

**SYLLABUS**

PHOTOGRAPHY II ASTU 4500 Spring 2026

PROFESSOR: Dornith Doherty

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 11am -1pm and via zoom. Please email to arrange a zoom meeting.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Senior Studio Class. Portfolio, exhibition, career readiness.

Meets in person on Thursdays

**COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This is a photography studio art class. It will cover theoretical, conceptual, and aesthetic concerns about fine art photography as well as technical aspects of digital photographic processes. Students will create and exhibit a portfolio of work that demonstrates their understanding of the material learned in this class.

**COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES**

Outcomes	Objectives
Knowledge: What students should know	
Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline	Functional knowledge of photographic history and theory, the relationship of photography to the visual disciplines, and its influence on culture, including an understanding of the industrial and commercial applications of photographic techniques
Place works in the historical and cultural contexts of the artistic discipline	Knowledge of basic tools, techniques, technologies, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product. This involves materials, equipment, and processes of the discipline, including but not limited to uses of cameras, film, lighting/digital technologies, processing in black and white, and color, printing, and work with non-silver materials
Skills: What students should be able to do	
Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline	Understanding of visual forms and their aesthetic functions, and basic design principles, with attention to such areas as design, color, and lighting.
Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill	Produce photographs demonstrating knowledge of composition, aesthetic principles, and technical skill, including work in experimental and manipulative techniques, candid and contrived imagery, documentary photography, archival processing, and interpretive studies.
Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline	Demonstrated ability to analyze and evaluate photographs.
Synthesis: How students will combine knowledge and skill to demonstrate learning	
Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge	Skill in the use of basic tools, techniques, technologies, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product. This involves materials, equipment, and processes of the discipline, including but not limited to uses of cameras, film, lighting/digital technologies, processing in black and white, and color, printing, and work with non-silver materials
Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks	Application of the vocabularies of photography and of art and design in order to critique own work and the photographs of others.
Participate in critiques of own work and work of others	

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

This is a hybrid studio class. You will be expected to plan ahead and work during class time. Generally class time will be split between lectures and studio time. We will meet synchronously on Tuesdays with asynchronous assignments. There will be critiques, technical assignments, readings and critical analysis, optional field trips, and discussions. This course will also use

readings and video tutorials to introduce technical concepts and discussion topics about contemporary art photography and digital imaging.

## **GRADING**

- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| • Crit One                 | 20% |
| • Crit Two                 | 20% |
| • Crit Three               | 20% |
| • Reading/Career Readiness | 10% |
| • Weekly Captures          | 20% |
| • Exhibition               | 10% |

## **GRADING (EXTRA DETAILS)**

The assignments will be graded based on the following:

- The technical quality of your work: Composition, contrast, exposure, presentation, focus, digital adjustments and treatment of the paper. Superior, professional craftsmanship is required.
- The conceptual and aesthetic quality of your work: Concept, execution of the idea, composition, formal issues, relation of prints to one another.
- Any work completed in one day will receive a C

**NOTE:** Late work will be graded down one letter grade per weekday. Work turned in later than one week will not be accepted and will receive the grade of F.

## **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.

## **AI and Academic Integrity**

Use of AI for content generation may be used unless otherwise noted if it is acknowledged. Unacknowledged use of AI for content generation will be evaluated for academic dishonesty.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Regular and on-time attendance.
- All assigned work must be completed.
- All readings and video tutorials must be completed.
- Participation in critiques and class discussions.

All assignments, discussions, and critiques must be completed in order to pass the course. All assignments and critiques must be completed on time as stipulated in the attendance policy. All assignments, critiques, and exams must be completed during the semester the course was taken – work done before the beginning of the course may not be used.

## **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, & MATERIALS LIST**

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### **Laptop/Internet**

Some classes may be taught remotely. You will need access to stable internet service, and a phone or laptop with a webcam, microphone, and a speaker so you can participate in the fully remote portions of the class. Remote synchronous classes require that students have their cameras on.

