

ART 2020 – Fall 2025

Digital Tools & Technology for Creative Practice

Instructor: Hudson Ingram

Contact: Hudson.ingram@unt.edu

Office Hour: 11am-12pm Tuesdays in ART 326 (email for zoom options outside of this time)

Course Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 8:00 AM – 10:50 AM Room ART 313

Welcome to UNT:

As a member of the UNT community, I have made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom I interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. According to the University Policy Office (2021), "UNT prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate." To read the UNT's full policy of Prohibition of Discrimination, and Harassment, and Retaliation at this link: [Policy](#)

Course Description:

ART 2020 Digital Tools and Technologies for Creative Practice, 3 (0,6): Introductory course exposing students to the language and application of digital media and resources for art and design practice. Introduces students to digital artmaking and communication for art environments, social media, interactive media, and 2D/3D digital fabrication technology. Using digital tools, including Adobe Creative Cloud applications, and open-source software. Students achieve competency in basic contributions to digital image culture using various technologies both in application and process.

Course Prerequisites:

Two of the following foundations courses: ART 1600, 1700, 1800, or 1900

Course Structure:

This course is taught in-person or a face-to-face learning method. ART 2020 Digital Tools and Technologies for Creative Practice is 3 (0,6). This course emphasizes hands-on learning activities and demonstrations. Teaching and learning activities and assignments are designed to help students learn how to use digital tools and technologies to create digital arts and have a deeper understanding of creative practice through making. Full attendance and participation in class activities are vital. Students are expected to attend and participate in course activities of at least

80%. Students are also required to spend 1-2 hours preparing for class activities and complete assignments.

As a studio-based course, students will be expected to prepare for assignments and work during class time. Class time will be split between lectures, workshops, and independent studio time.

The class will include critiques, technical demonstrations, and class discussions in preparation and at the completion of course projects. This course will use readings and video tutorials to introduce technical concepts in digital imaging processes and may feature out-of-class trips or guest lecturers by visiting artists where students can witness the impact of computer-generated images and objects within creative communities. **Because our course has students with a diverse body of knowledge and skill-level in the art, design, and media, students should expect to revisit course readings and video tutorials both during in-class studio time as well as outside of our class time.** All projects are designed to be implemented in diverse ways so if a student feels more advanced the student can pursue a project that is a little more ambitious while also considering the time-commitment that will be required to complete the project. Some class sessions will be dedicated to independent studio time for completing class projects and/or critique as directed by the instructor. Students should use the Student Computer Lab in ART 375 (3rd floor-North Pavilion) to complete projects outside independent studio time in class.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of visual arts, design, and culture using Adobe Creative Cloud applications and other digital tools.
- Demonstrate knowledge of image-making and digital fabrication using open-source/web-based platforms.
- Develop a wider understanding of the use of digital fabrication within art and design practice.
- Produce images and objects for artmaking, Digital Tools Showcase, social media and for the creative economy.
- Discuss the history of computing and its applications by artists and designers.
- Work both individually and collaboratively to produce works and projects that ask critical questions about the role of technology within art and design.
- Research and present upon readings based on digital visual culture and creative communities.

Required Texts:

1. Adobe Creative Cloud Tutorials: All Your Tools, creative cloud for new users. [link](#)
2. 2021: An introduction to techniques, practices, and tools in the Fabrication Labs [link](#)
3. Other PDF readings will be posted to canvas as needed.

Materials and Equipment:

We will be requiring students to use tools and equipment in the CVAD Computer Lab and Fabrication labs. This will require a mix of providing your own tools and materials.

