

ART 1800

Narrative and Representation

Fall 2025

Lead Faculty Contact Information

Lead Instructor: Marcela Reyes

Email: marcela.reyes@unt.edu

Office Location: ART 326

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm or by appointment

Lab Sections Information

Section	Location	Days	Lab Time	Instructor Name	Instructor email
402	Canvas	Online	Online	Marcela Reyes	Marcela.Reyes@unt.edu
201	ART 380	MW	10:30 am- 12:50 pm	Ngoc Yen Nhu Ha	NgocYenNhu.Ha@unt.edu
202	ART 380	MW	1:00 pm- 3:20 pm	Marcela Reyes	Marcela.Reyes@unt.edu
203	ART 380	MW	3:30 pm- 5:50 pm	Marcela Reyes	Marcela.Reyes@unt.edu
206	ART 380	TR	10:30 am- 12:50 pm	Abbigail Spillane	Abbigail.Spillane@unt.edu
207	ART 380	TR	1:00 pm- 3:20 pm	Devarsh Vikrambhai Patel	Patel.DevarshVikrambhai@unt.edu
208	ART 380	TR	3:30 pm- 5:50 pm	Devarsh Vikrambhai Patel	Patel.DevarshVikrambhai@unt.edu
214	ART 327	TR	1:00 pm – 3:20 pm	Usama Khalid	Usama.Khalid@unt.edu

Your lab instructor will share their office hours with you on the first day your lab meets.

Canvas the first week of classes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course emphasizes multiple levels of representation ranging from the physical to the intangible.

COURSE STRUCTURE

In this course, students will examine the function of narrative in contemporary culture. Course concepts and project structures will be delivered online via Canvas. Students will complete weekly Canvas modules in addition to weekly lab classes.

Lectures- Weekly lectures will be available on Canvas. You will have weekly readings and reflections which address how narrative is produced and received in contemporary culture and the mutually influential relationship between narrative and representation. These lectures complement the projects you do in the lab.

Lab-This class requires a 2-hour and 20-minute lab which meets twice a week. Friday labs meet once a week for four hours and fifty minutes. During lab classes, students will participate in reading discussions, demonstrations, skill-building workshops, and independent studio work. Your studio participation is an extremely important component of the class and a significant part of your overall grade.

Projects-Students will complete three major projects over the semester, which will explore historical narratives through the single frame, emergent narratives through sequence, and speculative narratives through space. Each project will manifest through a process of artistic research, design and material experimentation, execution, written reflection, and critique. Through this process, students will practice communicating their creative intentions through a critical approach to materials and form.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recall key aspects of narrative and representation as they apply to contemporary art and design.
- Use terminology related to the elements and principles of design to describe narrative artwork.
- Use vocabulary and art terminology that connect notions of representation and narrative with intercultural content in multiple contexts.
- Clearly articulate plans for your studio assignments in written and verbal formats.
- Select appropriate tools and materials to execute artworks
- Use digital and analog tools and materials as a means for artistic expression
- Create professional documentation of completed projects

EXPECTATIONS

In this class, you will develop your creative voice and critical thinking skills through visual art, as well as discover the way your work is relevant to the world outside the studio and classroom. This course is designed to be rigorous and you should expect your instructors to challenge and support you throughout the semester. You should also expect the class to be an inclusive community where you will give and receive thoughtful criticism and feedback.

In turn, it is expected that you will be an engaged and active member of the classroom community. This means that you will devote equal attention to online coursework, class activities, and studio projects. Be prepared to spend time outside of lab sessions each week reading, making artwork, and completing other related assignments such as preparatory sketches and writing project reflections.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Readings

All readings and videos will be provided on Canvas

Supplies

- Sketchbook, 8.5 x 11 inches or larger
- Drawing pencil or mechanical pencil
- Metal ruler
- White synthetic eraser
- Masking tape
- X-acto knife with replacement blades
- Drawing paper (one large sheet or leftover paper)
- Adhesives
- Markers or colored pencils

The list above is general materials you will need for all projects, in-class assignments, and sketches. You are required to buy materials for each project. Many of your materials will be determined by the individual nature of each of your projects. Please be prepared to buy some materials as needed throughout the semester.

Technology Requirements

- Laptop or tablet.
- Adobe Photoshop
- Camera for documentation
- Slide/presentation software such as Adobe InDesign or PowerPoint
- Note: please complete the [CVAD IT checkout agreement](#) and familiarize yourself with the available equipment and policies.

