

Course Information

Printmaking I

PRNT 2305, CRN 10579

Class Hours: 1:30 pm - 4:20 pm Tuesday and Thursday, Rooms 151 and 264 FOXA

Text to Consider: "Printmaking: A Complete Guide to Materials & Process", Fick and Grabowski, 2nd Edition

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Manuel Guerra

E-mail: gumanuel@utep.edu

Office: 260A Fox Fine Art Center

Office Hours: MW 11:30 – 12:15 PM & TR 12:00 – 12:45 PM

Office Phone: 915-747-7965

Mailing Address: Department of Art, Fox Fine Arts, UTEP, El Paso, Texas 79968

Instructor Introduction

Manuel Guerra is your instructor for this course. He holds a BFA degree from The University of Texas-El Paso and an MFA from the State University of New York- Albany. He has been working at UTEP since 1999 where he continues to teach courses in drawing, design and printmaking. In addition, he owns and runs Horned Toad Prints in El Paso, TX.

Course Description

Printmaking 1 is an introductory course focusing on the basics of relief, screen, intaglio, and lithographic printmaking techniques, the terminology, and a brief history of these processes. This is not a hybrid or online course. Strong concepts along with a personal exploration of images are a necessary component to good prints. Research and sketches for both technical and conceptual development are required. The course requires a minimum of six hours in studio per week along with 6-12 hours outside studio work and preparation per week. Students taking this course can expect a brief overview to the history of each of the processes, and demonstrations as to the technical options for creating and printing an image with the various materials. Students will then be instructed in the printing of their works. The course will consist of lectures and demonstrations along with workdays for printing and image development. Individual critiques will be held regularly. Your work and attendance are required at each critique along with your participation. Some critiques may be held on in-progress prints or drawings, whereas other critiques will focus on finished single or multiple assignments.

Course Prerequisite Information

Prerequisites: ARTF 1301, ARTF 1302, and ARTF 1304. ARTF 1304 may be taken concurrently with this course PRNT 2305. The design and drawing courses listed above are a necessary foundation to creating two-dimensional images and offer students numerous experiences in the techniques and concepts behind

image making necessary for making quality prints. Students who do not have these prerequisites will need to complete them before enrolling in this course.

Course Goals and Objectives

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the four basic printmaking processes: planographic, relief, intaglio and screen while simultaneously working on their own personal image development. Students will also be introduced to the vocabulary associated with each of these processes and the creation of an edition of prints. A final objective of this course is to introduce students to the artists who have historically used these processes to create multiples.

Course Outcomes

At the end of the course students will possess the skills to create an edition of prints in each of these major areas and well as being able to identify some artists who historically have used the various media to create images.

Specifically, students can expect;

- to be able to image and print using serigraphy techniques
- to be able to image, process, ink and print an aluminum lithographic plate
- to be able to image, etch, ink and print an intaglio image from copper plates
- and to be able to carve, ink and print a relief print from a wood or plastic matrix

Course Requirements

You are expected to bring ideas, sketchbook drawings and the necessary printmaking materials to each class.

Evaluation: You will not be graded on individual works but rather a final review of your semester's work. Individual critiques will be held regularly. Portfolio grades represent 80% of your final grade and two tests will be averaged for the remaining 20% with adjustments made for class attendance and participation.

Portfolios / Quizzes are graded on the following formula:

A = 90 to 100%, B = 80 to 89%, C = 70 to 79%, D = 60 to 69%, F = 59% or below.

***Quizzes / Exams TBA. Make-up quizzes given *only* in the case of a documented emergency.**

The portfolios will consist of assigned problems along with your personal explorations into image / technique / concepts. Print portfolio grades will be based on:

1. Quality, effort and aesthetic judgment are apparent in the print and its presentation.
2. The technical skill apparent in the print (and its editioning when required).
3. The on-time completion of work both finished and in-progress.
4. Your participation and contributions in critiques.
5. Class attendance and participation.
6. Your effort to keep the studios clean.

