1900.001 Systems & Transformation

Course Description

This course critically analyzes multiple (choice and research-based) perspectives of object and image-making and challenges students to develop a personal framework in the processes of visual art and design.

Course Structure

This course is structured as the studio-based creative research practice in both the faculty-mentored analysis and the student-led investigation of systems of representation and transformation in developing a personal framework. The course is delivered in a lecture/lab format: research, writing, digital tools, critique, demonstration, presentations (including e-portfolio), and finding a solution to studio-based problems. Students are expected to spend 4 hours minimum working outside of assigned lecture/lab time each week. They should come prepared to be actively engaged in class.

A word about the workload in this class. It is intense. Please plan for it. This class is rooted in research. You will be expected to keep track of ongoing research throughout the semester using your sketchbook, an active bibliography, and digital methods. Each week, you will need to review the objectives, learning materials and complete the assignments. The course itself requires 340 minutes of your time (a little over 5.6 hours) in addition to approximately 3-4 hours outside of course time on readings, experimentation, and assignments. Please begin this course by creating a weekly schedule for yourself that allows for this type of commitment to your course work.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to *(numbered in order of presentation)*:

1. Apply materials and processes in a variety of contexts (space, surface, and time). (CO-1)
2. Explore, interpret and create a variety of conceptual frameworks using historical and contemporary approaches. (CO-2)
3. Facilitate a fluid workflow between digital and analog tools, materials, and processes. (CO-3)

4. Research and analyze a variety of concerns. (CO-4)
5. Document and present research according to professional standards, work ethic, resilience, and learning from necessary failure. (CO-5)
6. Write and speak to draw connections between ideas, explain decisions and produce new scholarship. (CO-6)
7. Recall and explain art terminology to connect aesthetic and conceptual concerns in an intercultural context. (CO-7)

Prerequisites

Pre-Requisite Two from ART1600, ART 1700, and 1800

Co-Requisite One from ART1600, ART 1700, and 1800

Typically it is required to be concurrently enrolled in the lecture and lab, but this is not applicable for our Summer Semester.

Required Texts

Required readings will be linked from within each module.

Communication

- Instructor: Victoria Gonzales (she/her)
- Preferred method of communication is through canvas message. Please contact me with any class related questions through canvas. This is the quickest way to reach me, and the best way to ensure your message does not get buried in my email inbox.
- Office Hours: Outside of our class hours, I will respond to messages on Mon-Fri from 12-5 PM.
  If you have a private question or would like to meet one-on-one, please message me and I will be happy to arrange a meeting time for us under an independent Zoom link. I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner). Please do not expect a response over the weekend.
- Email: victoria.gonzales@my.unt.edu

Because of our expedited class schedule, I understand that timely response is more crucial than ever. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

I have also found that it can be useful for students to have a platform, like Groupme, Discord, or even a Canvas board, to communicate with each other about basic class

Course Grading

Course Activities & Assessments (2000 points total)

Activities

- Weekly module discussions (10 x 20 points each)
- Essay outline, draft and meeting summary of meeting with writing fellow (3 @ 50 points each)
- Project 3 proposal, presentation and reflection (3 @ 50 points each)
- Lab participation (30 @ 10 points each)
- Critique participation (3 @ 100 points each)

Assessments

- Project 1 finished piece (200 points)
- Project 2 finished piece (200 points)
- Essay (200 points)
- Project 3 finished piece (200 points)
- e-portfolio (100 points)

Grading

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)

- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Grade-related Policies

Late Work

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#)

[(Links to an external site.)](#)

and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Controversial Topics and Course Citizenship

In this course, we will be viewing and discussing controversial content. Because developing conflict resolution skills are essential to your education, it's important to prepare yourself to successfully navigate such circumstances. To help you build these skills, the following general course discussion guidelines will apply to everyone.

Discussion Guidelines

- Share the responsibility of making sure everyone contributes. If you are an avid sharer, try to reserve or set up space for someone else's voice. If you are not prone to speaking up, challenge yourself to do just that.
- Acknowledge the contribution of others. If this is online, avoid non-sequiturs. If it is in person, be mindful of body language. Look at the person speaking and avoid checking technology.
- Listen and speak with respect. Condescending tone or personal insults will not be tolerated. Be open to a changing your opinion and try taking the perspective of others.
- Practice grace and courtesy. We are ALL bound to make mistakes and fail. Extend grace, courtesy and compassion to yourself and others. Avoid blame, speculation, inflammatory language
- When you speak, share briefly from your own experience and use "I" statements.
- Speak about (i.e., criticize) ideas, not your classmates.
- Commit to learning, not debating. This is not a competition.
- Avoid assumptions about others, especially based on their perceived social group
- Don't use the shared learning environment for personal gain, promotions or any other attempt to leverage the group for purposes other than the course

content. If you would like to share something related to the course with everyone in the class, you must get approval from me first.

