

UNT Themes, Variations and Series Syllabus

Fall 2026 Series

ASTU 3206.502

(TR 11:10am – 2:00pm in ART 466)

Instructor:

Katherine Lam

Katherine.Lam@unt.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment only

Course Objectives:

Students will create a cohesive body of work following one over-arching theme. The entire class will be treated as preparation for a hypothetical solo show: How do we make pieces that relate as cousins, or sisters? How do we make a body of work that makes sense being shown together either physically, or digitally through submission? Deeper exploration of your artistic identity will be pushed, and clarified by the end of this course. ***Risks & creativity are highly encouraged in this class!***

Theme: planning a semester long commitment -

Commit to something broad, flexible, but distinctly you. Research in the form of a PDF, Slideshow, or inspo board must be submitted electronically by week 2. Please continue to use this as a reference when making each project.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is a crucial part of this course, as demonstration and interaction with myself and your classmates will provide information and considerations otherwise unavailable. Ten minutes after the start of class, as student is considered tardy.

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)

Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.

LAB DAYS: paintings must be worked on in your own time that day. This is to practice time management and working on projects without reliance on an academic schedule. I expect to see some sort of progress on your paintings the next time we meet. If I feel like progress isn't being made and the lab days are a hindrance I have the right to resume those as regular class days.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

There are **SIX major projects**, each are graded out of 100. You can only gain full points if you are present during each **critique and submit a digital image** of each piece through canvas.

Project 4 will be a small diptych, and Project 6 is required to be large.

There is a slideshow submission that is a part of the Finals, with a segment at the beginning of the images explaining your work as a hypothetical proposal for a solo show.

GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:

Paintings: 70%

Initial themes document submission: 10%

Final slideshow presentation: 20%

CRITIQUES will be treated as work in progress check ins, for the sake of getting feedback from the class and the instructor before pieces are finished and submitted online. Note online submissions are due on a different date from critiques, and are clearly listed on the syllabus schedule.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION + RESOURCES:

Aim for bright, even, and clear lighting. No distractions in the background, and give enough space or breathing room for the edges of your work. This will be great experience for documenting your work to submit for future opportunities. Image quality is extremely important. This can also be done in critique rooms, if they're empty. Or - Make an appointment here: <https://cvad.unt.edu/cvad-it-services/it-services-photo-documentation.html>

CLASS SCHEDULE:

8/18: First day of class - syllabus review. Buy your materials

8/20: Plan your concept in class and create document submission. I will help you brainstorm

8/25: Document submission due. Work on project 1

8/27: Work on project 1

9/01: Work on project 1

9/03: Work on project 1

9/08: Critique: Work in progress check in for project 1

9/10: Start on project 2

9/15: Work on project 2

9/17: Lab day - Work from home

9/22: Work on project 2

9/24: Critique: Work in progress check in for project 2

9/29: Start on project 3

10/01: Work on Project 3

10/06: Lab day - work from home

10/08: Lab day - work from home

10/13: Critique: Work in progress check in for project 3

10/15: Start on project 4 (smaller diptych)

10/20: Work on project 4 (MIDTERMS: UPLOAD PROJECTS 1,2,3 DUE)

10/22: Critique: Work in progress check in for project 4

10/27: Work on project 4

10/29: Start on project 5

11/03: Lab day - Work from home

11/05: Work on project 5

11/10: Critique: Work in progress check in for project 5

11/12: start on project 6 (Large final piece)

11/17: Lab day - Work from home (PROJECTS 4 & 5 DUE)

11/19: Work on project 6

THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/01: Work on Project 6

12/03: LAST DAY OF CLASS - Critique project 6

12/11: FINAL SLIDESHOW SUBMISSION DUE

*****GENERALLY THE NEW PROJECT WILL START AFTER YOUR CRITIQUE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOUR PREVIOUS PROJECT IS DUE.**

Materials List

Whatever you have from Painting One can be carried over and used for this course.

Below is what I prefer, or are the bare minimum materials. Stick to gamsol instead of turpentine due to the toxicity levels.

- Canvases, or Panels (Premade or you can make your own... I will let you know the dimensions required before each project)
- Gesso
- Palette knife (Style optional—you may want to try out a couple of different designs)
- Brushes: range of small to large sizes... one each-Flat 8, 10, 12, Bright 8, 10. Please buy good quality brushes. They will be worth the investment and will last for years if cared for properly!
- Gesso Brush: 2" or larger latex house painting brush
- Paint: Colors I prefer, since I recommend you **make your own black**: Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow (not "Pale"), Ultramarine Blue, Titanium White (Large (200ml) Tube...you will probably use more than one of these this semester!). Optional colors: Naples Yellow, Burnt Sienna, Cobalt Blue, Raw Umber, Pthlalo Green. Mediums for Oil Paint. Liquin or other brands of alkyd medium. You may also mix your own medium with pure gum turpentine, dammar varnish, linseed and/or stand oil (small amounts of turpentine will be allowed in the form of painting medium)
- Rags: Rags are a must! Cotton painting rags from Home Depot or Lowe's are a good buy. You can also recycle old t-shirts and other cotton fabrics.
- Containers for medium and thinners. Lids are strongly suggested! Large Coffee cans are great, as are mason type jars. Tin foil, if no lids.
- Optional for Oil Painting: Liquin, Galkyd, Galkyd Lite, Galkyd Slow Dry, Dammar Varnish or Crystals, Walnut Oil, Poppy Oil, Stand oil, and/or linseed oil. Do not buy boiled linseed oil from hardware stores. This is not suitable for oil painting.
- Other options: Boraxo soap for cleaning brushes, surgical or cleaning gloves, sponges, modeling paste, acrylic mediums and additives, Lava soap, Fast Orange, or other mechanic's type hand cleaners.
- Other items may need to be purchased throughout the semester. You will be expected to replenish supplies as you run out.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & STUDENT SERVICES 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 (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)

- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

STUDENT VERIFICATION

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

Federal Regulation To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking

online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6) (i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone

940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one- week deadline.

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>).

OFFICE HOURS / EMAIL

Please email me to schedule an appointment. Office is located in ART 326 My email:

Katherine.Lam@unt.edu

I will answer emails in the order in which I receive them within three business days (M-F). I will respond to urgent or time-sensitive e-mails first. I will not be available to reply to emails during weekends. I am happy to answer emails from those who regularly attend class. However, I will not answer emails from those who were absent and would like information on what was missed. Also, check your MYUNT email (the official form of communication for this class) often for updates on assignments, readings, trips, meetings, etc. If an email is sent to you it is assumed that you have received it and you are responsible for any specified course requirements therein.

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.

ADA ACCOMMODATION

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.

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.

UNT RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis 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 will not be tolerated.

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

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.

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.

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.

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & 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.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & 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.

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. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY / STUDIO RULES *Additional Student Signature
Page provided