

**University of North Texas
College of Visual Arts & Design
Beginning Drawing & Painting: Painting I
Fall 2025**

MCat Davis (she/her)
MCAT.Davis@unt.edu
Office Hours: TBD
CVAD or via Zoom

**ASTU 2201.506
ART 460
T/TH 2:00 pm-4:50 pm**

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to contemporary painting practices and issues, including the study of methods and materials (oil, acrylic, tools, and surfaces), composition, value, color, and pictorial space centered on observation. It focuses on the capacities of painting and introduces students to technical and historical issues central to painting. Prerequisite(s): ART 1600; ART 1700 or ART 1800.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will offer a general overview of the various painting methods. Primary Focus will be in Acrylic and oil mediums, however, other mediums may be explored and taught through demonstrations and as part of coursework. In addition, students will begin and/or continue developing their personal voice, vision, and approach to painting and artmaking, as a general concept of art and art theory. Experimentation within the confines of the various assignments is welcome and encouraged.

COURSE STRUCTURE: A great deal of work on paintings will be done in class and will take several weeks to complete. You are welcome and encouraged to use the painting studio outside of class time, while still respecting other classes and professors' schedules. This course will focus primarily on the production and critique of a series of painting projects. You will receive project instructions throughout the semester. These projects may vary significantly in time and materials required and will have a primarily technical focus, however, some may be essentially conceptual. Project time spans will be given at the outset of each new project.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT & RESPONSIBILITIES: Please feel free to contact me via email or Canvas. I respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday. All grades will be fully updated and shared individually with each student for Midterms and Finals. The instructor values your time, growth, and effort and does her best to complete grading promptly with individualized feedback on your work. If there is more time needed than normal, The instructor will let you know as soon as possible about the delay.

PROCESS & STUDIO TIME:

- Every step in the life of each assignment is important and valuable: discussion with the instructor, your classmates, and other sources are expected in the course of production.
- Participation in class discussion, whether reviewing completed work, concepts, processes, or assigned material, is extremely important.
- Most of the projects assigned will not be able to be fully completed during class hours; you will be expected to make full use of the class time in active work. It will also be imperative to work outside of class on your assignments, both painting and research. A minimum of one hour of outside work per every 2 hours of class time should be anticipated.

CRITIQUES: In addition to completing actual paintings, you will begin to develop a critical voice regarding your work and the work of others. We will critique paintings periodically, though not every assignment will require a critique. Attendance during critiques is essential. Learning to speak effectively about art will be a critical part of this course. Critiques will be carried out professionally. Persons absent for critique will automatically receive a letter grade drop in their assignment. Even if a painting is unfinished, it should be shown during critique. Students will be allowed to finish the painting but will receive one letter grade drop. In this instance, finished paintings are due no later than one week after the original due date.

CRITIQUE DECORUM: *Critiques are an essential component of this studio course. We will overview critique procedures in class and collaboratively develop guidelines for expectations and goals. Parties may be asked to leave a critique if their participation does not meet the expectations or standards of decorum. Art is personal, and the need to discuss personal themes may arise, so as fellow artists, we must be considerate and conscientious during critiques (also see note on Course Content). In addition, the artist receiving the critique will be expected to use the advice and criticism. It is most encouraged to keep a sketchbook/notebook during critique to write notes for future Reference.*

COURSE CONTENT: 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. The College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic

and otherwise, and 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 uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

This course will be comprised of Four (4) Assignments all with varying components of preliminary sketches, drawings, research, writing, and final work.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS & WRITING: I will occasionally require short readings, writings, and/or gallery and museum visits during the semester. You will be given at least two weeks' notice to make travel and accommodation arrangements. You will write a short review of the artworks seen during the Gallery trips or a short response to the reading. Looking at art and reading about art will be integral to your growth as an artist, and will help make your art relevant to our time. You are especially encouraged to go to all CVAD gallery openings.

