

ASTU 2601: Printmaking: Beginning Relief – Spring 2026

Meeting Time: TTH 11:00pm – 1:50pm

Location: ART 274/5

Instructor: Clarissa Gonzalez (she/her), Printmaking Visual Art Technician, Adjunct Professor

Office: 275C | Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: clarissa.gonzalez@unt.edu | Telephone: 940-565-2416

COMMUNICATION:

Online communication to the class will be done through Announcements on CANVAS or via the email you have listed on your contact information within CANVAS.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to concepts and techniques of relief printmaking, including carving and printing wood, linoleum, and/or plastic relief matrixes. Black and white and multiple-color printing will be explored along with limited edition and monoprinting.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:

[Printmaking: A Complex Guide to Materials & Process](#) Grabowski and Fick

[Printmaking: History & Process](#) Saff, Sacilotto

[The Complete Printmaker: techniques, traditions, innovations](#) Ross, Romano, Ross

COURSE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is for beginning level students who wish to explore printmaking and integrate relief printing concepts into their art practice. Students will use the relief printing process to develop a creative direction and create a body of work. Demonstrations, critiques, discussions, and engagements assignments will emphasize the potential of the medium in its process and aesthetic characteristics.

Learning objectives include:

- Successful application of learned relief processes and techniques
- Conceptual development, risk taking, imagination, creativity, and inventiveness
- Application of basic elements in drawing, design, and printmaking in the execution of assignments
- Development of visual, verbal, and critical communication skills
- Application of vocabularies of printmaking, art and design to critique own work and the work of others
- Learning and implementation of professional and ethical standards of print production
- Demonstration of familiarity within the culture of relief printmaking and the role of print media and works on paper
- Familiarity of working in a shared workspace
- Engagement within CVAD, UNT, and the larger professional art community

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Much of class time is reserved for demonstrations, discussions, critiques, and work sessions. You are expected to come prepared, use your class time effectively, and be productive. In order to be successful in this class you will need to pay attention, take notes, and use both in and out of class time effectively. Use class time to actively participate in instructional activities, print, or ask questions while you have the technical assistance from myself and the support of your classmates. Students should plan a minimum of (6) additional hours a week outside of class to research, plan, develop imagery or carve blocks. **Do not wait until the week or day before critiques to finish your work.** It is important to plan effectively and to pace yourself.

Requirements in this course include:

- The successful completion of all assignments outlined in the syllabus
- Active participation in class discussion and critiques
- Maintaining an up-to-date sketchbook or notebook
- Being on time and adequately prepared for each class
- Attending and using class time effectively
- Safe and careful use of materials, tools, equipment, and studio space
- Strict adherence to safety and clean-up procedures
- Maintaining a positive and respectful attitude toward others and the work area

Demonstrations, scheduled or impromptu, demand full attentions and note-taking in either a notebook, sketchbook or digitally. Scheduled demonstrations will not be repeated for tardy, absent, or negligent students.

Projects begin with contextual presentations and technical demonstrations, followed by individual research and group discussions, open workdays and a critique. Between when the projects are introduced and critique, progress images will be submitted on CANVAS. Students are to bring physical work on the first day of critiques. A critique follow-up and digital submission of work is due the Friday of the critique week on CANVAS. Critiques are crucial to the development and advancement of ideas and learning the language of constructive criticism. Students are required to fully participate. Prints must meet the required level of completion and presentation to be considered. Printed editions must be clean, dry, and flat – submitted for each grade between interleaving.

Engagement assignments are submitted digitally through CANVAS, with deadlines throughout the semester. There are four assignments in total, each 300 – 400 words, with two different options. The first is a listening assignment. You are required to listen to the podcast, Hello Print Friend or Platemark, printmaking podcasts that interviews artist printmakers, print shops, and collectives. This is to expose you to artists and the printmaking community that you may not have discovered otherwise. The second option is a follow up on attending an art event, talk, or exhibition within the CVAD, UNT, or DFW community. While it is preferred to be a printmaking event, you are open to pick an event of your choosing and respond to follow up questions. Criteria for both options will be presented on CANVAS.

