Construction and Craftsmanship for the Artist

ASTU 5000.508, ASTU 3000.508, ASTU 3210.502
ART 466
Tuesday/Thursday 2-5pm
Fall 2025

Jim Burton
james.burton@unt.edu
940-369-7672 (Studio Department Office)
Office Location: 211
Office Hours: Monday, 8-11am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A craftsmanship and construction course to bolster the artist's practice, understand appropriate levels of precision, review gallery installation and construction methods and etiquette, properly store, pack and ship artwork, and generally build out the artist's skillset in order to be an efficient and effective problem solver.

COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE CHANGES

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is considered tentative. The course schedule is subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion.

COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

Outcomes	**Objectives**
Knowledge:	
Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline with regards to the display and presentation of artwork.	Develop knowledge of the traditions, conventions, and evolutions of the discipline
Understand where craftsmanship and precision are applicable, and to what degree they are needed.	
Use the technology and equipment of the artistic discipline	Acquire foundational knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product, including knowledge, availability, and feasibility of material choices
Skills:	
Understand basic measuring and marking procedures	Understand principles of design, concepts, media and formats, and the ability to apply them to a specific aesthetic intent.
Using machines, hand tools, jigs and fixtures to raise the level of the work where appropriate	Move from sketches to design to plans and layout
Evaluate the levels of precision and craftsmanship to bolster thematic, conceptual, and narrative.	Develop skill in the analysis and evaluation.
Synthesis:	
Produce artworks and exhibition models demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge	Exploration of the expressive possibilities of various media, and the diverse conceptual modes available to the artist.
Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze individual artwork to appropriately envision and execute display.	Apply the vocabulary of art and design to the critique and analysis of and the works of others.
Participate in critiques of own work and work of others	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to attend all demos and workshops. Students will be required to complete a certain number of construction projects related to display and exhibition. Students should be able to evaluate and correctly assign aesthetic values to the work in an manner that bolsters that particular aesthetic. Students will be required to apply a variety of construction and display techniques and skills to personal, original artwork, and should be able to explain the reasoning behind the choices they have made.

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments	Worth / %
Produce at least four of these projects: Building a panel. Building an advanced stretcher, Building a pedestal or shelf, Building another form of display apparatus, Building a frame. Use one or more of these apparatus to make, display, or otherwise bolster an artwork.	25%
Produce at least two of these projects: Building a crate for a specific artwork. Building or modifying a shipping box for a specific artwork. Packing and protecting a specific artwork. Building some other apparatus designed for shipping or delivering an artwork.	25%
Participate in the ¾ semester art exhibition to be held on the fourth floor, installing your work as determined by the theme, concept, wishes, and manner of the exhibition committee.	25%
Participation in the cooperative effort of the class to raise awareness of the appropriate level of craftsmanship and precision to strengthen and enhance the understanding of the aesthetic decisions made in the crafting of the work, support and display materials	25%
Total	100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Aug 18	Class intro/Syllabus Day
2	Aug 20	Documentary Viewing/Lecture/Discussion about the use of craftsmanship, skillsets, precision, and possibilities of displaying your work.
3	Aug 25	Tablesaw safety/Panel Building and Shop Fixtures Demo
4	Aug 27	Panel Building Workshop/Workday
5	Sept 1	Panel Building Workshop/Workday
6	Sept 3	Panel Building Workshop/Workday
7	Sept 8	Panel Building Workshop/Workday
9	Sept 10	Advanced Stretcher Building Demo
10	Sept 15	Advanced Stretcher Building Workshop/Workday
11	Sept 17	Advanced Stretcher Building Workshop/Workday
12	Sept 22	Advanced Stretcher Building Worshop/Workday
13	Sept 24	Display Frame Building Demo
14	Sept 29	Display Frame Workshop/Workday
15	Oct 1	Display Frame Workshop/Workday
16	Oct 6	Pedestal/Wall Shelf Building Demo
17	Oct 8	Pedestal/Wall Shelf Workshop/Workday

18	Oct 13	Pedestal/Wall Shelf Workshop/Workday
18	Oct 15	
20	Oct 20	
21	Oct 22	
22	Oct 27	
23	Oct 29	
24	Nov 3	
25	Nov 5	
26	Nov 10	
27	Nov 12	
28	Nov 17	
29	Nov 19	
30	Dec 1	Final Projects Due
28	Dec 3	Studio clean up. You MUST have your work and supplies out of the classroom by noon of this day. Any supplies, materials, or artworks will be thrown out. No exceptions.

Students are required to attend and participate in studio clean up on December 1st during class hours. Failure to attend and participate in final clean-up will result in a **one-letter-grade drop in your final grade.** You are responsible for cleaning your work area, your storage area, your checked out palette, and your hazardous materials area (inside the chemical cabinet). You are to remove on this day all stored work and materials from both your storage cubby and your rented locker. Gamsol Silcoils will be recycled on this day if you do not take yours home with you."