END OF SEMESTER STUDIO CLEAN-UP: Students are **required** to attend and participate in studio clean-up on the scheduled class date during class hours. Failure to attend and participate in the final clean-up will result in a one-letter-grade drop in your final grade. You are responsible for cleaning your work area, your storage area, your checked-out palette, and your hazardous materials area (inside the chemical cabinet). You are to remove on this day all stored work and materials from both your storage cubby and your rented locker. Gamsol Silcoils will be recycled on this day if you do not take yours home with you. Final day to remove work: Friday, May 12th, 12pm. Any artwork or materials left after this day will not be stored for you and will be disposed of. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE: The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is considered tentative. The course schedule is subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion, including requirements, schedule, assignments, etc., at any time during the semester. All changes will be announced in class and via canvas. It is your responsibility to adjust accordingly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular and punctual attendance is expected. The student will be allowed up to three absences during the semester. Accruing more than three absences will result in one letter grade drop. Each successive absence will result in an additional letter grade drop. Excessive absences will cause your work to suffer, as well. When a class is missed, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed and what is expected of you. I recommend you share contact information with at least 3 classmates, so that you may reach out to them for anything missed during class. It is your responsibility to source the missed content and information. If you come to me, I will catch you up as best I can. You are accountable for all information shared in class, whether you are present or not. Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late or with an unexcused absence. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Three tardies will constitute an absence. Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor's excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences). Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.

SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT: Students are responsible for bringing all of the necessary materials to be prepared for work in class on scheduled days. Attending class without the necessary supplies or prepared surfaces will result in an unexcused absence. Students will be required to build their own stretcher and prepare the canvas for the fourth assignment, and are strongly encouraged to do so for successive assignments. You should not use pre-prepared canvases available at hobby art stores after the first 3 assignments. The Supply List is attached to the end of the syllabus. Please see CVAD & Student Resources lists for information about supply assistance.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS / TEXTBOOKS:

(There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings will be provided via canvas or otherwise optional)

Art and Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking, David Bayles & Ted Orland (1999)

Painting is a language

Supply List

- 1 painting/drawing boards 18" x 24" or larger (recommend masonite or sanded plywood - supports for taping/stapling paper or canvas for paintings, must be rigid and smooth)
- 12+ Sheets corrugated cardboard or Canvas Sheets (10" x 10" or larger) (Arches Cover or Oil Paper, Rives BFK, Stonehenge, Canvas Sheets, Canva Paper, or any heavyweight cotton paper)
- Gesso (one gallon, acrylic)
- Palette knife- Small diamond point, metal end recommended. Should have an indent.
- Oil Brushes: range of small to large sizes... one each-Flat 8, 10, 12, Bright 8, 10. Please buy good quality brushes, recommend Jack Richeson or similar. They must be stiffer than watercolor/acrylic brushes for oil painting. Synthetic &/or natural, smooth &/or bristle.
- Acrylic Brushes: Recommend set of golden/white taklon, or inexpensive ind. taklon
- Medium for Oil Paint (pick 1): Galkyd or Galkyd Gel (both recommended), Liquin/other brand of alkyd medium.

*You may also mix your own medium - no turpentine please.

- Masking Tape (1")

● Oil and Acrylic Paints (need required colors in acrylic & oil):

Required colors: Cadmium Red Medium/Napthol Red, Hansa Yellow Medium/Cadmium Yellow Light (not "Pale"), Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Umber, Titanium White (Large (200ml) Tube).

Additional/optional colors: Phthalo Blue, Dioxazine Purple, Alizarin Crimson, Viridian Green, Naples Yellow/Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber, Phthalo Green, Ivory Black, Permanent or Cadmium Orange, Quinacridone Magenta (add if/when you need them).

**Recommend the 1980 Gamblin Oil Paint Starter Set* (includes full size tubes and galkyd gel medium for \$32 @ Jerry's/Blick/Utrecht). The higher quality paints you have, the happier you will be and the longer they will last. See announcement about paints for more info.