GRADE INTERPRTATIONS AND CRITERIA:

Grades provide indication of growth and offer a record of achievement. Simply fulfilling class requirements warrants a grad of (C). Showing initiative and ambition in developing skills, ideas, imagery, and presentation warrants about average grades. Evaluative factors include:

- Creativity and inventiveness of imagery
- Development and execution of ideas
- Sensitivity in handling materials and process
- Demonstrated understanding and application of art elements (line, shape, space, texture, and composition)
- Content (synthesis and compatibility of design, media, and concept)
- Craftsmanship and presentation,
- Critique and class participation

Grades will be broken down as followed:

Percentage	Assignment
15%	Project 1: Single Layer Relief
20%	Project 2: Reduction Relief
20%	Project 3: Multiblock Relief
30%	Project 4: Multiblock Reduction
15%	Engagement Assignments

Project Grading Rubric

Technique	100 points	Synthesis of materials, tools, and process and application of drawing/design elements
Content	100 points	Creative interpretation of the assignment. Print composition. Preliminary and Final Drawings. Research and risk taking.
Craft	100 points	Cleanliness and presentation of works, both physically and in digital submission. Consistency of edition
Critique Follow-up	50 points	Receptiveness to constrictive criticism and responsiveness to follow up.
In-Progress Documentation	50 points	Digital submissions of in-progress documentation. This includes preliminary drawings and progress on projects.
Grade Averaged out of a Total of 400 points		

Grade Interpretation

A	90 – 100%	Superior work, distinguished mastery of course material – inventiveness, execution, craftsmanship, participation
B	80 – 89%	Above average work, strong mastery of course material, active participation
C	70 – 79%	Average work, meets basic class requirements
D	60 – 69%	Minimally acceptable execution of course material and participation
F	0 – 59%	Failure to satisfy course requirements

Unless otherwise specified, projects are due at the beginning of the first day of critique. Digital submission of work is due at midnight the Friday the week of critique on CANVAS. Projects must also be turned in physically. If projects are not completed by the first day of critique, they will be considered late, even if turned in digitally by the Friday after critique. Projects and Assignments not turned in on CANVAS by midnight on the designated Friday due date will also be considered late.

Late assignments handed in any time after the designated deadline will be penalized a full letter grade per class day. Late work is accepted if an absence is excused according to UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences). Missed critiques may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in critique discussions. If a student must miss an assignment or project deadline, turn in incomplete work, or miss critique, please get in touch with me. Critiqued and graded assignments that were handed in on time, that have been significantly reworked and editioned in full may be submitted for consideration of a positive grade change.

CALENDAR:

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	January 13 Introduction Syllabus	January 15 Carving demo/practice Introduction to Project 1	January 16 Takach Paper Order Due Syllabus Contract + Questionnaire Due
Week 2	January 20 Paper Prep+Printing Demo	January 22 Workday	
Week 3	January 27 Workday	January 29 Workday	
Week 4	February 3 Project 1 Due Critique	February 5 Critique Continued Print Curating Demo Introduction to Project 2	February 6 First Engagement Assignment + Project 1 Due
Week 5	February 10 Color Printing / Pin Registration Demo	February 12 Workday	
Week 6	February 17 Workday	February 19 Workday	
Week 7	February 24 Introduction to Project 3	February 26 Transfer Demo	February 27 Second Engagement Assignment Due
Week 8	March 3 Workday	March 5 Independent Workday Clarissa Away	
Week 9	March 9 – 15: Spring Break!		
Week 10	March 17 Workday	March 19 Workday	
Week 11	March 24 Project 2+3 Due Critique	March 26 Critique Continued Introduction to Project 4	March 27 Project 2+3 Due Online
Week 12	March 31 Workday	April 2 Workday	April 3 Third Engagement Assignment Due
Week 13	April 7 Workday	April 9 Workday	
Week 14	April 14 Workday	April 16 Workday	
Week 15	April 21 Workday	April 23 Workday	April 26 Fourth Engagement Assignment Due
Week 16	April 28 Project 4 Critique	April 30 Critique Continued	May 1 Project 4 Due

Finals Week	Tuesday May 5, 11 am – 12:30 pm Studio Clean Up / Tool Return
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ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory. Roll will be called at the beginning of every class. If you arrive late, check in with me to ensure that I mark you present with a tardy. Three tardies constitutes as one absence.

Three unexcused absences are tolerated. More than three absences requires a note from a doctor or other official parties excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) to be counted as excused. If missing more than 5 consecutive days due to illness or extenuating circumstance, it may be necessary to provide documentation to be verified by the Dean of Students to count as excused (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/about-us/faq>). More than three unexcused absences lowers your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence. A tardy is an arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class or when I finish taking roll. An early departure is when you leave before class is over without being excused.

Attendance policies are non-negotiable and can result in a failing final grade, regardless of the quantity or quality of work produced during the course. Students with excessive absences may need to consider withdrawing from the course.

BUILDING HOURS AND STUDIO ACCESS:

The schedule for the printmaking studio is available on CANVAS and posted on all studio doors. For CVAD Building Hours visit: <https://cvad.unt.edu/hours>

January 12 – May 8

Sunday – Thursday: 7:00am – 10:00pm

Friday - Saturday: 7:00 am – 5:00pm

Spring Break: Undergraduates will not have access to the Art Building outside of normal business hours from March 9 - 15.

