

ART 1600: PERCEPTION & TRANSLATION

Instructor Contact

Jordan Black (they/them)

Office Location: ART 384

Office Hours: N/A (30 minutes after our class period, as needed. Request time during class or schedule with me via email.)

Contact: jordan.black@unt.edu

Email is my preferred method of contact. I do not look at Canvas messages as actively as email. I do my best to respond to emails within 48 hours, Mon-Fri, 8AM-5PM. I do not answer emails on weekends.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the translation of visual phenomena using a variety of digital and analog mark making materials. From this course, you will gain an understanding of how perception is multi-sensory and fluid. You will develop skills to translate this range of perception into a series of stories, images, sounds, and words.

The course is divided into three modules over a period of 5 weeks:

- Module 1: Seeing (2 projects)
 - Project 1: Drawing in Time
 - Project 2: Mundane Monochromatic Drawing
- Module 2: Translation (1 project)
 - Project 3: Translation

This class will strengthen your understanding of the following principles and elements through practice:

- Color
- Scale
- Value
- Perspective

Your sketchbook is an integral component to this as it will be the place where many of these practices take place. This course will place a high level of importance on idea development and research. Both your sketchbook and project portfolios will demonstrate this.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this class.

Course Structure

Online Lecture:

Course concepts and project structures will be delivered via Canvas. We will be looking at both contemporary and historical art, and how drawing is a part of multiple fields in art and design. Projects and their accompanying portfolios will be collected via Canvas.

Lab Sessions:

This class requires students to meet in person each time your lab is scheduled to meet. Our class is scheduled Monday through Thursday, from 8AM-12:00PM.

In the lab, we will be practicing and analyzing the information absorbed in the lecture through the completion of 3 ambitious projects over the course of the semester. The lab will also be spent participating in group discussions about lecture content, critiquing work made, and cultivating community between students and lab instructors.

Each project in this course allows students to both learn and practice technical skills but also experience perception in a new way. The projects require preparatory work including drawings, proposals, and research in the form of Canvas assignments. In each project, students have quite a bit of freedom in determining the final outcome.

Digital Portfolios:

This class requires the creation of a digital portfolio for your projects using the software Adobe InDesign. The CVAD computer lab offers this software on their desktops as well as computers checked out of the lab.

Workload outside of lab time:

Although lab time will be given to work on projects, students should expect to work on physical projects, documentation, and written responses and readings outside of class. Students can expect to

spend an average of 15–20 hours on each project outside of class.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Goal: Gain an understanding of and utilize a variety of mark making materials and surfaces.
Objective: Utilize multiple drawing materials and surfaces in a series of projects: traditional, digital, and experimental.
- Goal: Explore multiple approaches to mark making as process and product.
- Goal: Develop eye-hand-mind coordination and ability to translate perceptual observation.
- Goal: Build vocabulary and art terminology that connect drawing and other disciplines with an intercultural context.
 - Objective: Recognize art and design vocabulary and then in turn, describe self and others' work in critiques using this vocabulary. View artworks and designs that span the globe and history, and then analyze through discussions in labs and online.
- Goal: Develop professionalism, work ethics, resilience, and learn from necessary failure.
 - Objective: Create 3 ambitious projects that require guided time management and reflection upon critiques with peers and instructors.
- Goal: Develop verbal and written communication.
 - Objective: Critique self and peers' work in critiques and online discussions.

IMPORTANT Regarding Course Materials

Occasionally, the artwork and materials you view in class may contain challenging themes, such as nudity, violence, and social awareness. It is important to recognize that art and design don't exist in a bubble, and these materials will help students to develop familiarity and flexibility in interactions with diverse cultural and professional contexts.

These are included for educational purposes and are an important part of the larger concepts communicated in this course, to help students find their individual voices, make them competitive in the job market, and emphasize the importance of historical awareness and the influence of political movements on art.

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.

Course Schedule

Due Dates	Weeks	Module Project
June 22-30, 2026	1-2	Project #1: Drawing in Time Portfolio
July 1-8, 2026	2-3	Project #2: Mundane Monochromatic Portfolio
July 9-24, 2026	3-5	Project #3: Translation & Mediation Portfolio

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course outline and schedule to best serve the needs of all the sections.