- Canvases, various sizes depending on project
- Gesso Brush: 2" or larger house painting brush (cheaper at hardware store, \$\$ at art store)
- Painting Rags: painting rags, or Box o' Towels/Shop Towels ^ (not the red painting rags). You can also recycle old t-shirts and other cotton fabrics.
- Jar(s) for medium(s): Lids are required, no plastic with solvents. Large Coffee cans, mason/baby-food jars are great,

*brushes need to fit into the top.

- Cut-Rite Wax Paper or Waxed Freezer/Butcher Paper *not parchment paper...
- 1 pack of Baby Wipes (any kind - cheap = good)
- Sketchbook (can be any size/shape/shared with other classes = good)
- Graphite Pencils, Sharpener, Eraser

Optional/Recommended:

- Brush Soap -
- ***helps with stains in clothes & saves dead brushes**
- Optional/Additional Mediums for Oil Painting: Galkyd Gel, Galkyd Slow-Dry, Cold Wax Medium, Linseed Oil, Stand Oil, etc. Ask for recommendations/samples before buying.
- *Linseed oil & OMS from hardware stores are not suitable for oil painting, no turpentine...
- Drawing/Mixed Media tools of choice
 - Acrylic Retarder (slows acrylic drying time)
 - Modeling paste, acrylic mediums and additives, please ask for recommendations/test out before buying.
 - Shoe Box/Art Bin/Old Tool Box/Flat Bottom Bag - for storing and transporting supplies

Provided by CVAD

- Oil paint thinners/solvents: GAMSOL only - provided by CVAD Drawing & Painting Dept. Other solvents cannot be used as thinner in our painting studio due to safety concerns.
- Solvent Tank/Silicoil (Each student gets 1 to keep, you may want to invest in a 2nd one to keep brushes clean/keep at home. They do not transport well)

Available for use at CVAD, recommend purchasing as/if needed:

- Scissors or Utility Knife
- Staple gun and staples (Powershot or similar recommended, available for use at CVAD)
- Canvas Pliers, Staple Remover & Hammer
- Palette (1 loaned by CVAD) if additional palette is needed, recommend using Glass, Plexiglas, Butcher tray or Wax Paper on any hard surface.
- Nitrile Gloves (for use at CVAD), if oil painting off-campus, strongly recommend purchasing a box for your home studio
- Lava Soap/Fast Orange (for use at CVAD), same as above^
- Glue Gun

Note: Additional supplies may be required, depending on how you choose to complete certain assignments and the surfaces you choose to work on.

GRADING: Projects will not be graded as products in a vacuum. I will not consider a piece for grading that I have not seen during the process of painting. The grade given for each project will reflect several qualities involved in the course of its production. These include, when appropriate:

- Accomplishment of any stated parameters
- The level of ambition taken to the project
- A commitment to craftsmanship at the highest level possible
- Use of class time--reflected in work ethic, attendance, and punctuality
- Participation in discussions, critiques or group activities

Grades will be determined by the consistency of student's efforts, quality, and quantity of work, as well as critique participation and class attendance. The student's willingness to take artistic risks will be looked on favorably. Each project will be given a grade. A final evaluation and grade will be given at the end of the semester.

GRADING SCALE:

A—Excellent Work: requirements for the course have been more than fulfilled, and the work has been developed beyond previous levels on both an aesthetic and a conceptual basis. Artwork shows excellent intellectual skills and ideas, technical skills and craft, and control of the medium. Critical and conceptual understanding is evidenced through visual and verbal class participation that evidences both scholarship and leadership.

B—Very Good Work: The artwork, its presentation, and the student's class participation show competence in skill development, craft, and control of the medium. Completed work shows an understanding of conceptual concerns in the context of contemporary art.

C—Average Work: Satisfactory work quality. Requirements for the course have been fulfilled adequately.

