points)  
C (16.99-14 points)  
D (13.99-10 points)  
F (9.99-0 points)  

**Late Work Policy**

If you cannot complete your project when it is due, please submit the project in its unfinished state. If you have to submit an unfinished project, you may ask to resubmit the completed project later*. In this case, the critique will be very short. Your participation grade will be no better than a C if you present the project incomplete. Coming to critique with nothing to present will earn an F for the project grade and a D or F for the participation grade. If you have not completed an assignment on time because of an excused absence, then this may be taken into consideration.

**Project Re-Submissions**

If you need to resubmit a project due to its being incomplete, or if you need to re-make a project because you were unsatisfied with the grade, you may resubmit until a date marked on the course calendar PDF. This project will earn no better than a B grade. Re-submissions may be submitted on canvas in the Project Re-submissions Module.

**Submitting Projects and Assignments on Canvas**
All projects and assignments are to be turned-in on Canvas. The quality of your digital image is imperative to evaluate the work. Poor documentation may result in a low grade. Please read the page titled "Photographing/Scanning Artworks for Submission on Canvas" to prepare these digital images well. Please pay close attention to file naming conventions described in each project outline. Be mindful of deadlines in each assignment.

***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 F2021**

**Attendance Policies**

Attending all scheduled class days is essential to success in this class. Attending in-person is essential for success in this course. When you attend in-class, I can assist you with the nuance of printing and other technical processes in real space/time. You may also learn as much from your peers as you do from me. Your participation in-person also contributes to the community experience of printmaking. I will take roll at the start of all class days. It is your responsibility to answer roll call at the beginning of class. If we need to schedule some remote class days, participatory attendance will be expected.

Each Absences will reduce the Participation Grade by one letter for that project grading period.  
A Fourth absences per semester will additionally reduce your final *Semester Course Grade* by 1 full letter.  
A Fifth absences per semester will additionally reduce your final *Semester Course Grade* by 2 full letters.  
A Sixth absences per semester will result in a *Semester course Grade* of F.

**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, AND  
Ask another student to share notes with you, so that you can make up time outside of class and be prepared to return to class.

**COVID-19 impact on attendance**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.
If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

**Punctuality/Tardies**

If you arrive after roll-call, you should assume that you were marked absent. If you arrive late, make sure that your absence is changed to a tardy. Every Tardy will lower your participation grade for that module. Arrive Arriving to class more than 20 minutes late will reduced that participation grade by one letter. Leaving class early will count as a Tardy.

**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 (Links to an external site.) 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: UIT Student Help Desk site (Links to an external site.)
(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 Canvas Technical Help (Links to an external site.)
(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

CVAD Computer Lab

https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/labs/cvad-scl (Links to an external site.)
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 & 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](http://www.unt.edu/oda) (Links to an external site.). 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](https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety) (Links to an external site., 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 at [https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety](https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety) (Links to an external site.)

Course Risk Factor:
According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category three (3) course. Students enrolled in this course are exposed to significant hazards that have the potential to cause
serious bodily injury or death. In this class, those risks are related to (include the list of hazards to which a student might be exposed). Students enrolled in this class will be informed of potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of materials and/or processes and will be instructed about how to proceed safely.

Students who are pregnant or will become pregnant during the course of the semester are advised to check with their doctor immediately to determine if any additional risks are reason to postpone this course until a later semester. Upon request, your professor will provide a list of chemicals and safety issues for your doctor to review. Material Safety Data Sheets are available on all chemicals. It will be up to you and your doctor to determine what course of action to take.

Emergency Notification and Procedures

UNT Emergency Guide: [https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us](https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us) (Links to an external site.)

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](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.
Important Academic Dates

- Registration Guides by Semester (Links to an external site.)
- Online Academic Calendar (Links to an external site.)
- Final Exam Schedule (Links to an external site.)

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.), 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 (Links to an external site.). 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 (Links to an external site.) enforces the Code of Student Conduct (Links to an external site.). 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 (Links to an external site,) for more resources.

Undocumented Students

Please see UNT’S Resources for DACA Students (Links to an external site,) web page for more information.
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.

Class Recordings

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course may be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Handbook_Heath-Safety_8-12-18-1-1.pdf

Download Handbook_Heath-Safety_8-12-18-1-1.pdf (2.38 MB)

Printmaking HealthSafety-1-1.pdf

Download Printmaking HealthSafety-1-1.pdf (111 KB)

See Seating chart and Printmaking studios layout

CVAD Building Hours/Access

Only students currently enrolled in printmaking classes may use the printmaking studios during their scheduled class times and open studio blocks in the schedule. Outside of class times, you may use the classroom spaces in which you have been trained so long as there is not another class scheduled in that space at that time. You may also request permission from the current instructor if you want to work in a classroom that is being used by another class. In this case, it
is up to the discretion of that instructor. When you work in the studios independently of class time, you must follow the same cleaning and disinfecting protocols: cleaning surfaces before and after each use, and washing hands upon entering and exiting class.

See Fall 2021 Printmaking Class Schedule PDF for specifics

PERSONAL SUPPLIES LIST ASTU 4600 / ASTU 5001 Fall 2021

Students in ASTU 4600 / ASTU 5001 will use a variety of consumable materials and tools typically available in the printmaking studios. This is determined by which printmaking processes each student explores. In general, provided materials include inks and most chemistry. Some additional process specific personal materials may be available a few weeks into the semester.

ITEMS LOANED: (to be returned at the end of the semester): Lithography Stones, Squeegees, Registration pins, Intaglio tools, relief tools can be checked out by your instructor. Items must be returned clean and in good shape – hand tools sharpened, stones flat, with the image removed. Failure to return these items in good shape at the end of the semester will reduce the semester grade by a full letter grade.

See Printmaking Syllabus Agreement