Course Policies

Attendance: : Our class meetings are in-person at Fox Fine Arts (Visual), Room 151 & 264, every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 pm to 4:20 pm, beginning August 26 through December 11, 2025. Therefore, attendance is critical to class performance. 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 miss any part of a class session, you are responsible for the content that was covered and the work that was assigned, regardless of whether the absence is excused. Late work is not accepted unless the absence is excused and the work is submitted at the beginning of the first-class meeting following the absence: in all other instances, plan with a fellow student to submit your assignments. Missed demos, critiques and other class activities cannot be made up. Consult your classmates about what you missed and meet with Professor Guerra during office hours if the information remains unclear. Instructors are not obliged to repeat demonstrations or other information for those who failed for any reason to attend class. You are expected to arrive on time and work through the entire class period. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. All students will be allowed three (3) absences, excused or unexcused. Students who have three (3) absences before midterm must provide a medical excuse or they will be dropped. A total of four (4) absences will lower the final grade to a full letter grade. Students will be dropped from the course on the fifth absence. Attendance policies are non-negotiable and can result in a failing grade, regardless of the quantity or quality of work produced during the semester. Students with excessive absences and/or problems with arriving to class on time should consider dropping this course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course. Students whose attendance and work that are considered below average may be withdrawn from the class by the instructor. Extenuating circumstance such as COVID issues, childcare emergencies, incapacitating illness, military service, university sanctioned events, accident, or death in the immediate family should be supported by proper notification and documentation. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS, TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, AND JOB DEMANDS ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES. Grades will be lowered by excessive absences and/or tardiness: 4 absences = one grade lower (ex. A to B), each tardy = 1/2 absence. Remember that you are adults and your success in this class is completely in your hands. If you have questions or need help it is your responsibility to see me during my office hours. **Direct all problems or concerns to Professor Guerra, preferably during office hours. *Follow the Chain of Command; talk to your professor before you bring the matter to a department chairperson or dean.**

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 UTEP.

Students will receive an email from UTEP Course Evaluations with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UTEP email inbox.

***Music or Videos are not allowed during any instruction, lecture, or during critique

NO TEXTING! Please turn off your cell phones before entering class. If, because of an emergency, you must have your phone on, inform the instructor, put the phone in silent mode and exit if needed. If it's not an emergency and you are caught texting in class, you will be asked to clean up and leave. This will count as an absence. **TEXT ON YOUR OWN TIME!!!!**

Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail: Incompletes or "I" grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All "I" grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department Chairperson.

Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a W. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for the performance in the course.

Note: Due to the hazardous and expensive nature of many of the tools and supplies, students found misusing them will be withdrawn from the course. The print rooms are not a suitable environment in which to have visiting friends, family, small children, etc. No visitors. Please make every effort to keep this a safe and workable environment for all.

Lab Hours

The printmaking labs will be open for enrolled student use during the times posted on the doors of rooms 151 and 264. Labs will not be opened for students needing access to drawers, supplies or equipment outside of their class or lab hours. Lab and class hours are often crowded so please be responsible with your space needs and store unnecessary tools, paper, backpacks, etc, under the tables or in your drawer to maximize workspace.

- No visitors allowed.
- A thorough clean-up must be completed by the lab closing time.
- Work on all presses must stop 10 minutes prior to the lab closing time.
- All work on dry mount press, graining sink, acid room, exposure units, silicone slabs, washout sinks, etc. must be completed 10 minutes prior to the lab closing time.
- Work on computers must stop and the computers shut down 5 minutes prior to the lab closing time.
- Students must vacate the labs by the lab closing time.
- Students found incapable of following these guidelines will lose their lab privileges.

Printmaking Studio Safety Information

In case of an emergency call the Campus Police at 747-5611 or dial 911

Considering the nature of the processes involved in this course you will encounter several potentially harmful substances and equipment. Before working in the print labs, you should be familiar with the

possible hazards and take precautionary measures to avoid injury. Avoid eating or drinking in the labs as this makes it easier for you to ingest unhealthy materials.

If any equipment appears to be broken or functioning improperly do not use it and report it to the instructor as soon as possible. Put a sign on the damaged equipment warning others.

Do not use equipment you have not been trained to use properly.

Be proactive regarding your health

- **Wear Protective Gloves:** when using any powder, liquid, solvent or ink other than pure water.
- **Wear Protective Eyewear:** when dealing with any chemical liquids, solvents or acids that may splash into your eyes.

Wear Appropriate Clothing / Apparel: Closed Toe Shoes required for access to the facilities. No Shorts allowed.

- **Wear A Dust Mask:** when working with dusts, powders or when sanding metals.
- **Wear a Respirator:** when working with acids or harmful chemicals

NO FOOD or DRINK - chemicals are always present in the air or on the work surfaces in these rooms. It is unsafe to consume any type of food or drink in any of the printmaking classrooms/labs. You will be asked to leave any food or drink in a covered container by the entry door and to consume any food or beverage outside the printmaking rooms.



NO VISITORS - The print labs are not a safe environment for any visitors.

Please be alert and above all use common sense with all materials and equipment.

ACIDS - Avoid getting acids on your skin or clothing- wear protective goggles and gloves. Should acid get in the eyes use the water safety eye rinse in the acid room and seek medical attention. The safety shower should be used if you get acid spilled on your body and again seek medical attention. Avoid breathing the acid vapors and make sure the two ventilation fans are running when entering the acid room. The acid baths are labeled according to the type of metal to be etched in them. Never mix or attempt to refill or transfer these acids yourself, always ask the instructor or the studio assistant. Acids should always remain covered except for lowering and removing your etching plate. The windows, which lower in front of the vats, should be kept closed to better assist the ventilation system in removing harmful fumes. Avoid breathing the vapors of any acid or fumes produced from etching.