Students are allowed to use the shop during their scheduled class times, but not while other classes are in session. Typically, the shop is open to all students taking printmaking classes on Fridays and on the weekends. PANTS meetings during the week may change this. If you want to work in the shop while another class is in session, ask the instructor for permission **before** class begins. Due to high enrollment, it is usually not possible to work in the shop while another class is in session. If you are given permission to work during another class, be aware of how your activities impact the learning environment. You will be asked to leave immediately if your activities detract from the learning environment of enrolled students. During open shop hours, the shop is shared.

COURSE SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES:

Emergency telephone numbers: (940) 565-3000 and 911. Then call me at (940) 565-2416 or by email.

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.

Severe Weather: take shelter in the interior hallway C275 or within the Grad studio in the Printmaking area. If unable to move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building to which you have access.

Bomb / Fire: evacuate the building immediately, using the nearest stairwell and exit. Once outside, proceed to church parking lot across Mulberry Street. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts.

Emergency Preparedness: <https://emergency.unt.edu>

Campus Carry: <https://campuscarry.unt.edu>

Run, Hide, Fight when needed (see link).

Health & Safety: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>

Students enrolled in this class are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 15.2.4 Safety in Instructional Activities. A copy of CVAD's Health and Safety Handbook is available under the Safety page on Canvas with a list of the Health and Safety Rules that pertain to the Printmaking studio.

Health and Safety Rules

- Follow all CVAD Health and Safety handbook guidelines.
- 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
- 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
- Wear appropriate gloves when using any type of solvent, acid or chemical
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit and chemical shower
- Closed toed shoes must be worn in the Print shop, no sandals or flip-flops allowed.
- Emulsion and ink should be cleaned from under fingernails immediately
- Turn off hot plates immediately after use
- Always use cutting tools away from your hands and body.
- Special care needs to be taken in the studio if you are pregnant to avoid certain materials.
- Cutting tools should be sharp and in good condition. Care should be taken to ensure safety of the individual using the tool(s) and other students when tool(s) are being used.
- Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.
- First aid kits are found in each studio. Notify your instructor if supplies are low.
- Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor or area technician.
- All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.

PERSONAL SAFETY AND COURSE RISK FACTOR:

Students enrolled in this class are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities.

All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

According to University Policy, this course is classified as a Category 3 course. Students are exposed to some significant hazards but are not likely to suffer serious bodily injury when properly trained on how to handle materials and tools. Students who are pregnant or who become pregnant during the course of the semester are advised to postpone this course because of certain higher risk factors (3) to an unborn baby.

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 is up to you and your doctor to determine what course of action to take.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION):

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

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.

More information is available via UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in person or by calling 940.565.4323.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

In order to provide a campus environment that is conducive to academic endeavor and growth, the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline provides regulations and guidelines governing student behavior. The Code provides penalties for misconduct, including academic dishonesty, which includes all forms of cheating and plagiarism, including attempts to circumvent attendance procedures.

The term cheating includes, but is not limited to (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: (f) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (g) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (Source: UNT Undergraduate Catalogue).

Students who become aware of suspicious activities should notify the professor promptly.

Academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. For more information, see UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity.

Additionally, each student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See <http://www.unt.edu/csrr> for more information.

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. 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. Expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

In this course it is encouraged to develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools for writing assignments is not permitted. You may choose to use GenAI in your image creation process, please do so responsibly and with conceptual purpose and address this in your project statement.

In accordance with the UNT Honor Code, unauthorized use of GenAI tools is prohibited. Using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates UNT academic integrity policy. If you're unsure whether something is allowed, please seek clarification.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

Any distribution of course materials from this class is in violation of the following:

Intellectual property violations include the use or distribution of copyrighted or trademarked works of another without the expressed consent of the owner of the copyright or trademark. A student who receives written notification from a faculty member that the information provided in his or her course is the faculty member's intellectual property shall not distribute, use for commercial purposes, or create derivative works of the intellectual property without obtaining the express written permission of the faculty member. Students shall not assume permission absent written notification from the faculty member (Source: UNT Undergraduate Catalogue).

In sum, you are authorized to take notes in class for your own personal use and no other use without permission from the instructor. You are not authorized to record class sessions, to provide your notes to anyone else, or to make any commercial or non-profit use of these notes without prior, written permission from the course instructor.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, AND 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. UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648.

STUDENT EVALUTATION:

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. 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. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please see the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SUPPORTING YOUR SUCCESS AND CREATING AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please let me know. We are all learning together.

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 CVAD 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.

SYLLABUS CONTRACT:

Your continued enrollment in this class after the add/drop period and 12th class day signifies your understanding and acceptance of this syllabus, including course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating.

This syllabus, supply list, and schedule is subject to change.