- Computer
 - o Mac computers are available in the classroom and computer labs.
- An External hard drive or flash drive 64GB minimum for Mac computer and Personal Computer (PC)
 - o Because students will also use a computer in the CVAD Fabrication Labs.
- A Wacom Tablet
 - o Students can check out equipment such as a Wacom Tablet from the College of Visual Art and Design Service Desk: [Link](#)
- Software
 - o Adobe Creative Cloud applications: 1) Photoshop. 2) Illustrator, 3) InDesign, or open-source equivalent
- Materials needed to complete individual projects (i.e., photos, 2D art to scan).
- Sketchbook/ notebook/ digital equivalent
- Selected UNT Online Library Texts
- 50 toward fabrication costs

Note for Adobe Software: According to the CVAD announcement in January 2024, Adobe Creative Cloud is available to students to purchase at a heavily discounted price. The price of a student subscription through our program is \$53(+\$5.55 processing fee). The subscriptions will be valid for the full Academic Year, through August 31st. On or before August 1st, they will have the option to renew their subscription for the same price for the Academic year. Further details and the option to purchase a subscription is available here: [Adobe Suite](#). This offer is only available to students. A subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud allows for on and off-campus use of all the applications: on UNT or personally owned laptops, as well as on the remote lab computers.

If a student is currently paying for a subscription through Adobe (\$239-\$359 per year) but would like to take advantage of the lower cost of a subscription through this program: they are eligible to cancel an existing subscription without an early termination fee or further obligation once they have purchased a subscription through our program. They must contact Adobe Customer Care within fourteen days of purchasing this subscription to inform Adobe of their wish to opt-out of an existing subscription in order to have the early termination fees waived. Adobe will not provide a refund, however – only the months left on the current subscription will be cancelled. We are not able to process the opt-outs on their behalf. The subscription they would be opting out of is an agreement between the student and Adobe. The subscription through our program would be a new subscription, not an extension of the current subscription.

Adobe Customer Care can be reached by phone at 1-800-833-6687, you may also visit their support [website](#) and talk to someone via chat. Please contact the representatives at untadobe@unt.edu if you have any further questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Occasionally, the artwork or other materials you view in class may contain nudity or violence. These are included for educational purposes and are an important part of the

larger concepts communicated in this course. 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, 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.

Assignment Breakdown

Major Course Assignments (order of Major Assignments susceptible to change)- 100 points. Students will pick a theme/ concept that they will use as a base for their assignments.

1. "Paper" Doll

Using materials and Adobe applications of the student's choice they will create a unique "paper" doll based on the research done at UNT Special Collections. This doll will represent a modern myth of the students' creation. Students will be inspired by paper, but the doll and its accessories may be made from any material: acrylic, wood, paper, magnets, vinyl etc.

2. Design 3 Ways

Students will design an artwork that will be replicated three times in the Fabrication lab. Using vector-based programs students will create their file to cut and etch material with the laser, then they will decide 2 other tools to use in the fab lab to create their designs. You may need to edit your file and use other programs to manufacture your design based on tool choice. You are required to provide your own materials for manufacture.

3. Repeated Pattern

Students will design a repeat pattern in Photoshop that is then printed onto paper using the large format printer. Optional to print it on fabric using the Fab Lab (recommended), students can also add embroidery to your printed fabric or screen print your own paper or fabric.

4. Zine

Students will choose a topic that is near and dear to their heart. To advocate for their topic students will create a zine with stickers/ decals/ merch. It will be in both digital and printed formats. Students will create a logo for their topic/zine.

For this semester you are expected to have a budget of \$50 for the semester which will be divided amongst your various assignments. Some of which will be test prints. Be prepared to make more than one test print.

Studio Coursework

Your major assignments will be where you apply some of the concepts you learn about from the readings, activities, warm-ups, and planning. While you will receive parameters for each of your major assignments, you will have significant leeway in how you choose to respond to them. As such, a portion of your grade for each of these assignments will depend on your choice of appropriately challenging subject matter. The remainder of your grade will depend on how well you

meet the technical and conceptual challenges you have set out for yourself. You are not expected to be an expert in this class, but to grow your technical and conceptual abilities over the semester.

Studio Participation- 10 points a day

Your studio participation is an extremely important component of the class and a significant part of your overall grade. Your instructor will give you a participation grades based on your completion of the following expectations: Coming to class meetings on time and with your supplies, being prepared to discuss materials from your online coursework, completing other occasional homework, and actively participating in class discussions, group activities and critique.

