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
Office: Hickory 120D
Office Hours: MW 11 AM – NOON, TR 10 AM – 11 AM
Email: gibbons@unt.edu
Telephone: 940.369.8354

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 (fourth) portfolio in which you will revise select previous works and resubmit the rest. The average of these portfolios is a baseline that will be lowered in the case of excessive absences, failure to attend final clean-up or observe shop policies, etc.

Work must be presented as described in the “Presentation Requirements” and “Collation” handouts; observe “Requirements” listed on each project sheet, too. 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%
  
  The scope and depth of your research and preparatory work as evidenced 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 printmaking-related events** (*) as listed on the class day schedule. Only events taking place outside of our class time qualify. Most events are free, but a few require fees. Know of a print-related event that isn't listed? Please suggest it.

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

  + = 100% or A = fulfills above requirements in exemplary way

  √ = 75% or C = work incomplete or unfinished, student actively participated

  − = 50% or F = work missing, student actively participated

  Ø = 0% or O = work missing, student did not participate

- **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. The last ten minutes of every class will consist of a mandatory studio clean-up with a sign-out. Failure to participate will reduce your studio space grade.

  - Your score is translated to a letter as follows: 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.

©LARI GIBBONS
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 reading materials 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


There's also a bevy of journals about printmaking, including *Contemporary Impressions* (American Print Alliance), *Graphic Impressions* (SGCI) and *The Mid America Print Council Journal*, et cetera; and a host of wonderful exhibition catalogues, such as the Delta National Small Print.
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| M 8/29   | Course introduction, policies and materials | Discussion: The sequential print, generative matrix, delay, narrative
| W 8/31   | 3310: Idea development due |
| M 9/5    | No Class: Labor Day |
| W 9/7    | 3310: 1st state proof due. In-progress critique |
| M 9/12   | 12th class day |
| W 9/14   | 3310: 2nd state proof due. In-progress critique |
| M 9/19   | 3310: Work day. Show evidence of videos in progress |
| W 9/21   | 3310: 3rd state proof due. Show evidence of videos in progress |
| M 9/26   | 3310: Work day |
| W 9/28   | 3310: Portfolio One and Process due (at the beginning of class). Critique. Show videos |

**Portfolio Two: Etching; Photopolymer Techniques**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 10/3</td>
<td>Workshop, Sa &amp; Su 10/1 – 10/2, PRINT Press (Oak Street Annex) ($)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 10/5</td>
<td>3310 &amp; 4310/5900: Continue test plates (no nitrile gloves/goggles = 1 absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 10/10</td>
<td>3310 &amp; 4310/5900: Test plates due. In-progress critique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 10/12</td>
<td>3310 &amp; 4310/5900: State proofs due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 10/17</td>
<td>Demo: Chine collé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 10/19</td>
<td>3310 &amp; 4310/5900: State proofs due. In-progress critique</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
M 10/24  Demo: Photopolymers
W 10/26  3310 & 4310/5900: Work day
Discussion: Color prints, contemporary print forms, authorship, originality, collaboration and works on paper

M 10/31  3310 & 4310/5900: Portfolio Two and Process due (at the beginning of class). Critique
Demo: Planning a color scheme, key plate

Portfolio Three: Color Printing; Master Printing; Photopolymer Techniques

W 11/2  Demo: Open bite, blind embossment
M 11/7  Demo: Softground, offset to second and third plates
W 11/9  3310 & 4410: Work day
M 11/14 Demo: Photopolymers
W 11/16 3310 & 4310/5900: B/W proofs of all plates due
Demo: Color registration
M 11/21  3310 & 4310/5900: Work day
W 11/23  3310 & 4310/5900: Color trial proof due
M 11/28  3310 & 4310/5900: Master printing and exchange
W 11/30  3310 & 4310/5900: Master printing and exchange

M 12/5  3310 & 4310/5900: Work day
W 12/7  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
All printmaking-related events (for Process grade) must be complete.

Final Clean-Up

F 12/9  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.

“Final Exam”

M 12/12  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.
The supplies listed below are necessary for your successful completion of this course. Additional materials may become necessary during the course of the semester. If you wish to buy supplies as needed, see the “Materials” section of each project sheet.

Suppliers

Copper: McMurray Metal Company, 3000 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, 214.742.5654, http://www.mcmurraymetals.com

HMS, 1212 W. Mulberry, Denton, TX 76201, 940.382.0422

Voertman’s, 1314 W. Hickory, Denton, TX 76201, 940.387.1313, http://www.voertmans.com/

Daniel Smith, http://www.danielsmith.com

Dick Blick, http://www.dickblick.com

Dolphin Papers, http://homepage.mac.com/dolphinpapers

Graphic Chemical and Ink, http://www.graphicchemical.com

Utrecht, http://www.utrechttart.com

Portfolios and Paper

Portfolio envelope with handles, minimum 12” x 18”

Sketchbook, notebook or binder for taking notes, keeping handouts and developing ideas, 9” x 12” or larger

Rag paper, -20 sheets, see list on following page. Do not use watercolor papers for printing

Several sheets (or small pad) of tracing paper

Polyester film such as Mylar or acetate, frosted on one side only, 1 – 2 sheets, approximately 20” x 25”. Do not use double-sided frosted films such as Duralar or mylar

Newsprint pad, 18” x 24” or 24” x 36”. Wait to purchase; shop will provide if we use it conservatively.

Optional/highly recommended: graph paper, 18” x 24” or same size as mylar

Plates and Tools

Copper plate, 18-gauge preferred, 18” x 24”, group order recommended

Supplier: McMurray Metal Company, 3000 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, 214.742.5654, www.mcmurraymetals.com

Etching needle (double-ended scribe, tempered steel preferred)

Scraper, three-sided > combined scraper and burnisher acceptable

Burnisher

Drawing Media

Drawing pencils, assortment, 6B, 4B, 2B, HB, 2H

Rolling ball-point pen, Faber Castel Uni-Ball or equivalent, medium point, black ink

Felt-tipped marker, Sharpie or equivalent, fine or ultra fine point, black ink

China marker or litho crayon

Twist-type pencil sharpener

Eraser

Acrylic paint, 2 oz, blue recommended

Assorted paintbrushes, small
Miscellaneous

Clear push-pins (for critiques)
Small clean 2-oz (or similar) squeeze bottle. Look in travel or trial-size section of pharmacies. Do not use food or used personal product containers
Ruler, 18” stainless steel with cork or rubber on back
X-acto knife, #1 or #2, with extra blades
Masking or drafting tape
Packing tape, clear, 1 – 2 rolls
Roll of vinyl contact paper
Container for supplies (tackle or tool box works well)
Chemical-proof gloves
Medical gloves, latex or nitrile

You May Want to Purchase

Safety glasses
Clean bath towels
Clean cotton rags
Transfer paper (such as carbon or Saral paper)
Putty knife, 1”, metal preferred (not plastic), medium – soft flex
Future floor wax, small bottle. If purchased, skip the squeeze bottle listed above
GoJo orange pumice hand cleaner
Sandpaper, 80 – 200 grit, wet-dry recommended
Glass scraper, with extra single-edged blades
Work gloves, fabric
Apron or studio shirt

Papers for Intaglio Printmaking

Sized:
Arches Cover
Copperplate by Hahnemühle
Fabriano Rosapina
German Etching by Hahnemühle
German Ingres by Hahnemühle
Magnani Pescia
Rives BFK
Somerset Satin

Unsized/Waterleaf:
Arches 88
note: working with waterleaf papers is challenging. Not recommended if you are new to intaglio printmaking
Do not use watercolor papers for intaglio printing.