

Senior New Media Studio

ASTU 4700-501

ART 356

T/TH

2:30p-5:10p

Fall 2026

Zak Loyd

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Office: Art345L

Office Hours: Wednesday 11a-12

Course Description

Offers advanced studies in new media, emphasizing in-depth individual projects, professional development, and portfolio preparation. Students research and develop their concepts during their first semester in the course, then execute their work and participate in a capstone event in the second semester.

Course Content & Schedule Changes

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.

Course Outcomes & Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Identify contemporary New Media styles, techniques, and histories as they relate directly to contemporary art.
- Identify key artists within your field.
- Analyze critical essays that relate to contemporary New Media art practices.
- Operate still image, sound, moving image, 3D, and digital fabrication technology, hardware, and software.
- Create original works of art to demonstrate knowledge of technology, contemporary art and theory.
- Create informed, written reflection on your own artwork
- Provide meaningful, in-depth feedback for the work of your classmates during critiques

Students will develop a self-directed studio practice while exploring how ideas are best expressed through contemporary and emerging media. Through studio production, research, critique, and individual meetings, students will strengthen their artistic voice and ability to critically discuss their work.

As a capstone course, Senior Studio emphasizes the development and public presentation of original artwork. Students will gain experience with exhibition planning, installation, documentation, and professional practices while preparing work for Electric and/or the BFA Senior Exhibition.

Course Requirements

1. Exhibition Project — 35%

Students will develop, produce, install, and document a substantial exhibition-ready artwork. First-semester students will exhibit in Electric; second-semester students will complete work for the BFA Senior Exhibition. This grade primarily reflects the development, ambition, conceptual strength, and technical resolution of the artwork itself.

2. Critiques & Progress Reviews — 20%

Students will participate in scheduled critiques and progress reviews throughout the semester, presenting work at various stages of development and providing constructive feedback to their peers.

3. Final Studio Project / Exhibition Resolution — 20%

First-semester students will develop an independent studio project following Electric. Second-semester students will complete and reflect upon their BFA exhibition project. For second-semester students, this grade reflects the final installation, presentation, documentation, and reflection on their BFA exhibition work.

4. Professional Practice Portfolio — 15%

Students will develop and refine professional materials including an artist statement, bio, CV, portfolio, and documentation of current work.

5. Studio Practice & Participation — 10%

Students are expected to maintain an active studio practice, make consistent progress on their work, participate in discussions and critiques, attend individual meetings, and contribute to class and exhibition activities.

Assignment & Assessments

Assignments	Worth / %
Exhibition Project	35%
Critiques & Progress Reviews	20%
Final Studio Project / Exhibition Resolution	20%
Professional Practice Portfolio	15%
Studio Practice & Participation	10%
Total	100 points / 100%