Final Exams

*There is no Final Exam in ART 1600. In place of the Final Exam, you are required to submit a Final Portfolio on July 24th, 2026 by 11:59 pm.

Notes on Critique

A critique is a group discussion of everyone's work among your professor or lab instructor and your classmates. Unless the critique is designated as an "in progress critique," the finished, physical work should be brought to class for this discussion.

Still-frame digital work should be printed at the CVAD Student Computer Lab, FedEx, etc. before your lab meets to display during critique. Physical work, animations/gifs, installations, and documentation of performances should be thoughtfully displayed during critiques based on a plan that you and your lab instructor agree upon.

LAB PARTICIPATION AND EXPECTATIONS

- Your mental presence is just as important as your physical presence. Plan to be actively engaged in lab work and come prepared to each lab with required materials, a laptop/tablet + charger, assignments due that day, having read assigned readings, and anything else you need to be productive during lab.
- Lab time is invaluable. It is scheduled time for you to work on projects, work one-on-one with your lab instructor, and build community with your peers. Use that time wisely.
 - Participate in discussions and critiques, pay attention to announcements and presentations, and actively work and research the current project.
 - Maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning and growing. Be mindful of noise levels, the space you are using, and the people you are sharing that space with.
 - Avoid sleeping, excessive phone use, working on assignments for other classes, etc.
 - Headphones are permitted during worktime but are prohibited during lectures and discussions.
- If you need to eat a snack quickly, excuse yourself from doing so. This is a safety precaution, in consideration of materials that may be used in the room for projects.
- A short break from the lab is okay. Prolonged or frequent breaks from the lab are not acceptable.
- Offensive remarks will not be tolerated. The Lead Instructor and Foundations Director will be notified as needed of misconduct, all of which could result in action from the CVAD Dean or UNT Administration.
- Things happen during a semester – if you experience hardship that may impede your ability to succeed in the course, please communicate with your instructor as soon as possible.

Required Materials (Materials due in class on Wednesday of Week 1 as a Participation Grade)

The tools listed below are materials that are required (or necessary) for all CVAD art courses, and for the future of your professional life. Your tools can be brands outside of the listed preferences and can be materials you already own.

(Note: There will be project-specific materials that you will need to acquire based on your plans for our modules, but these tools are useful in all instances.)

- (8) Pitt Pen Wallet Set

- Drawing Pencil Kit (H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B)
- Chisel tip Sharpie
- Regular tip Sharpie
- Exact-o knife & replacement blades
- 18 in. Stainless steel ruler
- Masking Tape
- White vinyl eraser
- Sketchbook (9x12 in. 100 pages, or larger)
- Large glue stick (recommended: UHU brand)
- Sharp Scissors
- Utility Knife (such as a box cutter)
- A toolbox to hold your materials (such as an art bin, a tackle box, or utility box from a hardware store)

Where To Purchase Materials

In addition to the materials above, you will be using various substrates, tools, and materials of your choosing to complete your project. You may choose to purchase traditional art supplies, but students are also encouraged to be resourceful when seeking out materials. Found materials and substrates are acceptable and encouraged! If you are seeking supplies to purchase, below are a few local and online resources.

- Voertman's Art Supply (Denton) 1314 W Hickory St. | Denton, TX 76201
 - NOTE: There are basic supplies in the "Foundations Kit," which can be purchased directly through Voertman's. Students are responsible for any project-specific supplies.
- Thistle Creative Reuse (Denton) <https://thistlecreativereuse.com/>
- Habitat for Humanity Restore (Denton) <http://www.habitatdentonrestore.org/> 1805 Cornell Lane | Denton, TX 76201
- Michaels (Denton) <https://www.michaels.com/> 1800 S Loop 288 Ste 340 | Denton, TX 76205
- Dick Blick (online) <https://www.dickblick.com/>
- Jerry's Artarama (online) <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/>
- Hobby Lobby (Denton)

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer, Charger, & Reliable internet access
- Text document software (Word, pages or other)
- Adobe's InDesign (in CVAD computer labs)
- Adobe's Photoshop (in CVAD computer labs)

- Reliable camera for documentation, such as good-quality phone camera, or DSLR (Your own, or one rented from CVAD Computer Lab!)
- Optional: other digital programs and tools of your choice for projects (Tablets, Illustrator, Corel Draw, GIF makers, Photoshop for your phone, Autodesk, etc...)

