

# Intermediate Painting: Themes, Variations, and Series

3206.501

Art 468

Monday/Wednesday

11-1:50

Spring 2026

Jim Burton

James.burton@unt.edu

Office Location: 211

Office Hours: 12-2, Monday/Wednesday

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploration of the strategy of the series in drawing and painting to deconstruct, transform, distill, unpack, or otherwise evolve an idea.

Prerequisite(s): [ASTU 2201](#) and [ASTU 2202](#).

## COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE CHANGES

This course will be critique and discussion based. We will hold critique each week on Monday. Wednesday will be devoted to individual meetings, class work time, and special events. You are required to meet individually with me as scheduled during the semester. Failure to meet will result in an absence. You are to show new work every two weeks.

### Other assignments:

Regular readings will be assigned for discussion and various written activities during critique. Also, I may occasionally require Gallery and Museum Visits during the semester to Dallas and/or Fort Worth. You will be given at least two weeks' notice to make travel arrangements.. Looking at art will be integral to your growth as an artist, and will help make your art relevant to our time. As always, you encouraged to attend all gallery openings.

I reserve the right to make schedule and content changes as the semester progresses. It is up to you to be in class to hear of schedule changes, and to frequently check Blackboard for announcements.

## COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

Outcomes	Objectives
<b>Knowledge: What students should know</b>	
Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline	Develop knowledge of the traditions, conventions, and evolutions of the discipline as related to issues of representation, illusion, and meaning
Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline	
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 of paints and surfaces.
<b>Skills: What students should be able to do</b>	
Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline	Understand principles of design and color, concepts, media and formats, and the ability to apply them to a specific aesthetic intent.
Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill	Develop ability to synthesize the use of drawing, two-dimensional design, and color, continuing to develop a consistent, personal direction and style
Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline	Develop skill in the analysis and evaluation of paintings.
<b>Synthesis: How students will combine knowledge and skill to demonstrate learning</b>	

Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge	Exploration of the expressive possibilities of various media, and the diverse conceptual modes available to the painter.
Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks	Apply the vocabulary of art and design to the critique and analysis of own paintings and the works of others.
Participate in critiques of own work and work of others	

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will start your research on your discrete, individual body of work. You are required to produce 8-10 works for this semester. You will not be allowed to “double dip,” or show work produced in other classes.

## ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS

Assignments	Worth / %
Individual Works (8-10)	70%
Class Participation	20%
Individual Meetings	10%
Total	100 points / 100%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Jan 12	Syllabus and class intro
2	Jan 14	Movie viewing/discussion
3	Jan 21	Individual meetings, Group 1/class work day
4	Jan 26	Critique 1, Group 1
5	Jan 28	Individual Meetings Group 2/class work day
6	Feb 2	Critique 1, Group 2
7	Feb 4	Individual meetings Group 1/class work day
8	Feb 9	Critique 2, Group 1
9	Feb 11	Individual Meetings Group 2/class work day
10	Feb 16	Critique 2, Group 2
11	Feb 18	Individual meetings Group 1/class work day
12	Feb 23	Critique 3, Group 1
13	Feb 25	Individual meetings Group 2/class work day
14	March 2	Critique 3, Group 2
15	March 4	Individual Meetings Group 1/class work day
16	March 9	Critique 4, Group 1
17	March 11	Individual meetings Group 2/class work day
18	March 23	Critique 4, Group 2
19	March 25	Individual meetings Group 1/class work day
20	March 30	Critique 5, Group 1
21	April 1	Individual Meetings Group 2/Class work day
22	April 6	Critique 5, Group 2
23	April 15	Individual Meetings Group 1/Class work day
24	April 20	Critique 6, Group 1
25	April 22	Individual Meetings Group 2/Class work day
26	April 27	Critique 6, Group 2

27	April 29	Individual Final Meetings/Class Work Day
Final Exam or Critique *	Finals week	Individual meetings by appointment

## **REQUIRED & OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS / TEXTBOOKS**

Materials are individual based on the artist's needs. Failure to have appropriate materials for making work will result in an absence for that day's class.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

Course readings will be assigned as needed and will be available via Canvas.

## **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. You are allowed to miss one group critique without penalty. Further Group critique absences will result in a one letter grade drop in your final grade.

## **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**

**A**—Excellent Work: requirements for the course have been more than fulfilled, and the work has been developed beyond previous levels on both an aesthetic and a conceptual basis. Artwork shows excellent intellectual skills and ideas, technical skills and craft, and control of the medium. Critical and conceptual understanding is evidenced through visual and verbal class participation that evidences both scholarship and leadership.

**B**—Very Good Work: The art work, its presentation, and the student's class participation shows competence in skill development, craft, and control of the medium. Completed work shows an understanding of conceptual concerns in the context of contemporary art.

**C**—Average Work: Satisfactory work quality. Requirements for the course have been fulfilled adequately. The student has been present with completed work on critique days and for individual appointment. 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.

## **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 AND 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*

## **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](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 [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](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto: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>. 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.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\***

Provide a “tear off” or separate page with a place for the student(s) to sign a declaration of understanding and agreement with the above syllabus provisions and risk factor. Or similarly, create a required quiz in Canvas/Blackboard.

These forms should be kept on file for all category 2 and 3 classes for 1 year.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print your full name)  
acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

Course number and section	Risk Rating	
Student phone #, e-mail address (print)	Signature	Date
Faculty Name	Signature	Date