ASTU 5001: GRADUATE PAINTING STUDIO - ELEMENTAL EXPERTISE

Christian Fagerlund
Location: TBA (grad studios, critique rooms)
Office Hours: M/T/W/Th 9:45-10:45am *by appointment* through Zoom, unless in-person is required
Office: ART 287. For any course related Zoom meeting: https://unt.zoom.us/j/93060196550
Email: christian.fagerlund@unt.edu
Website: www.christianfagerlund.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Praxis: Rotating Topics. 3 hours (3;3). 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: The course will focus on a research method based on material exploration and expertise in a chosen subject. You will choose a fundamental substance/material/experience that you are intuitively drawn to, investigate it rigorously, and ultimately create work based on (and possibly made with) that substance. Through rigorous self-directed research, and using a variety of references: books, articles, films, interviews, physical exploration, etc., you will build your knowledge of your chosen subject. This process should be open and experimental, allowing curiosity to take you in various, and unexpected, directions. Instead of starting with a concept and figuring out how to effectively convey it, your work will grow out of your intuitive fascination around your chosen subject. There will be a general emphasis on craft, technique, and formal aspects of drawing and painting.

*The degree to which you adopt this prompt may be affected and determined by how far into the program you are.
1st year candidates: definitely take it on. Explore and expand.
2nd year: take it on, especially if you feel the need to invigorate your practice and subject.
3rd year: base it on where you’re at in your research as you prepare for your thesis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• Explore alternative research methods
• Expand and augment your current research interests
• Connect with your fundamental motivations for making
• Achieve a sense of expertise on your particular subject/substance
• Elevate the level of craft in your work
• Explore a variety of mediums for expressing your vision/intent
• Find subjects that will serve as fertile ground for sustained future work and growth
• Find ways to make archival that will last.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Participation in all designated sessions, group and individual critiques, studio visits, homework assignments, and final critique.

COURSE STRUCTURE:
1. Reflection on areas of interest
2. Choice of subject, then presentation
3. Investigation and research (ongoing)
4. Visual ideation
5. Iteration
6. Critique
7. Reiteration
8. Repeat
The structure of the class will shift as we move through the above process, but it will primarily be made up of individual and group studio visits and critiques. In addition, there will be discussions, written assignments, and one presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS:
There are no required texts for this course.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS:
Your final grade will be based on my evaluation of your effort, and both the quality and quantity of work produced over the semester. Class attendance and participation in critiques will also be factors in your final grade. As graduate students you are expected to attend all meetings. Further, when we are not meeting as a group, I expect you to be in your studio working on course-related research during all scheduled meeting times (T/Th 11-2). You will receive a midterm progress report which will include your attendance record and unofficial standing in the course.

- Written assignment 5%
- Group presentation 5%
- Studio practice (quality and quantity of research and production) : 60%
- Participation in critiques/discussions: 20%
- Presentation of work, which is increasingly important once you’re creating “finished” work: 10%

A – Excellent Work: reserved for exceptional work that demonstrates an evolved understanding of the basic elements of design, drawing, color etc. All aspects of the work, including concept, research, and craft, are considered.

B – Very Good Work: the artwork, its presentation, and the student’s class participation exceeds basic requirements and shows competence in the basic elements of art-making.

C – Average Work: basic requirements of each assignment, and attendance, are met. Class participation is adequate.
D – Poor Work: requirements for the course are not adequately fulfilled.

F – Failure: no attempt has been made to fulfill requirements of the course

CRITIQUE
Critiques are an essential part of your comprehensive development as an art student and practicing artist, and they are a significant component of this course. A critique is a forum through which you express your thoughts, questions, and intentions regarding your own projects as well as the work of your peers. Critiques develop your ability to speak about visual art with clarity, in an informed manner. They often raise questions about the work that wasn’t considered initially. They can lead to new ideas, and open up possibilities for further work. It is a requirement of this course that you participate fully in each of these group conversations, whichever side of the critique you are on. Share your views with respect and honesty. We want to support one another, which often requires candid constructive criticism as well as encouragement with what is successful in the work. We will commit to maintaining a respectful and sensitive discussion regarding our peers work—it will not become a platform for personal attacks or unthoughtful response. On critique days, work should be posted on the wall before we start. Missing a critique will significantly impact your participation grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE:
This schedule may somewhat change, and you are responsible for all communicated changes to the schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY/ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>TOPICS/LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>INTRODUCTIONS</td>
<td>Syllabus, Assignment #1 (due 9/6 by 11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Studio Visit Introductions: Group I</td>
<td>Group studio visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Studio Visit Introductions: Group II</td>
<td>Group studio visits. *Assignment #1 due by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group I</td>
<td>One-on-one discussions of Assignment #1. Assignment #2 given over Canvas, due 9/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group II</td>
<td>One-on-one discussions of Assignment #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Workday</td>
<td>*Meetings available upon request</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS: Group I</td>
<td>ART 464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS: Group II</td>
<td>ART 464</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>CRITIQUE: Group I</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>CRITIQUE: Group II</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
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<td>10/4</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group II</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Group Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Group Studio Visits: Group II</td>
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### ATTENDANCE:
- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will be tolerated.
- Excused absences require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences).
- More than three unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per each additional absence.
- Failure to meet during designated times for individual and group studio visits will count as an unexcused absence.
- Let me know by email immediately if you know you will miss class.