Participation Disclaimer

As a student in this course, you agree to participate actively as a civil, respectful, and supportive member of an inclusive learning environment for all. Students are encouraged to take risks. Risks such as emailing an image of a bear cub to your instructor in an email labeled “bear cub” and not disclosing this to others. We encourage students to speak to faculty or to an advisor about any concerns they may have about classroom participation and classroom dynamics. As an active member of this classroom, you will be evaluated based on your attendance, participation in workshops and discussions, and feedback during critiques.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is a requirement and use of the full class period is expected. You will be allowed **three** sick, personal, physical, or mental health days without grading consequences. It is up to your discretion how you use these three days. Being late to class three times or leaving class early three times will count as an absence. 15 minutes late to the start of class will constitute a tardy. Leaving class before being dismissed by your professor will constitute an early departure. A 4th absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter grade. Absences, tardiness and/or early departures beyond this could result in course failure. If a serious medical or personal situation occurs affecting attendance, please discuss it with your professor. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact your instructor if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. It is important that you communicate with your instructor prior to being absent so they may decide about accommodating your request to be excused from class. 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 Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Late Work

Later work will be marked down 10% each day that it is late. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#) and provides documentation within 48 hours (about 2 days) of the missed deadline. You may ask to resubmit an assignment for a better grade. You will have a week to edit and resubmit your assignment through canvas before it counts as late.

Extra Credit

There is no guaranteed extra credit in this class.

Course Grading

You are not expected to be an expert in this class, but to grow your technical and conceptual abilities over the semester. For each assignment, a portion of your grade will depend on your choice of appropriately challenging subject matter. The remainder of your grade will depend on how well you meet the technical and conceptual challenges you have set out for yourself. The following shows how your final grade will be weighted:

100 points each Major Assignments

50 points each Samples/ Planning

30 points each Documentation of Major Assignments/ other activities

15 points each Digital Consumption Journals

10 points a day- Participation/ Class Attendance

GRADING

A = Excellent (100-90%)

B = Above Average (89-80%)

C = Average (79-70%)

D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]

F = Failure (59% or below)

Student's performance is evaluated based on their visual, written, and oral demonstration of the practices and concepts acquired during this course. Your participation in class critiques will also affect your project grade. Late work will be graded down one letter grade per class period. **Work later than one week will not be accepted and will receive the grade of F.**

Course-Specific Support or Supplementary Instruction

There are several resources available for free at the University, including the UNT Writing Lab, the UNT Factory, free tutors at the Learning Center, academic coaching, and more. For a complete list visit: [Here](#)

For this class, here is a list of resources that will help you succeed: *LYNDA.com*:

- Photoshop CC 2017 Essential Training: The Basics Photoshop
- CC Introduction to Photo Compositing
- The Art of Photoshop Compositing
- Illustrator CC 2017 Essential Training

List of on campus sites of digital fabrication

- Fab Lab (located in CVAD building)
- The Spark Learning Center (located in Willis Library) the library requires training for their machines
- CVAD Student Computer Lab

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of someone else's original work or ideas, and it will not be tolerated. Effort should be made to change images made by others so that they will not be construed as "borrowed" or "stolen." Work that is plagiarized will not be accepted and will result in a failing course grade and/or expulsion from the University. Also, if you submit work in this class completed in or for another class, this will be considered plagiarism. No double dipping! The issue of plagiarism becomes murky regarding digital media. There may be instances where we will be sampling and/or mining content from the web. You will know when this is acceptable, and if you have a question or are unsure -- just ask for feedback from your professor!

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy.

Additionally, tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g. Grammarly, spellcheck, predictive text, speech-to-text, and translation tools] are not allowed as they blur authorship and misrepresent your independent work. All work must be your own.

American Disability Act

The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

Course Risk Factor

According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category two course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to the course schedule, assignments, and information throughout the semester.

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.

Access to Information

Eagle Connect Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: Page 3 of 4 my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

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, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] 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 spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit 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. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

ART 2020 Digital Tools for Creative Practice

Sections .005

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

Printed Name _____ Student ID# _____

Phone _____ email _____

Acknowledgment

I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of me in this course. I understand the course structure, grading, and attendance policies. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

Course Number and Section

Signature

Date