D—Poor Work: Requirements for the course are not adequately fulfilled

F—Failure: No attempt has been made to fulfill the requirements of the course.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES: During the semester, assignments and opportunities for extra credit will be shared with everyone in the class via Canvas. These are not required and will not affect a student's grade if they choose not to complete them or participate. The instructor will provide all students with the same variety of opportunities. Extra credit is provided at the discretion of the instructor and is not eligible to be applied toward specific assignments or offered to students individually.

LATE WORK / MAKE-UP POLICY: Critiques are so important that even if a painting or project is unfinished, it must be shown during critique. Students will be given an opportunity to finish the painting but will receive one letter grade drop. In this instance, finished assignments are due no later than one week after the original due date - 6extended to allow more time for students to make-up work in light of COVID-19 and related absences: Incomplete projects that are shown at critique may be finished &/or re-worked for credit, but will receive one letter grade drop (10%). Revisions of projects present at critiques from the first half of the course (Projects 1-3) may be re-submitted for credit by the Midterm. Revisions of works present at critiques from the second half of the semester (Projects 4-7) may be re-submitted for credit before the last regular class meeting. Please note that revised and late works submitted at the very end may not receive the same amount of feedback due to timing and number of works submitted for grading. Late work for Responses (exhibitions, readings, videos, etc) may be submitted with a penalty of 10% deducted from the assignment's value per day the work is late, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

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>. According to University Policy, this course is classified as a **category 2 course**.

Students enrolled in this course may be exposed to some significant risk factors, but are not likely to suffer serious bodily injury. Though painting would seem to be relatively risk-free, there are risks and safety practices you should be aware of. Most of the solvents used in oil painting (Turpentine, thinners, mediums, etc.) are toxic. In fact, some paints, like cadmium red, are also toxic. Consult the labeling of solvents and pigments for information. Toxic materials should not be ingested or allowed to touch the skin for prolonged periods. Wear protective gloves when using these materials in order to avoid skin contact. **When using solvents, always have good ventilation. When spraying commercially available enamels, lacquers, or fixatives, do so in the spray booth and wear a respirator designed for organic vapor protection. A dust mask or a scarf or t-shirt pulled over your face will not protect you.** Furthermore, it is never a good practice to eat or drink while using painting materials. If you intend to use the shop, make certain to observe ALL safety rules. If you decide to use materials not addressed above, read the safety labels and consult with your instructor as to their safe use.

STUDIO STORAGE & LOCKERS: It is suggested that students get a large locker on the third floor of the art building to store supplies. The shelving provided in the classroom may be used to store paintings currently being worked on, but students should be aware of the potential for damage, vandalism, and theft when storing work in public areas. Paintings may not be left on easels or hanging to dry, and should be stored on the shelves or in the large storage closet. It is not safe to leave materials in the painting studio... they will be stolen... Once a painting assignment is completed and graded, the student must take the work home. CVAD does not provide long-term storage of work. Lockers are available to rent from CVAD: <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/foundations/locker-rentals>

STUDIO EXPECTATIONS, SAFETY & CVAD POLICIES: Students will dispose of all hazardous liquids (thinners, brush cleaners, turpentine) in the hazardous liquids jugs in the corner of the room next to the storage cabinet.

Dispose of all oily rags in the red fire bins also in the corners of the painting studio. No paint, acrylic or oil, should be disposed of in the sink drains. Throw all scraped paint into a trashcan containing a liner. Brushes may be cleaned in the sink, but only after sufficiently rinsing them in your thinner containers. Wash hands (including under fingernails) after using toxic materials and chemicals (even if you were wearing gloves). Wear protective gloves and use plastic drop cloth to contain chemicals, paints, and stains when applying. Artist materials can be messy, wear clothes that you are ok with getting dirty or you may want to bring an apron. There is no smoking, vaping, eating, or drinking allowed in the classroom.

You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is safe and conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones or laptops, taking photographs, video or audio recordings, checking your email or the internet, updating your social media, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, 7reading, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.