

Beginning Printmaking: Relief

ASTU 2601-001

Meeting Days/Time M,T,W,TH 1:00 pm – 4:50 pm

Class Location: ART 275

Instructor: Magaly Cantú

Office Hours: Monday 12:00 pm– 12:30 pm, ART 275 (Please email me beforehand that you are planning on coming.)

Email: Magaly.Cantu@unt.edu

Course Description

Introductory overview to relief print processes utilizing both black and white as well as color processes.

Course Content

Through this course, students will learn to utilize basic printmaking methods to create a unified, conceptual body of work while also learning the process of relief printing. The class focuses heavily on traditional print methodology through the examination of limited edition prints. Demonstrations, critiques, and projects will emphasize printmaking concepts and properties such as layered image-making, collaboration, translation, duplication, and technically alluring processes.

Course Outcomes and Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a beginning-level command of creative research with the ability to:

- Form creative research questions related to the content of their artwork.
- Technically manipulate materials through relief printing.
- Create a unified portfolio of artworks resulting from the prior objectives.
- Engage in critical dialog related to this portfolio and portfolios by peers.
- Apply standards for formal documentation of the artist's creative practice.

Course Requirements

Project #1: Printmaking & Social Engagement: Black and White

- Limited edition of 6 identical prints on white paper (proper digital documentation submitted via Canvas)
- 100-150 word Project/Artist's Statement
- Participation during project critique

Project #2: Fancy Frames: Two-Block Color Reduction

Limited edition of 5 identical prints (proper digital documentation submitted via Canvas)

100-150 word Project/Artist's Statement

Participation during project critique

Project #3: Single-Block Color Reduction

Limited edition of 5 identical, 3-4 layer prints (digital documentation submitted via Canvas)

100-150 word Project/Artist's Statement

Participation during project critique

***(All Projects are graded on mastery of technical craft (imaging+printing), conceptual investment, compositional strength, along with contributing to critique discussions.)**

Assignment are posted in Modules, where each has it's own instructions and requirements.

Project #1: Printmaking & Social Engagement: Black and White	100 points	20%
Project #2: Fanciest Frames: Two-Block Color Reduction	100 points	35%
Project #3: Stained Glass Extravaganza: Single-Block Color Reduction	100 points	35%
Outside Engagement	100 points	10%
Total:	400 points	100%

Project #1: Black and White 20%

Project #2: Single-Block Color Reduction 35%

Project #3: Two-Block Color 35%

Outside Engagement 10%

Total 100%

Final Exam (Final Critique & Mandatory Clean-up Day)

Project Point Grade Scale

Grades will be posted in canvas along with comments to help direct your progress.

A - Excellent work that exceeds objectives, is very high in originality, and extremely well-conceived and executed.

B - Good work that meets the objectives, is high in originality, and well-conceived and executed.

C - Average acceptable work that meets the objectives, is fairly well-conceived and executed.

D - Inferior work that is minimally complete but falls short of the objective of the project.

F - Failing work. Significantly incomplete, does not meet the objectives, and is poorly executed and/or conceived

Total Point Scale for End of Semester Grades

A = Excellent (450-500 points)

B = Above Average (400-449 points)

C = Average (350-399 points)

D = Inferior (300-349 points)

Course Materials

- (1)- 6-inch X 8-inch Linoleum Block
- (4)- 8-inch X 10-inch Linoleum Block
- Set of carving tools
- Non-slip mat

Required to Purchase:

- 10 sheets of Rives "Heavyweight" paper or Rives "Lightweight" paper(minimum)
- 1 box of Nitrile Gloves (You must wear gloves while using mineral spirits)

**Rives paper can be purchased from at the beginning of the semester at <https://www.dickblick.com/products/rives-heavyweight-printmaking-paper/> or at Voertman's throughout the semester.*

Communications

Individual communication will be done through email. I do not check Canvas messages regularly and I would suggest you email me for easier communication. I do make announcements through Canvas to address the class as a whole.

Attendance Policy

*If you must be absent, please send me an email before class. Ask another student to take notes for what you missed (like demonstrations), so that you are caught up and prepared for when you return to the next class.