Citizenship means:

- You are being vulnerable and allowing others to do the same.
- Speaking honestly.
- Listen to (while perhaps not necessarily accepting) criticism without interrupting.
- You treat human beings (e.g., yourself, peers, instructor) and your surroundings (e.g., shared space of the online course, studio, lecture hall, gallery) with respect.

Professionalism means:

- You take responsibility for your own learning and assignments.
- You come prepared and work hard.
- You choose your words wisely with the intention of professional accuracy.
- Your presence contributes to a rigorous and challenging learning environment.
- Your artwork shows development based on your learnings in class and is also relevant to your personal creative practice.

As Robert Henri said, all education is self-education.

Course Policies

Policies

Attendance

Attendance to remote or in-person labs will be taken. It is important to be present. If you can't be present, please communicate with your lab instructor. Canvas may not always accurately reflect excessive absences. Do your best not to incur excessive absences, which will adversely impact your grade. Please be aware that being present in lab means being present and ready to work. This means coming prepared. If you are physically or remotely present but unprepared to work, this will incur an absence.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted.

Confidentiality in the Classroom

This course is delivered in a hybrid model, combining online content with, in some cases, face-to-face instruction. In each context, discussion about grades, personal circumstances, information about health and any other confidential information will be respected as private and reserved only to those with a relevant instructional or student support role. These conversations can be held during office hours or in consultation with staff from the Dean of Students Office, as necessary.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be offered at various times during the semester. It will be presented to all students and must be submitted in completion by the designated due date. No partial or late extra credit will be accepted.

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

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

 (Links to an external site.)

. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

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 CVAD's Health and Safety website

 (Links to an external site.)

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BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY / STUDIO RULES

It is important that we keep our studio classrooms clean and safe for the sake of your work and the work of your peers. Please clean up after yourself, leaving the studio clean and orderly at the end of each class. The last 10 minutes of each class will be allocated to cleaning up and disposing of trash, recyclables, and knife blades. Your participation is part of your classroom citizenship.

Please refer to the separate handout titled Health & Safety Area Specific Information: Design (Foundations) for important information on best practices with the tools, materials and facilities we will be using in this class.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT Emergency Guide: https://emergency.unt.edu/about-us

 (Links to an external site.)

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.

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. Please review the [Code of Student Conduct website.](#)

 [(Links to an external site.)](#)

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 [insert administration dates] 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](#)

 [(Links to an external site.)](#)

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 & 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. [Review the Survivor Resources here.](#)

[(Links to an external site.)](#)

  UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu

[(Links to an external site.)](#)

 or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Course Materials and Technology Requirements

Materials

- Sketchbook – 5.5x8.5 inches

- Pencil
- Black marker
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Xacto
- Masking tape
- White posterboard or other uniformly white or gray background for photo documentation
- Container for material samples
- Container for archive materials
- University ID for use at the library as a library card and in the CVAD IT lab.

Technology

- Computer with Adobe, browser, word processing, and video conferencing
- Adobe Illustrator or comparable vector drawing software or app
    - Potential alternatives to Adobe Illustrator:
        - https://inkscape.org/
        - [(Links to an external site.)](#)
        -
        - https://www.designer.io/en/
        - [(Links to an external site.)](#)
        - (Browser-based Illustrator Alternative)
        - https://www.photopea.com/
        - [(Links to an external site.)](#)
        - (Browser-based Photoshop Alternative)
- Digital camera – the one on your phone should suffice
- Browser that can read HTML pages
- Zoom
- Word processor (written assignments will be submitted as .pdf's)
- Slides/presentation software
- Optional – scanner or printer scanner copier combo
- Note: please complete the [CVAD IT checkout agreement](#)
- [(Links to an external site.)](#)
- and familiarize yourself with the available equipment and policies.

- Checking out technology through CVAD requires processing days. Having some foresight about these processes now can be helpful for later.

Student-led material choices

Please plan to set aside resources to procure materials for projects that are student-led. I do not recommend procuring typical art supplies for these assignments, however, you may need to schedule time and attention to sort through recycling, visit thrift stores, or university surplus. Expect to plan for and source materials as part of the content of this course.