ASTU 3310.501: PRINT ETCHING
ASTU 4310.501: ADVANCED ETCHING & 5900.753: SPECIAL PROBLEMS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN
SYLLABUS

Professor: Lari Gibbons, Associate Professor
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Office Hours: MW 2 – 3 PM
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Class Time: MW 8 – 10:50 AM
Class Location: Hickory 160

Name and Contact Information of Another Student: _________________________________

Course Descriptions

3310: Introduction to concepts and techniques of intaglio printmaking, including various grounds, aquatint, line etching and stage biting. Black and white and color. Prerequisites: ART 1440, 1450, 1500 and 1510. 3 credit hours (2+4).

4310: Exploration of concepts and techniques of intaglio printmaking, including classic and experimental techniques. Prerequisite(s): ASTU 3310; selection into the printmaking program through the mid-point review process. May be repeated for credit. 3 credit hours (2+4).

5900: Advanced students capable of doing independent work under the direction of the instructor. 1 – 3 credit hours.

Course Content and Objectives

Print Etching/Advanced Etching/Special Problems explore intaglio printmaking as a primary form of expression. They cover the essential processes, aesthetic characteristics, and expressive potential of the medium. Low-toxicity techniques will be emphasized and no hazardous materials will be used without prior permission from the instructor.

These courses combine presentations, demonstrations, critiques and projects in a studio format in order to help you achieve the following:
• to produce a body of work on paper,
• to gain technical proficiency in a variety of intaglio processes,
• to work successfully in a shared space,
• to develop and record your ideas by maintaining a sketchbook and writing a statement of intent,
• to identify the work of traditional and contemporary graphic artists while discussing issues related to the changing role of printed media and works on paper.

Advanced Etching and Special Problems students will be expected to complete more ambitious projects than 3310. Additionally, they will be required to articulate and to pursue a unique and individual direction in their work from an early point in the semester. Occasionally, they will be asked to assist with demos, to interact with visiting artists, or to engage with other professional opportunities.
Course Structure and Evaluation

Your final course grade will be based on three portfolio reviews plus a final portfolio in which you will resubmit all previous work for a separate grade. Work must be presented in a specific format that will be described before the first due date. All prints must be dry, clean, undamaged, collated and signed. Special Problems students are required to document their work and submit a cd of high-quality digital images with their final portfolios.

The criteria are as follows:

- **Conceptual Approach = 15%**
  What ideas are evident in your work? Are they original and engaging?

- **Aesthetic Qualities = 15%**
  Do the formal qualities of your work support the conceptual approach?

- **Technique = 15%**
  Does your technical approach complement the concept and form?

- **Craft/Presentation = 15%**
  Does your portfolio meet all presentation criteria? Are your prints dry, clean, undamaged, collated and signed, with slipsheets? Do you take pride in presenting your work and care for how it is displayed?

- **Process = 15%**
  What is the scope and depth of your research and preparatory work (this can be demonstrated by a sketchbook or idea book)? Are you invested? Did you make good use of class time and keep up with the assignment? Did you budget your time effectively? How did you respond to any setbacks that occurred? As part of your process grade, you will be required to attend (and to sign in at) two out of three Printmaking visiting artists events as listed on the class day schedule.

- **Critique(s) = 15%**
  Effective participation in critiques is evidenced by the quality of work that you bring, your willingness to listen to constructive criticism and the feedback that you provide to peers. We will have pre-scheduled and impromptu critiques. They are equally important.

- **Shared Studio Space = 10%**
  This grade is based on the ongoing condition of the shop and is typically the same for all students in the class. It is meant to encourage individual responsibility combined with a professional, cooperative and courteous work ethic. Be considerate of shared spaces and tools, and be proactive if a student abuses resources. Tell your instructor if something needs to be fixed or replenished. Every student will be assigned a daily clean-up job, and failure to complete it regularly will reduce this grade.

  - 0 – 59% = F, 60 – 69% = D, 70 – 79% = C, 80 – 89% = B, 90 – 100% = A
  - Your final course grade will be lowered by excessive absences (see “Attendance”).

Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work will not be accepted unless an absence is excused (see “Attendance”). Missed demos, critiques and other class activities cannot be made up.

Occasionally, projects may be retained temporarily for cvad exhibitions or documentation.

Final grades are not posted. The Office of the Registrar will provide you with your final grade.

Final Clean-up

Final clean-up is **Friday, May 6 from 8 am – noon**. Students must spend one hour working on the group clean-up. A schedule sign-up will be provided in advance. If a student cannot make the date, s/he must pre-arrange an alternate date to contribute to the group effort. Failing to attend the clean-up period will reduce your final semester grade by one full letter. After the clean-up, students may not use the studio to print.
Texts/Readings

Required readings will be provided as handouts. Unless an alternate deadline is specified, readings must be completed one class session after they are distributed.

