

•*•• (Analog and Avant-Garde) •*••

(ASTU 2702.502)
ART 356
M/W
2p-450p
Spring 2026

Zak Loyd
zachary.loyd@unt.edu
-
Office: Art 345L
Office Hours: Thursday 11a-12p

Course Description ♥

Introduction to analog, avant-garde and experimental form, style, and content in new media.

"Analog and Avant-Garde" is a production-based studio class dedicated to exploring the interplay between legacy methods and experimental approaches in creating time-based art. This course is designed to immerse students in the world of analog technologies, enriching their artistic toolboxes with traditional techniques while fostering a deep understanding of New Media Art's complex landscape. Throughout the course, students will engage in project-based learning, with each assignment introduced in a workshop format to ensure a clear understanding of objectives and expectations. Collaborative workdays will be integral, encouraging collective exploration and peer learning. The course will also delve into the conceptual underpinnings of New Media Art through curated readings and screenings, providing a historical context to better understand its evolution and current trends.

Content Disclaimer ♥

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.

Course Content & Schedule Changes ♥

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in the 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 ♥

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	

Course Requirements ♥

Since this course is highly collaborative, your **Participation** is essential. Your participation will be evaluated based on your contributions to critiques, reading and screening discussions, workshops, and group projects.

There will be at least 5 major **Projects** over the course of the semester: **Light Sculpture, 4-Channel Video, 16mm Loops, Performance, and Sound Collage**. Each workshop will consist of an introduction to the concept and related examples, hardware and/or software demos, dedicated studio time to develop your work, and a critique to reflect on and discuss the outcomes. Some workshops will be completed individually, while others will involve small or medium group collaboration.

The **Midterm** and **Final** will be open-ended projects and must relate to the concepts and tools previously covered in the semester.

Assignment & Assessments ♥

Assignments	Worth / %
Projects	70%
Midterm	10%
Final	10%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Course Schedule ♥

Class	Date	Topics and Assignments
1	1.12 M	Look over the syllabus / Facilities tour / Super Experimental SpeedShow 26
2	1.14 W	Class overview, intro to Analog and Avant Garde, screenings
3	1.19 M	No Class (MLK Day)
4	1.21 W	Project: Light Sculpture (Groups of 5) Lecture: Light as material, screenings. Workshop: Light sculpture techniques - select tools and space
5	1.26 M	Studio: work on collaborative light sculptures.
6	1.28 W	Critique: Light Sculptures
7	2.2 M	Project: 4 Channel Video (Groups of 4) Lecture: Multi-channel video, screenings. Demo: Cameras, Cave Routing, Displays/CRT, Media Players
8	2.4 W	Demo: Premiere Studio: work on 4-channel video
9	2.9 M	Studio Work on 4-channel video
10	2.11 W	Critique: 4-Channel video
11	2.16 M	Project: 16mm Film Loops (individual) Lecture: Direct animation and experimental film, screenings Workshop: Cameraless 16mm workshop, screening, lecture Demo: Plotter, 16mm, splicing
12	2.18 W	Studio: work on film loops, screening
13	2.23 M	Studio: work on film loops, screening

14	2.25 W	Critique: Projected film loops
15	3.2 M	Studio: Work on Midterm
16	3.4 W	Studio: Work on Midterm
17	3.9 M	No Class – Spring Break
18	3.11 W	No Class – Spring Break
20	3.16 M	Midterm Critiques
21	3.18 W	Midterm Critiques
22	3.23 M	Project: Performance (individual or groups) Lecture: Fluxus & performance, screenings Workshop: Gesture/performance scores
23	3.25 W	Demo: Greenscreen, Premiere Studio work on performance scores
24	3.30 M	Studio work on performance scores
25	4.1 W	Critique: Performance scores
26	4.6 M	Project: Sound Collage (Groups of 4) Lecture: Sound as material, screenings Demo: Zooms, Mics, Synths, Tape cassette recorder, contact mics
27	4.8 W	Demo: Audition Studio work on tape collages
28	4.13 M	Studio work on tape collages
29	4.15 W	Critique: Group tape collages
30	4.20 M	Studio: Work on Final
31	4.22 W	Studio: Work on Final
32	4.27 M	Final Critiques
33	4.29 W	Final Critiques

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 / Screenings ♥

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 throughout 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 ♥

Throughout the semester, you will or may use specific Generative AI (GenAI) tools for certain assignments, with guidance on responsible use.

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.

ODA 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>.

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.