

University of North Texas
College of Visual Arts & Design
Drawing & Painting: Series
Fall 2025

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

ASTU 3206.501
ART 468
T/TH 8am-10:50am

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Exploration of the strategy of the series in drawing and painting to deconstruct, transform, distill, unpack, or otherwise evolve an idea.

Prerequisite(s): [ASTU 2201](#) and [ASTU 2202](#) with a grade of C or better.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will offer a general overview of the various methods used in oil and acrylic painting. 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 up to two 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 generally 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 is 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 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 one hour of class time will be necessary.

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. If a critique is missed, the painting will receive a failing grade.

Learning to speak effectively about art will be a critical part of this course. Critiques will be carried out professionally. Persons late for critique will receive a letter grade drop in their assignment. Even if a painting is unfinished, it must 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 made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Crit 1	30%
Crit 2	20%
Research materials	15%
Crit 3	30%
Mandatory Studio Clean Up	5%

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.

Supply List

-Sketchbook (non-digital)

-Pencils/pens

Note: Additional supplies will 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.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete required 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, reading, 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.

*Cell phones and headphones may be used for music in class during painting sessions, and is encouraged. However, please put them away at the start and end of each class, during all critiques, instructions, demos, etc. Please keep headphone volume to a level that allows you to be aware of your surroundings. If you need to make or accept a phone call, etc. please step out to do so in the hallway.

CVAD Photo Documentation Services: <https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/labs/photo-doc>

The CVAD Photo Documentation Service will photograph and document artwork at no cost. This service is open to CVAD students, faculty, and staff. Appointments are required.

CVAD Art Building Hours of Operation Regular Hours:

• Aug 19–Dec 15 2024

Mon–Thurs: 7 a.m.–10 p.m, Fri: 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m, Sat: 9 a.m.–5 p.m, Sun: Noon–10 p.m.

CVAD Student Computer Lab:

Art Building, Room 375 - Computer Lab sharepoint fall 2024

Open Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday - closed

CVAD IT Services Help Desk:

• Art Building, Room 371 In-person Help: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Virtual/Online Help:

• web application: Microsoft® Teams, email: CVAD.ITServices@unt.edu, phone: 940-565-4522

CVAD Fabrication Labs:

Fab Lab The CVAD Fabrication Labs are located in ART 361 and ART 366 (Instructor Demonstration Area).

Available without additional charge or fees to all students enrolled in at least one CVAD course in a given semester – the Fabrication Labs provide student access to high-end fabrication and maker equipment needed by our student population to meet course and professional requirements.

STUDENT RESOURCES & SUPPORT SERVICES 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>)

Other student support services offered by UNT include:

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)

- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Multicultural Center (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- Pride Alliance (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services:

- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- MathLab (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Full printable list of UNT Student & Academic Resources:

https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/aa_sa_resources_06-2021.pdf

CVAD STUDENT RESOURCES:

- Continuing Student Scholarships: Applications due January 28th, 2023 <https://forms.cvad.unt.edu/scholarships>
- After-hours art building access (still valid from last semester, through early May 2023): <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/studentaccess>
- CVAD Locker Rental: <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/foundations/locker-rentals>
- CVAD IT Dept. & Resources: <https://cvad.unt.edu/cvadit>
- Equipment Check-out (CVAD, cameras, lighting, speakers, etc.): <https://checkout.unt.edu/patron#!/>
- CVAD Advising: <https://cvad.unt.edu/advising>
- CVAD News: <https://news.cvad.unt.edu>
- Career Center & CVAD (Student focused job ops & handshake): <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/cvad-career-center-jobs>
- Art Supplies and Where to Find Them: <https://cvad.unt.edu/resource/art-supplies>
- The Art Closet (UNT founded, donate supplies or request assistance): <https://www.theartcloset.org/about-us>
- Additional Supply Assistance - please reach out to your instructor, student services, the office of financial aid, and/or the supply closet for assistance with finding support and access to supplies and materials for this course and others.
- Free stuff on campus: the CVAD woodshop (4th floor), Fab Lab and Sculpture Studios all generally have small selections of left and donated scraps and materials. Ask the Shop Technicians nicely and they can point you in the right direction if they have anything available.
- Reduced Price Adobe CC for CVAD Students: <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/adobe-news>
- Study Abroad Summer 2022 with CVAD: <https://news.cvad.unt.edu/studyabroad2022>

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.

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.

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. In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your instructors and act accordingly.

Center for Student's Rights and Responsibilities:

The student is reminded of his or her rights and responsibilities, both academically and personally, as a student at the University of North Texas. For a full elaboration of these issues please see www.unt.edu/csrr.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT & 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 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.

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

DISABILITY 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.