### **SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

Adobe Lightroom Classic (OR Adobe Bridge and Camera Raw) and Adobe Photoshop will be the software we use for this class. If you are using a computer on campus in the CVAD computer lab, you will not need to buy this software. If you are planning on using your laptop for this course, you will need to buy a student license - this might be a good idea and will give you access to an expansive range of Adobe software.

### **CAMERA REQUIREMENT**

You will need access to a DSLR or Mirrorless camera with full manual control of exposure and focus. There is a wide range of cameras that will meet these requirements, running from introductory level cameras to expensive professional cameras.

#### **Miscellaneous Required Camera Equipment**

In addition to a camera, you will need a charger, battery, and memory card. You will also want a carrying case or camera bag. If you are checking out a UNT camera, it will come with all of these accessories, although you may want to consider buying your own memory cards.

I recommend buying a few smaller memory cards rather than one very large memory card. This strategy can be more cost-effective, and you do not have all of your images on the same card, so if you lose one, you do not lose everything.

#### **Hard Drive requirement**

You will need a portable external hard drive for this class. It must be mac compatible and a minimum of 1TB (it is fine to format the drive to work on both a Mac and PC. You can use a PC for all of the course work done outside of the printing lab if you want). It should be powered by the USB cable, not an AC power cord.

If you need to buy a hard drive, here are some things to consider:

- Buy a known brand and read the reviews.
- Often, it is not much more expensive to get a significantly larger hard drive.
- Once you buy your hard drive, make sure it is formatted to work on a mac before you start to use it (you can set it up to work on both a Mac and PC ).

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

I expect you to attend every class. If it's remote, you must attend with your camera on. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your

work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones or beepers, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

1. Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
2. Since this class meets synchronously only once a week, after missing **one** class meeting, your final grade will be lowered by  $\frac{1}{2}$  letter grade for each meeting you miss. If you think your absence is excusable based on UNT policy, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.
3. More than two absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office explaining a critical family/personal problem in order to be excused.
4. 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 absence. A tardy is considered to be arrival 15 minutes after the beginning of class.
5. Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
6. Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.

### **LATE WORK / MAKE-UP POLICY**

Late work may be subject to a penalty of 10% deducted from the assignment's value per day the work is late, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor. If you have an excused absence, I will make arrangements with you.

### **ADA ACCOMODATION**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (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. For additional information see the ODA website at  
<https://disability.unt.edu/>

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

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

### **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

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

### **STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 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](mailto: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.

### **SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT & ASSAULT**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs:

[http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources\\_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

**E-MAIL:** The UNT e-mail account will be used for general class announcements; it is the student's responsibility to check it regularly. Announcements will be duplicated on Canvas.

This syllabus will function as a class contract for any further disputes regarding grades, projects and content of the class. It is the responsibility of the student to read and fully understand everything stated in this syllabus.

### **COURSE CHANGES**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus with or without notice.

### **Class Calendar for Spring 2026**

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#### **Week 1 January 15, 2026**

Introduction to the class, including:

**Events:** Panel & portfolio reviews March 21, Field trip, Artist lecture, Exhibitions

**Critique:** expectations

set up critique groups

- **Weekly Captures: New Format** Contact Sheets should be printed on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. No credit will be given for online submissions.

#### **Grading**

**Art & Entrepreneurship | Career Readiness** readings and assignments, quizzes

#### **Required Materials:**

Portfolio box/protection – for portfolio Reviews

Frames for exhibition

External hard drive (solid state drives vs disk drives)

Discuss Sr. Exhibition- Do they want both at UNT hallway & CoLab

Dates of show are April 13-24 for Senior show in hallway and

Reception is April 16 5-7 pm

Senior show at CoLab April 14 - May 9, reception is FRIDAY April 17 5-7pm

#### **Watch and discuss in class: 10 Photographers Give Advice to the Young**

<https://channel.louisiana.dk/video/10-photographers-give-advice-to-the-young>

Reading assigned for next week **Tips for Effectively Writing and Talking About Your Work**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/arts-entrepreneurship/tips-for-effectively-writing-and-talking-about-your-work/>

## **Week 2 January 22, 2026**

1. Student pecha kuchas
2. Discuss reading assignments
3. Frame resources

Turn in Proof sheets printed 50 images on at least 2 sheets of 8.5 x 11 photo paper. Work must be new.