While no textbook is required for this course, the following books are highly recommended:

Adam, Robert and Carol Robertson. *Intaglio: The Complete Safety-First System for Creative Printmaking*. Thames & Hudson


Howard, Keith. *Non-Toxic Intaglio Printmaking*. Printmaking Resources


Note: The professor reserves the right to change deadlines and to add in-progress deadlines to this calendar. Revisions to this calendar will be announced in class. If you miss a class and a deadline is changed, it is your responsibility to be prepared when you return.

Portfolio One: Non-Acid Techniques; Still and Moving Images

M 1/17  
No Class: Labor Day

W 1/19  
Course introduction, policies and materials  
Discussion: The sequential print, generative matrix, delay, narrative  
Demo: Plate preparation. Drypoint and incidental markmaking

M 1/24  
3310: Idea development due  
4310/5900: 1st state proof due. In-progress critique  
Demo: State proofing. Subtractive approaches

W 1/26  
3310: 1st state proof due. In-progress critique  
Demo: Photographing and/or scanning artwork

M 1/31  
12th class day  
Demo: Computer lab (Art 233), preparing still images, layering, sequence

W 2/2  
3310: 2nd state proof due. In-progress critique  
4310/5900: 2nd state proof due. In-progress critique

M 2/7  
3310: Work day. Show evidence of videos in progress  
4310/5900: Show evidence of videos in progress

W 2/9  
3310: 3rd state proof due  
4310/5900: 3rd state proof due  
Discussion: Collation. Presentation

M 2/14  
3310: Work day  
4310/5900: Portfolio One and Process due (at the beginning of class). Critique. Show videos  
Discussion: Introduction to Portfolio Two. Repeatability, the grid and the collective

W 2/16  
3310: Portfolio One and Process due (at the beginning of class). Critique. Show videos

Portfolio Two: Etching and Polymer Techniques; The Grid and the Collective

M 2/21  
Demos: Polymer plates. Computer lab (Art 233), preparing positives (no nitrile gloves/goggles = 1 absence)

W 2/23  
3310 & 4310/5900: Idea development due. Begin test plates (no nitrile gloves/goggles = 1 absence)

M 2/28  
Demos: Line etch

W 3/2  
3310 & 4310/5900: State proofs due

M 3/7  
3310 & 4310/5900: In-progress critique. Switch proofs

W 3/9  
3310 & 4310/5900: Work day

John Hitchcock & Texas Print Survey  
Friday 1/28 6 – 8 PM  
Gallery talk at 6:30 PM  
University of Texas at Arlington

Conversation on Printmaking  
Sunday 2/13 3 – 5 PM  
University of Texas at Austin  
http://www.utexas.edu/finearts/vac

Jeff Elrod, Visiting Artist  
Monday 2/28 1 – 1:50 PM, ESSC 255

David Jones, Visiting Artist  
Wednesday 3/2 10:30 – 11:20 AM, ENV 120
**M 3/14**  
*No Class: Spring Break*

**W 3/18**  
*No Class: Spring Break*

**M 3/21**  
3310 & 4310/5900: In-progress critique. Switch proofs  
Demo: Chine collé

**W 3/23**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Work day  
Discussion: Color prints, contemporary print forms,  
authorship, originality, collaboration and works on paper

**M 3/28**  
3310 & 4310/5900: **Portfolio Two and Process due** (at the beginning of class). Critique  
Demo: Planning a color scheme, key plate

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**Portfolio Three: Color Printing Techniques; Master Printing**

**W 3/30**  
Demo: Shaped plates, open bite, blind embossment

**M 4/4**  
Demo: Softground, offset to second and third plates

**W 4/6**  
3310 & 4410: Work day

**M 4/11**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Work day

**W 4/13**  
3310 & 4310/5900: B/W proofs of all plates due  
Demo: Color registration

**M 4/18**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Work day

**W 4/20**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Color trial proof due

**M 4/25**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Master printing and exchange

**W 4/27**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Master printing and exchange

**M 5/2**  
3310 & 4310/5900: Work day

**W 5/4**  
3310 & 4310/5900: **Portfolio Three and Process due** (at the beginning of class)  
3310 & 4310/5900: **Resubmission of Portfolios One and Two due** (at the beginning of class)  
Final critique

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**Final Clean-Up**

**F 5/6**  
**8 AM – noon**  
Students must spend one hour working on the group clean-up. If a student cannot make the date, s/he must pre-arrange an alternate date to contribute to the group effort. Failing to attend the clean-up period will reduce your final semester grade by one full letter.

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**“Final Exam”**

**M 5/9**  
**8 AM – 10 AM**  
No final exam is planned for this class. Please pick up your work at this time. Work left after this time may be discarded.