### GROUP I:
- Bunda, Jeremy
- Davis, MCAT
- DePetris, Sarah
- Hollingsworth, Aaron

### GROUP II:
- Raign, Max
- Tintamusik, Narong
- Weiss, Bailey
- West, Shannon

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>CRITIQUES: Group I</td>
<td>Midterm grades provided the following week</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>CRITIQUES: Group II</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<td>10/27</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group II</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Group Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Group Studio Visits: Group II</td>
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<td>11/8</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group II</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>CRITIQUES: Group I</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group I</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Individual Studio Visits: Group II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>FINAL CRITIQUES I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>FINAL CRITIQUES II</td>
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• Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an unexcused absence.

• A tardy is considered to be arrival after role is taken at the beginning of class, and within the first 30 minutes of class.

• Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.

• Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

• It is your responsibility to get missed notes, announcements, and information from a classmate when you are absent. Please obtain the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of 2 classmates today. Also make sure that you receive emails associated with your UNT account (I will be using both Canvas and direct emails).

• Failure to attend the day of your midterm critique will lower your final grade by one letter. You must attend both sessions of the final critiques. Missing your final critique will result in an “F”. Missing the other day of final critiques will lower your final grade by one letter.

STUDIO GUIDELINES: Familiarize yourself with the “Studio Guidelines – Painting” chart posted in the studio. You are expected to follow all of these guidelines throughout the semester.

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 AREA SPECIFIC INFORMATION: PAINTING
1. Hazards of Media (inherent)
Educate yourself about the painting materials you are using by visiting the links below. The hazards of traditional painting materials arise from exposure to pigments, solvents, and additives, and are dependent on the toxicity of those elements. Exposure can cause a variety of health issues (for both you and those around you) ranging from minor skin irritation to death. The primary forms of exposure to these toxic materials are inhalation, contact, and accidental ingestion. See the “Best Practices” section for way to avoid/lessen exposure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pigments</th>
<th>Solvents</th>
<th>Formaldehyde</th>
<th>Additional notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acrylics</td>
<td></td>
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<td>May contain ammonia and formaldehyde, causing eye/nose/throat irritation.</td>
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</table>
Solvents (e.g. Turpentine, Mineral Spirits, Odorless Mineral Spirits, Gamsol, Turpenoid)
Solvents range from moderately to severely toxic. The primary forms of exposure are inhalation, absorption through the skin, and accidental ingestion. The use of solvents \( \) poses a serious hazard. All solvents may cause skin allergies, narcosis (dizziness, nausea, fatigue, loss of coordination, coma), respiratory irritation, kidney damage, respiratory allergies, and brain damage. Ingestion can be fatal. Gamsol or turpenoid, which have had the aromatic hydrocarbons removed, are less hazardous. Solvents are also highly flammable. Even without a spark or fire, solvent/oil-soaked rags can spontaneously combust. Follow the CVAD Waste Management Chart when disposing of these materials.

Pigments
Many pigments are toxic and are known carcinogens, including those based on lead, cadmium, mercury, chromates, manganese, and cobalt. The main risk is from accidental ingestion of the pigments due to eating while working, nail-biting, pointing your brush with your lips, and similar means of hand-to-mouth contact. Working with dry pigments or sanding dry paint layers can allow the pigments to be inhaled.

2. Best Practices
- Wear gloves, wash hands regularly, and avoid any skin exposure to materials.
- Try to brush items rather than spraying if possible.
- Never use aerosol media in the classroom. Use the spray booths provided.
- Avoid inhaling pigment powder.
- Turpentine and mineral spirits are prohibited in the studio. Gamsol is provided by the area.
- Keep your solvent container covered while painting.
- Solvent washes are strongly discouraged.
- Reuse Gamsol by allowing sediment to settle in jar.
- Brush washing primarily takes place at your station with a jar, brush caddy, Gamsol, and paper towel. This assures as little paint as possible will go down the sink.
• Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.

3. Links
http://www.utrechtart.com/MSDS-Sheets-g26t0.utrecht
http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/arthazards/paint3.html
http://web.princeton.edu/sites/ehs/artsafety/sec10.htm
http://www.chicagoartistsresource.org/node/9279
http://www.library.wwu.edu/ref/subiguides/art/arthazards.html

4. Area 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.

• 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) within 48 hours of the event.
• 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.
• Respect the workspace and your fellow classmates.
• Leave the space cleaner than you found it.
  o -Clean up and organize your surroundings.
  o -Throw away any trash (whether it’s yours or not).
  o -Wipe down your easel, tabouret, and floor.
  o -Wipe down sinks at the end of class.
• Respect other’s work. Do not use or move other students’ work/materials.
• No food, drink, or alcohol allowed in the studio
• Practice best practices for material handling. If you have questions about a material, ask your instructor for guidance.
• Do not spray any aerosols in any CVAD classroom/studio/doorway or exterior wall/floor. Use the spray booths provided.
• Familiarize yourself with the eyewash station
• Razor blades, X-Acto blades and any other small sharp refuse goes in the sharps container at SAA station.
• Do not remove/borrow furniture from rooms without permission from faculty or D&P coordinator.
• Do not prop classroom doors. Doors must remain closed for the building hvac and ventilation work properly.
• Do not create “daisy chains” with multiple electric cords.
• Absolutely no paint, solvents, or hazardous materials down sinks.
• 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 or area technician 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.
• Theft will not be tolerated.
• 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%.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS: A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit: http://financialaid.unt.edu.sap
for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

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.

ADA 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.

BUILDING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:
In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather-related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

DISCLAIMER: I have the right to modify the syllabus, schedule, and supply list at any time. It is your responsibility to be aware of these changes (either by attending each session or communicating with your fellow students).