Reading for next week: The Blue of Distance from A Field Guide to Getting Lost by Rebecca Solnit. Please read this before the Amon Carter field trip.

## **Week 3 January 29**

Field trip to Amon Carter (There will be an alternative assignment if you don't want to go.)

I will collect proof sheets at the Amon Carter

Reading Assignment: **Getting Started: 8 writers on facing a blank page**

<https://channel.louisiana.dk/video/8-writers-facing-blank-page>

## **Week 4 February 5, 2026**

Review contact sheets

Critique 1, Group A

Practice hanging work 60" on center

Reading Assignment: **10 Must-Dos for Professional Artists**

<https://www.callforentry.org/10-must-dos-for-professional-artists/>

## **Week 5 February 12**

Review Contact sheets.

Critique 1, Group B

Practice hanging work 60" on center

Reading Assignment: (2 this week)

Inventory and Career documentation for the visual artist

<https://www.joanmitchellfoundation.org/journal/choosing-an-artwork-inventory-system>

Establishing an inventory management workflow

<https://www.joanmitchellfoundation.org/journal/establishing-an-inventory-management-workflow>

## **Week 6 February 19**

Review Contact sheets.

Critique 1, Group C

Practice hanging work 60" on center

Possible time to meet one on one or framing help.

Reading Assignment: **The Artist Statement: 5 Do's and Don'ts**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/the-art-of-the-application/the-artist-statement-5-dos-and-donts/>

## Week 7 February 26

Quiz over readings to date

Review contact sheets.

Organization day for exhibition: Decide on title, order vinyl.

Discuss postcards or business cards

Marketing plan for the exhibition (Statement, press release Instagram images for the exhibition submitted to CoLab.)

Demo: mounting, cutting matts, frames. Time to work on this in class.

Demo: How to present a portfolio at a Portfolio Review

Demo Technical details that have emerged from critique (for example this could be lighting, adjustments, file management, metadata)

Reading Assignment: **How to Write An Effective Project Narrative**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/the-art-of-the-application/how-to-write-an-effective-project-narrative/>

## Week 8 March 5 (possible change due to FotoFest)

Critique 2, Group A One work must be framed

Frame/presentation review

Practice hanging framed work 60" on center

Reading Assignment: **Business of Art | Digital Marketing for Artists**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/marketing-documentation/business-of-art-digital-marketing-for-artists/>

## Week 9 March 12 Spring Break

## Week 10 March 19

Critique 2, Group B One work must be framed

Frame/presentation review

Practice hanging framed work 60" on center

CVAD celebrates panel career / portfolio reviews

Saturday, March 21

Reading Assignment: **The Top 5 Job Interview Questions and Tips on How to Answer Them**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/creative-careers/the-top-5-job-interview-questions-and-tips-on-how-to-answer-them/>

## **Week 11 March 26**

Critique 2, Group C One work must be framed

Frame/presentation review

Practice hanging framed work 60" on center

Reading Assignment: **Find and Track Applications**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/the-art-of-the-application/dont-miss-a-deadline-find-and-track-applications/>

## **Week 12 April 2**

Quiz over readings

Site Visits Colab & hallway

Reception planning

More Technical Demonstrations

Reading Assignment: **Application Instructions: 5 Tips to Ensure Your Resume Gets Considered**

<https://www.nyfa.org/knowledge-base/creative-careers/application-instructions-5-tips-to-ensure-your-resume-gets-considered/>

### **Week 13 April 9**

Prep Day for exhibition. Work in class at UNT.

### **Week 14 April 16 Reception that evening for hallway exhibition**

Install artwork on Mon/Tues in hallway and CoLab?

Dates of show are April 13-24 for Senior show in hallway and

Reception is April 16 5-7 pm

Senior show part 2 at CoLab April 14 – May 9

### **Week 15 April 23**

Critique 3 Group A& B

Art & Entrepreneurship| Career Readiness Marketing assignment

BFA materials due today – jpegs statement, etc.

Wendy Redstar Lecture is April 24 at noon at UNT.

### **Week 16 April 30**

Critique 3 Group C