Attendance is mandatory to be successful in this class. When you attend class, you have real space/real-time access to discussions, demonstrations, critiques, and assistance on your projects. Attending class is the first step in developing a sense of community and social learning. I will take roll at the start of all class days. It is your responsibility to answer roll call at the beginning of class. If you walk in late, you must let the instructor know right away so that you are marked tardy instead of absent.

*If you arrive 45 minutes or later than the start of class, that will count as an absence.

3 Absences will be tolerated. After the 4th absence, your attendance will result in a drop in your letter grade. For example, if you miss 4 classes without an excuse or contacting the instructor your final grade will drop from an A to a B. 5 absences will result in two drops in your final letter grade. 6 absences will result in an F for this class.

Art Building Summer Hours

Beginning May 9, 2026

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Metalsmithing & Jewelry, Room V170: Swipe access only

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 Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Health and 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.

Handbook_Heath-Safety_8-12-18-1.pdf

[Download Handbook_Heath-Safety_8-12-18-1.pdf](#) (2.38 MB)

Best Practices for Health and Safety for the Printmaking Studio

Please read the appendixes of the H&S manual for the Printmaking Program

Printmaking HealthSafety-1.pdf

[Download Printmaking HealthSafety-1.pdf](#) (111 KB)

Emergency Notification and 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.

Course Safety Procedures

While working in laboratory sessions, students enrolled in Beginning Printmaking: Relief are required to follow proper safety procedures and 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 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 Page 2 of 4 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.

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.

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 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.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment and 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.

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. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation].

Tentative Summer Schedule

This is a 4 hour class so we will have allowed time for break, bring a snack!

Date	Agenda	Needed Materials	Reminders
Monday May 18, 2026	First Day: Syllabus Overview & Studio Safety Tour 15-min Break Block Preparation/ Carving Demo & Materials Overview	Bring Yourself, Something to write with and write on	<i>Purchase printing paper no later than today!</i>
Tuesday May 19, 2026	Printing Demo 15-min Break Work Day: Drawing/ Designing or Carving	Bring materials for completing design: Sketchbook, computer, drawing material	
Wednesday May 20, 2026	Paper Tearing Demo Work Day: Drawing/ Designing or Carving	Bring printing paper	
Thursday May 21, 2026	Printing Days *Recommend		
Monday May 25, 2026	Campus Closed: Memorial Day		
Tuesday May 26, 2026	Project 1 Critique: 1Hr-1Hr 30 Min 15-min Break Introduction to Project #2 & Block preparation Demo		
Wednesday May 27, 2026	Printing Demo 15-min Break Work Day: Drawing/ Designing or Carving		
Thursday May 28, 2026	Work Day: Drawing/ Designing or Carving		<i>Designs Due</i>
Monday June 1, 2026	Printing Days *Recommend		<i>Carvings Due</i>
Tuesday June 2, 2026	Printing Days *Recommend		
Wednesday June 3, 2026	Printing Days *Recommend		
Thursday June 4, 2026	Printing Days *Recommend		

Date	Agenda	Needed Materials	Reminders
Monday June 8, 2026	Project 2 Critique: 1Hr-1Hr 30 Min 15-min Break Introduction to Project #3		<i>This project requires you to work outside of class.</i>
Tuesday June 9, 2026	Work Day: Drawing/ Designing or Carving		
Wednesday June 10,2026	Layer 1: Printing Days *Recommend		
Thursday June 11,2026	Layer 2: Printing Days *Recommend		
Monday June 15,2026	Layer 3: Printing Days *Recommend		
Tuesday June 16,2026			
Wednesday June 17,2026	Layer 4: Printing Days *Recommend		
Thursday June 18,2026	Final Critique/ Class Clean-Up		
			All late work and final assignments due by June 20th.
Monday June 22, 2026	University Grade Submission Deadline 4pm		
Wednesday July 29,2026	Grades/Academic Standing posted on the Official Transcript		

This schedule is subject to change. **There will be one hour of one class day reserved for a virtual artist talk by Lia Winston, date is TBD.*