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	Tue, Aug 18	Course introduction, semester expectations, and overview of Electric and the BFA Exhibition. Capture who is 1st or 2nd semester.
2	Thu, Aug 20	Electric site visit at GDAC and discussion of site-responsive possibilities.
3	Tue, Aug 25	Artist research, brainstorming, and preliminary exhibition ideas.
4	Thu, Aug 27	Studio workday and individual meetings.
5	Tue, Sep 1	Exhibition proposal pin-up: concepts, sites, renderings, and installation plans.
6	Thu, Sep 3	Proposal development, studio workday, and individual meetings. Electric Proposals due on Canvas Sunday, Sept 6
7	Tue, Sep 8	Electric proposal discussion and feedback with GDAC staff.
8	Thu, Sep 10	Studio workday and individual meetings.
9	Tue, Sep 15	Exhibition project development and group progress discussion.
10	Thu, Sep 17	Studio workday and individual meetings.
11	Tue, Sep 22	Progress review: prototypes, tests, materials, and works in progress.
12	Thu, Sep 24	Studio workday and individual meetings.
13	Tue, Sep 29	BFA proposal review and Electric project progress check.
14	Thu, Oct 1	BFA proposals due (online form); exhibition project workday and individual meetings.
15	Tue, Oct 6	Midterm critique: Electric near-final work and BFA works in progress.
16	Thu, Oct 8	Midterm critique: Electric near-final work and BFA works in progress.
17	Tue, Oct 13	Final Electric troubleshooting, installation planning, and BFA progress check.
18	Thu, Oct 15	Final Electric workday, packing, and installation preparation.
20	Tue, Oct 20	Electric reflection/documentation and launch of independent projects (1st semester students).
21	Thu, Oct 22	Updated BFA proposals due (online form); Studio workday and individual meetings.
22	Tue, Oct 27	Professional practice workshop: artist statements and project writing.
23	Thu, Oct 29	Studio workday and individual meetings.
24	Tue, Nov 3	Professional practice workshop: CV, bio, portfolio, and documentation.
25	Thu, Nov 5	Studio workday, individual meetings, and BFA installation planning.
26	Tue, Nov 10	Major progress review: BFA exhibition work and independent projects.
27	Thu, Nov 12	Instructor away — independent studio work and asynchronous progress check.
28	Tue, Nov 17	BFA Exhibition installation day; installation practicum for the class.
29	Thu, Nov 19	BFA Exhibition walkthrough, opening, and exhibition discussion.
30	Tue, Nov 24	No Class - Thanksgiving Break
31	Thu, Nov 26	No Class - Thanksgiving Break
32	Tue, Dec 1	Final critiques — Group A. Professional Practice Portfolios Due
33	Thu, Dec 3	Final critiques — Group B.

There are also a few important exhibition dates outside normal class meetings:

- * Sun, Sep 6 — Electric proposals due.
- * Fri, Oct 16 — Electric installation at GDAC, 9 AM–5 PM.
- * Sat, Oct 17 — Install continues starting at 10 AM. Work will be fully installed by 3 PM. Event is open to the public 7- 10 PM. Deinstallation of outdoor and smaller work can happen immediately after at 10- 11 PM.
- * Sun–Mon, Oct 18–19 — Electric deinstallation/pickup.
- * Fri, Oct 23 — Final BFA artwork confirmation due.
- * Tues–Wednesday, Nov 17–18 — BFA installation, 8 AM–5 PM.
- * Thurs, November 19th — BFA exhibition Reception, 5 PM
- * Thu, Dec 10 — BFA Exhibition closes.
- * Fri, Dec 11 — BFA artwork pickup.

Required & Optional Course Materials / Textbooks

1 (or more) TB hard drive (it's fine if this is used for other classes - just make sure there is ample space available).
32 (or more) GB flash drive
Something to take notes with (bring to every class meeting)
You will also be asked to bring art materials to some class meetings
No textbook is required :)

Required Readings

Readings and screenings will be delivered electronically as PDFs or links.

Class Participation Expectations

Attendance is vital in this highly collaborative class, and you are expected to attend every session. This is a studio-based course where much of the learning happens through participation in discussions, workshops, critiques, and group projects. Missing class not only affects your progress but also impacts your peers. You are responsible for completing all assignments and staying up to date on course content.

Active participation is essential. You are expected to engage thoughtfully in class discussions, contributing your ideas, perspectives, and interpretations of the topics and artworks we explore. Your work should reflect the issues, concepts, and themes we address in class, and you are encouraged to connect these ideas to your own creative and professional interests. This is a space for experimentation, curiosity, and collaboration, so make the most of it by bringing your full attention and presence.

During lectures, screenings, workshops, and critiques, cell phone use is not allowed. This includes texting, social media, or other distractions that may interrupt the flow of the class or the focus of your peers. If there is an emergency requiring your attention, please step outside to handle it.

Maintaining a respectful and supportive classroom environment is crucial. This means listening actively, offering constructive feedback, and respecting the diverse perspectives of your classmates. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. If such behavior occurs, you may be asked to leave the class, which will count as an unexcused absence.

This class thrives on collaboration and mutual respect, and your participation helps to create a space where everyone can learn, experiment, and grow.

Attendance Policy

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Three absences will be tolerated.
- More than three absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) to be counted as excused.