The final studio clean up of all the rooms on the fourth floor is Friday, Dec. 10th, 12pm. Any artwork or materials left after this day will not be stored for you and will be disposed of. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

SUPPLY LIST

TBD

REQUIRED READINGS

Readings will be assigned as required, and available on Canvas in PDF form.

CLASS PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to attend every class. 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

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Three absences will be tolerated.
- More than three absences will 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) in order to be counted as excused.
- More than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence (4 or more)
- 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 5 minutes after the beginning of class.
- Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
- Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor's excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences).
- Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.
- 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 me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.
- If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. 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 / 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.

GRADING

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc…) and at mid-term.

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)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

DISABILITY 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.

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.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY / STUDIO RULES

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. 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.

It is strongly suggested that students get a large locker on the third floor of the art building to store supplies. Students will not be allowed to leave paintings on easels or walls of the studio after class. The shelving provided in the classroom may be used to store paintings currently being worked on, but students should be aware of the potential for damage, vandalism, and theft when storing work in public areas. It is not safe to leave materials in the painting studio…they will be stolen! Once a painting assignment is completed and graded, the student must take the work home. SOVA does not provide long term storage of work. Students will dispose of all hazardous liquids (thinners, brush cleaners, turpentine)
in the hazardous liquids jugs in the corner of the room next to the storage cabinet. Dispose of all oily rags in the red fire bins also in the corners of the painting studio. No paint, acrylic or oil, should be disposed of in the sink drains! Throw all scraped paint into a trash can containing a liner. Brushes for acrylic paints may be cleaned in the sink, but only after sufficiently rinsing them in your thinner containers.

There will be no smoking, eating, or drinking allowed in the classroom. Headphones are not allowed during class.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT Emergency Guide: https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us

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.

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 [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 www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

The College of Visual Arts and Design also requires the following statement:

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

Though painting would seem to be relatively risk free, there are risks and safety practices you should be aware of. Most of the solvents used in oil painting (Turpentine, thinners, mediums, etc.) are toxic. In fact, some paints, like cadmium red, are also toxic. Consult the labeling of solvents and pigments for information. Toxic materials should not be ingested or allowed to touch the skin. Wear protective gloves when using these materials in order to avoid skin contact. When using solvents, always have good ventilation. When spraying commercially available enamels, lacquers, or fixatives, do so in the spray booth and wear a respirator designed for organic vapor protection. A dust mask or a scarf or t-shirt pulled over your face will not protect you. Furthermore, it is never a good practice to eat while using painting materials. If you intend to use the shop, make certain to observe ALL safety rules. If you decide to use materials not addressed above, read the safety labels and consult with your instructor as to their safe use.

Students should be aware that the University of North Texas 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 for this insurance program. Brochures for this insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center on campus. 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 you have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, please be sure that your plan covers treatment at this facility. If you choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, you may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. You are responsible for expenses incurred there.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.

In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students

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. 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. You are not alone. We are here to help.

PERMISSION TO USE STUDENT ARTWORK

We would like to use your work to spread the news about the amazing art made at CVAD! Please help us put your talent on display by allowing us to photograph and exhibit your art on CVAD's social media, websites and paper advertising. Thank you!

I hereby grant permission to UNT and CVAD to use, copy, reproduce, publish, distribute or display any and all works created in my classes while at UNT. Additionally, I consent to the use of my name to coincide with images of my artwork.

1. Scope of Permission. This permission extends to the use of the described work and images of such work: (1) for academic purposes in order to demonstrate examples of student work to current and future UNT students; (2) for public display in the galleries or on the campus of the UNT or on the UNT website; (3) for promotional materials created by UNT in all forms of media now known or later developed, including but not limited to exhibition catalogues, direct mail, websites, advertising, social media, and classroom presentations. My permission is on-going, but can be revoked by giving the professor of record for this course written notice of my wish to revoke permission and use of any images of my artwork. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use agreed with this permission.

2. Certificate of Ownership. I am the owner of all work submitted and the work is not subject to any restriction that would prevent its use consistent with this permission. All aspects of the work are original to me and have not been copied. I understand that as owner of the work I have the right to control all reproduction, copying and use of the work in accordance with U.S. copyright laws.

3. Privacy Release. I hereby authorize and consent to the release, maintenance and display of my name if necessary and any other personally identifiable information that I have provided in connection with the work and its use described in this Agreement.

4. Signature. By signing below I hereby grant the permissions indicated above. I understand that this grant of permission relates only to the use of the described work. This is not an exclusive right and I may sell, give or otherwise transfer the rights to such work to others on a non- exclusive or exclusive basis. However, in the event that I do sell, give or otherwise transfer ownership or the exclusive right to use my work to another party, I will notify UNT immediately in writing through the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of Course: _____