Adobe InDesign Software Access Information

You have a few options for accessing Adobe InDesign. Know that a subscription is not necessary or required for this course; all CVAD computers have Adobe software on them. If you wish to have this software on your personal devices, see this link for more information about how to purchase a subscription via UNT's rate: <https://itservices.cas.unt.edu/software/adobe-cc-creative-cloud2021>

CVAD IT Services Information

CVAD IT Services has many resources available to students that are paid for by your student fees. You are encouraged to utilize these resources, including the large format scanner (media up to 12.2" x 17.2"), large format printers, cameras and accessories, artwork documentation services (also called "photo documentation"), and more. For additional information, click the "Student Resources Documentation" links on the CVAD IT Service webpage. You may be asked to log in via the Microsoft Teams app, so have your UNT credentials handy.

COURSE GRADING

Your Art 1600 grade is comprised of the assignment categories shown in the table below and your attendance in class. Each assignment within these categories is worth a number of points that contribute to your overall course average.

<u>Project Points Possible</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
(3) Project Portfolio Submissions, 100 pts. each	50%
Development and Research Assignments	35%
Weekly Content Quizzes/Reading Discussions	15%
Total	100%

Final Grading Scale

- A = 90-100% Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.
- B = 80-89% Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.

- C = 70–79% Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.
- D = 60–69% Below-average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.
- F: 59% and below Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.

We do not round up.

Participation

Your participation in the portfolio submission rubric is measured through the completion of Canvas assignments, lab attendance, engagement in lab work, and critiques for that project period. Thus, at the beginning of each new project, your course participation is examined anew by your lab instructor.

Development and Research

Development and Research in the portfolio submission rubric are measured through preparatory, analysis, and proposal assignments submitted on Canvas and your research and preparation for each project found in your sketchbook. It's important for you to document and organize all this so that your Lab Instructor can see all the work you have done and assess you accordingly.

Digital Documentation

Digital Documentation in the portfolio submission rubric is measured by the quality and organization of your entire portfolio for each project, submitted using InDesign software, in the form of a PDF. This category looks at the quality of the images/videos of the project itself, and the way in which they are presented to tell the story of your work's development. In addition to Canvas content, your Lab Instructor will work with you to improve this presentation at every submission, allowing you to improve upon and apply the skills you have learned– thus increasing your grade.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Late Work Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of all class sessions.

- Our lab is scheduled for Mondays through Thursdays. Everyone is allotted 3 unexcused absences.
 - Excused absences must be **documented and verified by the Dean of Students Office, and your lab instructor. If you are experiencing a personal emergency, please notify me as soon as possible.
 - **Documentation refers to medical documentation or Dean of Students email

- Our summer course will meet a total of 20 times. Exceeding the three allotted unexcused absences will result in lowering your final cumulative grade by 1 letter.
 - Students must earn a 75% or higher attendance grade at the end of the semester to be able to pass the course. (15+ class periods)
- Students will receive a 15-minute grace period before being recorded as late at the beginning of the class period.
 - Students who come to class an hour after beginning will automatically be counted as absent.
 - 3 tardies or early departures will constitute an absence.

Participation, Documentation, & Communication

- You should be both physically and mentally present and with the necessary supplies. If you come to class unprepared to work (without the necessary supplies or readings completed), your instructor may ask you to leave, and it will count as an absence.
- Students are expected to keep track of the number of absences they accrue over the semester as this may affect their grade. If you believe you have been erroneously marked absent or tardy on a day you attended class, you must contact your lab instructor within 48 hours to address the problem.
- Absences will be excused in extenuating circumstances with proper documentation. A funeral, medical emergency, or similar emergency circumstance may qualify to be excused, but this is subject to approval by lead faculty.
 - If you are experiencing anything in your life that may interfere with your regular attendance or ability to be otherwise in class, please let your lead faculty and lab instructor know as soon as possible so that we can work with you to determine your options before your grade is affected.
 - For extenuating circumstances, the UNT Dean of Students Office has many resources for guiding and helping students, ranging from issues of food/housing insecurity, the CARE Team, the S.O.S. Program, Survivor advocacy, and more. I also encourage you to utilize the UNT Counseling and Testing Services as needed. See counseling FAQ for more info.
- Lack of attendance/presence in lab sessions will invariably affect your grades. That may be through the participation component of the above rubric, through the lack of contact with your lab instructors who offer guidance on your individually developed projects, and through missed content and announcements in online lectures. Lack of contact with your Lab Instructor and missing class content naturally causes a reduction in the quality of your projects which are the focus of your grade in this class.
- Absences for religious or cultural holidays/observances are permitted and excused, but it is your responsibility to make your instructor aware of your absence in advance. Your instructor