- More than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence (4 or more)
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. 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.
- A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class.
- Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
- 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.

Late Work / Make-Up Policy

Late work may be subject to 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.

Grading

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc...) and at mid-term.

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)

Generative AI Policy

Permitted Use

In this course, you are welcome to use Generative AI to support your learning and develop skills. However, GenAI should complement, not replace, your critical thinking or our course materials. If something seems unclear, please seek clarification

Communication / Email

My email: zachary.loyd@unt.edu You are expected to read all emails from the class instructor, and you are responsible for knowing the information they contain. Messages might be sent through your my.unt email address or via Canvas. Please check your email and Canvas regularly for updates.

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>. 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 the website for details and the departmental handbook: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>.

Best Practices for Health & Safety / Studio Rules

Always be respectful of University Property, New Media technology and facilities, your colleagues, and the work of your peers.

- If ever you feel you may need assistance moving, lifting, hanging, drilling, cutting, etc., ask someone for help before attempting the action by yourself. If you don't know how to use something, ask. Part of a successful art-making community is a willingness to assist fellow artists.
- Practice common sense and always be aware of your surroundings. Even if you are not working with something dangerous, someone around you may be.
- Wear appropriate safety equipment and clothing if you are using or around power tools, heavy objects, chemicals, dust, fumes, etc. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry when using power tools. Closed-toe shoes should be worn during construction and installation of work. Wear a respirator if you are working with any noxious fumes (smoke, spray paint, resin, etc.)
- Paint, chemicals, dyes, and oil must be disposed of by UNT Risk Management Services. Do not pour any of these items onto the ground or down a drain.
- No food or drink around or near New Media studio or classroom computers. Spills may damage computer hardware, and greasy keyboards and mice are gross. Always clean up after yourself before leaving the studio or classroom.
- If multiple people are using an item that comes in close contact to the body (VR headset, microphone, mask, etc.), take proper precautions to minimize the transfer of contagions. Utilize disinfecting wipes, disposable face masks, etc. to help keep yourself and your peers healthy.
- Be diligent in protecting your privacy and data. Log out of email and social media accounts when you log in on shared computers. If you notice a colleague forgot to log out of an account, log out for them. Make sure to back up all of your project data. If you use a shared data storage device (SD card, Camera's internal HD, Flash Drive, etc.) delete your data off the device before returning it.
- If you check out New Media equipment, technology, or media, you alone are responsible for the care and safe return of that item. If the item is damaged, lost, or stolen, you will be held financially or academically liable for the repair or replacement.

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.

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 [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 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 & 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.

Voertman's Bookstore & Art Supply

The Department of Studio Art recommends purchasing your Studio Art supplies from Voertman's Art Department in the Voertman's College Store located across from campus at 1314 West Hickory St., Denton, TX. They have worked with CVAD for many years to provide the materials needed for our students' success.

Course Outcomes & Objectives

Outcomes	Objectives
Knowledge: What students should know	
Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline	Acquire increasing knowledge of New Media Art's history, current issues, and direction. Acquire increasing knowledge of the history, theory, and criticism of film, video, technology, and digital art.
Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline	
Use the technology and equipment of the artistic discipline	Develop knowledge of concepts related to the visual, spatial, sound, motion, interactive, and temporal elements and features of technology and principles for their use in the creation and application of New Media Art-based work.
Skills: What students should be able to do	
Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline	Apply narrative and other information or language structures to organize content in time-based or interactive media. Develop the ability to organize and represent content structures in response to technological, social, and cultural systems.
Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill	Understand the characteristics and capabilities of hardware and software and their implementation in expressive, functional, and strategic applications.

Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline	Participate in the analysis and evaluation of works of New Media Art.
Synthesis: How students will combine knowledge and skill to demonstrate learning	
Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge	Produce works of New Media Art that demonstrate skill and disciplinary knowledge.
Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks	Participate in critique of own works and the works of others using the vocabulary of New Media Art and demonstrating the ability to analyze and synthesize aspects of human interaction in technological communication, objects, and environments.
Participate in critiques of your own work and work of others	