IMPORTANT: Occasionally, the artwork or other materials you view in class may contain nudity or violence. These are included for educational purposes and are an important part of the larger concepts communicated in this course. 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. As 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.

GRADING

Assessment

You are not expected to be an expert in this class, but you are expected to grow your technical and conceptual abilities over the course of the semester. For each assignment, a portion of your grade will depend on your choice of appropriately challenging subject matter. The remainder of your grade will depend on how well you meet the technical and conceptual challenges you have set out for yourself. Prior to each critique, you will be given a rubric that details how your instructor will be grading the project.

Studio Coursework

Your studio assignments will be where you apply some of the concepts you learn about in your online coursework. While you will receive parameters for each of your studio assignments, you will have significant leeway in how you choose to respond to them. As such, a portion of your grade for each of these assignments will depend on your choice of appropriately challenging subject matter. The remainder of your grade will depend on how well you meet the technical and conceptual challenges you have set out for yourself. You are not expected to be an expert in this class, but you are expected to grow your technical and conceptual abilities over the course of the semester.

The following table shows how your final grade will be weighted:

Category	Percentage Distribution
Weekly Reflections/Sketchbook	25%
Attendance	10%
Project 1: Historical Narratives	20%
Project 2: Emergent Narratives	25%
Project 3: Speculative Narratives	20%
Total	100%

GRADING SCALE

A = Excellent (100-90%)

B = Above Average (89-80%)

C = Average (79-70%)

D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements] F = Failure (59% or below)

ART 1800 POLICIES

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students are required to have their notifications turned on for course announcements. You will receive important information each week via course announcements and are responsible for reading these before you come to lab.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absences and tardiness will negatively affect your grade. Attendance is mandatory for lab sessions. Your cumulative attendance (based on the percentage of scheduled lab sessions you were present) is 10% of your final grade. Note: an attendance grade lower than 70% will result in the loss of one letter grade. This penalty will be applied to the final course average (your grade for the course). **Students with an attendance grade lower than 60% cannot pass the course regardless of final grade average.**

Absences will be excused in extenuating circumstances with proper documentation. An Excused Absence Request Form with proof (i.e. doctor's note) should be turned into your lab instructor upon your return to class. A funeral, medical emergency, or similar emergency circumstance may qualify to be excused, but this is subject to approval following the receipt of your documentation. Excused absences will not affect your attendance grade. Absences or tardies due to car trouble, scheduled doctor visits, work responsibilities, and traffic jams will not be excused.

See the Undergraduate Course Catalog for university policy regarding absences due to sponsored activities (such as sports) and religious holidays. Students involved in such activities are encouraged to have absences approved in advance or as early in the semester as possible. Any absences which are not approved or noncompliant with these terms are automatically considered unexcused.

Attendance is taken during each lab session. If you miss class, you are responsible for the topics we covered and the projects that were assigned in your absence. Ask your classmates what you missed, check in with your lab instructor, and review the current Canvas module.

Food is not allowed in lab during work time. You may snack during breaks only.

You should be actively working during class time. If you have completed the assigned project, you are expected to be working in the sketchbook or conducting research. Idle time during class is not acceptable. If your research takes you outside the classroom during class time, check in and check out with your lab instructor to receive attendance credit.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

If you are experiencing anything in your life that may interfere with your regular attendance or ability to be otherwise present in class, please let the lead faculty and your lab instructor know as soon as possible so that we can work with you to determine your options before your grade is affected.

LATE WORK

For your online assignments (modules), there will be no late work accepted. You will have a week, sometimes more, to complete these assignments at your own pace, so make sure you plan ahead and leave yourself enough time to get them done before the deadline.

Because you turn them in so frequently, missing one will not have an enormous impact on your grade, but it is important to be in the habit of completing them on time.

For your studio assignments, any late work for Project 1 and 2 will be subject to a **5% (one letter grade) deduction per day it is late, up to 7 days when the submission closes. Project 3 will not be accepted late.** *Note: deduction may be waived by your instructor in the case of extreme unforeseen circumstances, but it is your responsibility to communicate with them as soon as possible if something like this occurs.*

SECOND CHANCE

Project zeroes may be replaced with a Second Chance submission on Canvas after the project deadline. Second Chance will count as 70% credit. Second Chance for Projects 1, 2A and 2B are due on December 5th.