has the right to request the involvement of the Dean of Students to excuse your absence. For this reason, it is important that you make arrangements with your instructor as soon as possible.

In summary, students should always remain in contact with their lab instructor regarding absences, foreseen, or unforeseen. Instructors reserve the right to reduce final grades due to excessive absences.

Late Work Policy

- Students should approach the lab instructor for all missing projects. Critiques cannot be made up.
- For your online quizzes, proposals, research, and discussions, there will be no late work accepted. Plan ahead and leave yourself enough time to get them done before the deadline.
- Major project submissions will be due on Fridays, and remain open through the weekend for late submissions (minus the final project.)
 - Late submissions will be accepted with an automatic 10-point deduction.
 - The assignment will automatically close at the end of the weekend.
- Regarding circumstances beyond a student's control, lab instructors, *at their discretion*, make an alternate deadline schedule with you, alongside their course lead. Clear, timely communication of a need by the student is crucial for these parameters to be considered.

Digital Integration

You will notice that projects are often very open-ended in terms of specific subject/content and materials. Digital tools are encouraged as both methods of planning and final execution.

- In all students' portfolios, at least 1 project from projects #1 through 3 must be physical/hand-made in its completed form, and at least 1 project must involve digital tools.

Regarding Display and Critique of Digital Works

- Unless other means of display have been established with your lab instructor, digital work should be printed at the CVAD Student Computer lab/FedEx, etc. before your lab meets to display during critique.
 - Please refrain from presenting your digital work on your laptop screen haphazardly – it is difficult to see and does not present a professional impression of your work.
- Animations/gifs and documentation of performances should be thoughtfully displayed during critiques based on a plan that you and your lab instructor agree upon.
 - CVAD Student Computer Lab also offers rental of projectors and other equipment.

- All Equipment Checkouts through CVAD Computer Lab requires agreement to terms contract beforehand, which can be found here: <https://checkout.unt.edu/sso/patron#!/>

HEALTH & SAFETY

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.

When working at home or in CVAD's studios, please follow our best practices:

- Always get the required training to use FabLab or other CVAD facilities.
- To avoid injury, use care when using X-Acto knives, including using away from the body, using cutting mats and cutting at waist level.
- Use "spray booths" for aerosol materials (fixative and paints)
- Read all ingredients and research.
- Use personal protective equipment when applicable and use tools and materials (such as resin and plaster) in appropriate facilities.
- Keep food and drink away from materials.
- Think about not only yourself but others around you.

This is not an exhaustive list as the materials you may be using could be vast- and thus, always put safety first. When in doubt, ask.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center
- Counseling and Testing Services
- UNT Psychiatric Services
- Individual Counseling

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. [Click here for a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.](#)

Pronouns

The concept of pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns. [Click here for a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage.](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)
- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>) Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, 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.

Plagiarism and AI (<https://guides.library.unt.edu/plagiarism/at-unt>)

The "unauthorized" use of any person or technology that assists in a student's assignment, project, or paper is considered cheating under the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003).

Unless a professor or instructor gives explicit "authorization," AI cannot be used to complete assignments, projects, or papers. Doing so will result in a "cheating" violation.

AI should not be used to assist in writing papers, searching for sources, or creating citations. Citations provided by AI are fabricated by mimicking existing bodies of work. In most cases, AI will pull direct quotes from existing sources to answer queries and make-up information about the source.

AI can be used ethically to help you develop an outline for a paper, generate ideas, and learn a citation style. Talk to your [subject librarian](#) or professor about how you can use AI ethically.

ADA Policy

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 accommodation 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 (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (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.

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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information

about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: 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 Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Sexual Assault Prevention

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.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course outline and schedule to best serve the needs of all the sections