In lithography, full strength nitric and phosphoric acids are used to etch stones and aluminum plates. These acids are kept in glass bottles secured within a wooden box and should not be moved. Always wear protective goggles and gloves when handling these acids. Acid should be removed from these bottles only with an eyedropper and any excess acid should be placed back into the appropriate bottle. TAPEM is also

used in lithography as an aluminum plate etch and contains small amounts of phosphoric and tannic acids. Any full-strength acid that encounters your body or clothing should be flushed immediately and repeatedly with water and seek medical attention.

ELECTRIC HOT PLATE - The hot plates in the etching room should be used only for the heating of etching plates. The temperature on the electric hot plate should never exceed 300 degrees. Flammable materials and solvents should not be used near the hot plates and paper that is placed on these hot plates must be removed promptly to prevent fire. The hot plate will be turned off at the end of class.

DRY MOUNT PRESS- The outside and interior of the dry mount press are extremely hot. The dry mount should never be set to more than 250 degrees. Flammable materials and solvents should not be used near the dry mount press and prints placed inside should be removed within 2-10 minutes. The dry mount press will be turned off at the end of class.

PRESSES - All presses; etching, lithography, letterpress, bookbinding, are dangerous and should only be used if you have been instructed how to properly operate the equipment. Long hair or loose clothing should be tied back to avoid being caught in rollers or gears. Hands should be kept clear of the presses and their beds while moving, the only hand needed on the press is the one to turn the crank. Excessive pressure on any of the presses is unnecessary and will cause them to crank hard and create a dangerous situation. Maximum pressure will not make a better print!!!! The etching presses have calibrated sets on either side and should be adjusted to the type of printing matrix and felts you are using. Never force a plate or stone through the presses, if the tension feels too tight reverse the crank and readjust the tension. A material or object other than those the press has been designed for should never be passed through the press.

ROSIN - Powdered rosin is used in etching and lithography. The dust from this rosin can be harmful to the lungs. When using powdered rosin do so in a well-ventilated area and use a dust mask and/or a respirator if necessary.

BABY POWDER - Powdered talc is used in lithography and needs the same precautions as rosin.

SOLVENTS – Mineral spirits, denatured alcohol, kerosene, lacquer thinner, lithotine, naphtha, turpentine, etc. should all be used with moderation and with rubber gloves and the appropriate ventilation. Use these chemical solvents in the vented hood area in room 151B or outside in the courtyard to prevent fumes from entering the common work area. To clean inks or plates in the other rooms the use of vegetable oil and an orange-based spray cleaner is highly recommended. Keep flammable solvents away from hot plates and avoid breathing vapors. To minimize the use of solvents it is strongly advised that all students clean oil-based ink slabs initially with a razor blade or scraper to remove all excess ink. Then only a small amount of solvent or orange cleaner will be necessary to remove the remaining ink film.

LITHOGRAPHY STONES - The lithography stones are extremely heavy. Please only carry what you can easily lift and transport comfortably. Never carry a wet litho stone or attempt to move a stone with wet hands. The blue hydraulic transport table is available in room 264 to assist in the transporting of these stones.

PIGMENTS & INKS - Lithography, screen, relief and etching inks along with the powdered pigments to make etching ink should be kept off the skin as much as possible. Avoid breathing the dust of the powdered pigment. When mixing your own ink or using any powdered pigment a respirator or suitable dust mask is necessary. Avoid breathing the vapors of any ink or ink modifier.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EMULSIONS & CHEMICALS - All photographic sensitive screen-printing emulsions contain dichromate's, which are dangerous and should only be used with protective gloves. All traditional photography chemicals, including developer, stop bath, fix, toner and bleach should not be allowed to meet the skin and should only be used in the approved areas and with the necessary precautions. Large vats of photographic chemicals pose vapor risks and should only be used with adequate ventilation. Avoid excessively breathing the vapors of any photographic chemical.

In case of an emergency call the Campus Police at 747-5611 or dial 911

Academic Policies, Accommodations, Technology Requirements and Resources

Students are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment. If a student impairs another student's learning, s/he will be asked to leave the class.

Students are authorized to take notes in class for their personal use and no other use without permission from the instructor. CASS excluded. Students are not authorized to record / video record class sessions / demos, to provide information to anyone else, or to make any commercial or non-profit use of the aforementioned information without prior, written permission from the course instructor.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work, images, writing or prints that are not your creative output. If an image appears on Google or in another image source and you copy that image it is plagiarism. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. In addition, Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University.

Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](https://www.utep.edu/studentaffairs/cass/) (<https://www.utep.edu/studentaffairs/cass/>).

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Check the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions (https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_microsoftoffice365.html)
IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) (<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

RESOURCES: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [_Help Desk](#) (<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone 747-4357, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [_UTEP Library](#) (<https://www.utep.edu/library/>): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [_University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [_Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

- [_History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [_RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [_Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [_Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/ \)](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [_Counseling and Psychological Services \(https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/ \)](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Printmaking I / FALL 2025 / Course Calendar

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 am - 4:20 pm

The syllabus, supply list, and course schedule is subject to change. Due dates for specific assigned work or works in progress and additional critiques may be added to the calendar.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

TUES 26: Fall classes begin

SEPTEMBER

MON 1: Labor Day Holiday – University closed

OCTOBER

FRI 31: FALL DROP DEADLINE/WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

Note: Student- initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.

NOVEMBER

THURS 27 & FRI 28: Thanksgiving Holiday –University closed

DECEMBER

THURS 5: Last Day of class, final portfolio due 4:30 pm.

FRI 5: Dead Day

THURS 11: FINAL INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES 1:00-3:45 PM

WED 10: Studio clean-up day from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Supplies, Materials and Personal Equipment

You will need to purchase the following from any source in town or on-line that you choose. Please obtain these items before classes begin to eliminate the possibility of backordered items. ****Other materials may be needed.**

***INTAGLIO**

(1) 6" x 12" 20 gauge copper plate (Other suppliers also carry copper and you can order thicker (18 gauge) but the press setting always differs when you change thickness.)

Steel wool #0000

(2x) 1 ½" Metal Putty Knives
Razor scraper
Wet dry sand paper # 400-#600
Latex / Nitrile gloves
Nail brush for cleaning fingernails
(2x) 3" Sponge brushes
Assortment of paint brushes (flats and detail)
Brasso metal polish
3 in 1 oil
Bar keeper's friend cleanser powder
baby wipes
(2 rolls) paper towels
(1 qt.) Denatured alcohol
(1 qt.) Mineral spirits
Spray paint (regular not rustoleum)
Blue painters tape
Dish washing soap
Hand cleaner or lava bar soap
Hand lotion

PAPER (white, off white, natural)

(4x) Stonehenge, (4x) Hahnemuhle Copperplate

OTHER

Newsprint (500 sheet ream), tracing paper, 3 baby food jars with lids

***RELIEF**

X-acto knife with #11 cutting blades
Utility knife
Sharpies (chisel and bullet point)
Small tube red acrylic paint
Lighter or matches
Band-Aids water block flexible and Neosporin

INK

*Optional -Speedball Professional Relief Ink Supergraphic Black, 8 Ounce Can

PAPER

(4x) Masa

***SERIGRAPHY**

*Optional - (1) 23" x 31" 230 Yellow Mesh, 48 thread diameter
(1qt.) Ulano Stencil Remover #4
36" T-square ruler
2B woodless graphite pencil
Clear nail polish
Baby oil
Bon Ami scouring powder
(2) 3M Scrubbing sponges
(2 rolls) Scotch shipping (heavy-duty) tape 2"
Grafix Clear Acetate 25" x 40" x .010 (Single sheet)
(1qty.) Aquarellable Stabilio All Pencil #8046
Plastic Putty Knife set
(1)3 Quart Plastic Bowl
(1)Magic scotch tape
32 oz. spray bottle of Simple Green all-purpose cleaner

32 oz. spray bottle of Windex Glass cleaner

PAPER

Pkg of 100 Sheets - 12" x 18" - 80 lb white drawing paper
(1 roll) Wax paper

***Waterless Lithography**

(2-3) Stadler Mars Omnicrom #108-9 black water-based pencils
Scissors
5 cotton balls
Dixie cups

PAPER

(4x) Rives light weight

OTHER

Sketchbook
Pencils
Mars white erasers
Self-healing cutting mat
Corn starch (small can)

The following supplies/materials or similar will be furnished with your Major Fee:

Speedball cutter set with 5 blades
(1) Small soft brayers 3 1/2"
GE II clear silicone
Van son rubber base inks
Black Screen-Printing Ink which is mixed with an extender base.
Blick Battleship Gray Linoleum – 12" X 12"
Etching Grounds: Asphaltum
Etching Mordants: Ferric Chloride
Zinnser Bulls Eye Shellac
Aluminum lithographic plates

Syllabus acknowledgement and course contract acceptance

PRNT 2305 • CRN 10579 • FALL 2025

I have received and reviewed the attached syllabus for this course. I have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and I understand and agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

Name (print)

UTEP Student ID#

Signature

Date