Optional: Extra credit will be given (up to 15 additional project points) for graded projects which are improved or redone and submitted for Second Chance. Submit your work under the appropriate Second Chance assignment header and make note of new submissions or improvements to your lab instructor.

Note: Original project grades stand in all instances. Second Chance opportunities will improve your overall project average but will not change original grades. Second Chance points are assigned unique columns within the Canvas gradebook so you can see the additional points earned. *There is no Second*

Chance opportunity for sketchbook assignments. This option applies to project grades only. There is no Second Chance opportunity for Project 3.

IMPORTANT: The due date for projects on Canvas is the date by which you must turn in your final documentation of your work. The date by which you must have finished your project for critique is different (typically about a week earlier) and is posted clearly in the assignment on Canvas. It is very important to keep track of both of these dates. Projects that are not finished by the date of critique will be considered “late” and graded accordingly. Projects will not be considered “turned in,” and therefore will not be graded, until your documentation is uploaded on Canvas.

EXTRA CREDIT

There is no guaranteed extra credit in this class.

Because of the varied kinds of work we will be doing in this course, it is extremely important that you obtain your accommodation letter from the ODA as soon as possible. Even if you think a disability will not interfere with your work in this particular class, remember that art is unpredictable! Your work will take you in unexpected directions and you’ll probably be doing things later in the semester that you are cannot predict at the present moment. Thus, it is imperative that you have all accommodations in place to make sure you are fully supported when you decide you decide to make a 9-foot tall ostrich sculpture out of grape Jell-O.

HEALTH & 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. Please visit the [Studio Art Health and Safety Program website](#) for details and the departmental handbook.

In an emergency, call 911.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS

Students enrolled in Art 1800 are not permitted to employ AI tools like DALL-E and ChatGPT for coursework. No assignment, including creative work and writing, can be completed through the use of AI. Any student found turning in unaltered and/or undocumented AI-generated work will receive a failing grade for that assignment. The use of AI will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY IN THE STUDIO

Over the semester, you will be learning to use many new tools. Any tool can be dangerous if you do not

use proper safety precautions, so it is important that everyone learns the best practices for staying safe in the studio. On certain days, you will be asked to come to class wearing appropriate “work clothes” (closed-toed shoes, no loose-hanging clothing or jewelry, long hair pulled back). If you fail to do this, your instructor will ask you to go home and change before you come back to class. You may also be asked to use safety goggles, earplugs, dust masks, or other safety equipment when using certain tools. If you fail to follow these rules, you’ll be asked to leave class and it will count as an absence. Finally, please refrain from using any toxic materials in the Foundations classroom. If a need arises to use materials such as spray paint or epoxy, please alert your instructor so that they can help you find a safe way to do so. They may be able to help you find comparable non-toxic alternatives and/or find a safe way to use proper facilities and precautions. If you are not sure whether or not a material is toxic, please ask!

The following bullet points outline the general best practices for working in the Foundations classrooms:

- All students must abide by all rules set forth by the Instructor and Technician. During your class all shop rules and policies are presented as well as a discussion of the proper and safe use of shop tools.
- If you are ever unsure or uncomfortable using a tool or machine during open studio time, please make sure that you get an instructor or technician to help you. Plan ahead and ask the instructor to personally demonstrate the tool during class time so that you are properly trained and comfortable to use it on your own time during open shop hours.
- Please read Monona Rossol’s *The Artist’s Complete Health and Safety Guide* for more information.
- Work in a well-ventilated area (or outside) while working with any material or practice that produces toxic or irritating fumes or dust (Resins, chemicals, oil-based paints, and solvents may not be mixed indoors).
- ALWAYS clean up all messes produced by any material or practice to prevent from exposing others to the hazards of that material and/or practice.
- Closed toe shoes and safety goggles are required when using a power tools or drills.
- 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.
- Make sure to wear the proper safety gear for each process
- All spray painting must be done in spray booth.
- Always use common sense, avoid distractions and concentrate on the task at hand.
- Artist materials can sometimes get messy. Make sure to wear clothes that you are ok with getting dirty or you may want to purchase an apron.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is subject to change with notice.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

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.

ADA Policy

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.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

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, 14 and 15 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 (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 5