

## ARTF 1301 CRN 20528 BASIC DESIGN I – Spring 2026

### COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title – Basic Design I

Course Prefix CRN 20528 Course Section – ARTF 1301

Course Location – Fox Fine Arts, Room A256

Course Meeting Times – M/ W 11:30 AM to 2:20 PM

### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor's Name – Professor Dina Perlasca

Instructor's Office – Fox Fine Arts, 250 B

Instructor's Office Hours – T/TH 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM – and by appointment

Instructor's Email [dpperlasca@utep.edu](mailto:dpperlasca@utep.edu)

### INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION

Dina Perlasca is a Mexican American artist from The Paso del Norte Region. She holds a BFA degree in Ceramics from The University of Texas at El Paso and an MFA in Ceramics from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces NM. Dina works in photography, ceramics and domestic materials informed by her Mexican upbringing and borderland cultures. Dina actively exhibits her work regionally and nationally throughout the United States. She serves as President in the board of Directors of Artaxis, visit [artaxis.org](http://artaxis.org) as well as Co-Leader at Bravo Studios at the Interdisciplinary Research Building at the University of Texas at El Paso.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Catalog /ARTF 1303.* Basic Design I is an introductory course designed to expose students to the fundamental principles of art, design, and visual communication. Our goal is to introduce students to the visual elements and principles of design through lectures, demonstrations, and regular assignments. The *Visual Elements* consist of: point and line; shape and mass; texture; light; color; and space. The *principles of design* include: unity and variety; balance; emphasis and focal point; proportion and scale; movement, stability and rhythm.

Students will be expected to apply the concepts learned from the lectures and demonstrations to create 2-dimensional visual compositions. Students will advance from achromatic compositions to more advanced chromatic compositions. Classroom lectures will expand upon visual elements and principles of design to include straight, curved and implied line; geometric and organic shapes; positive and negative space; approximate symmetry, symmetrical, Asymmetrical and radial balance; illusion of depth; simulated and actual texture; and color theory. The majority of class time will be spent working on assignments but outside time will be necessary to complete the work. Critiques will follow most major assignments for critical feedback from the instructor and fellow classmates.

By the end of the semester, committed students will have attained basic skills necessary to create compelling design work. In addition, students will also have a greater understanding of how to look at, interpret, and understand visual design.

### COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Developing and understanding of the basic terminology of art and design.

Developing and understating of good composition principles.

- Development and understanding of technical skills such as simple drawing, painting and cutting skills needed to render well composed 2-dimensional designs.
- Development of good craftsmanship and working habits needed to achieve these goals and objectives.

Note: This course and other studio classes demand a great commitment of time in order to succeed. While much of the lab work will be done in class, all work not completed during lab sessions must be completed on your own time. Expect a significant amount of out-of-class work time per week.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

Students who complete the course will be able to:

- Create properly composed, well-balanced 2-dimensional designs using various materials.
- Effectively use the visual elements in a composition and apply the principles of design for stronger, more creative and effective 2-D artwork.
- Identify and recognize a well-crafted design.
- Be aware of various art movements and concepts through exposure to various artists and artworks
- Acquire a basic knowledge of art terminology to express ideas verbally

## COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING

-Grading will be based on the completion of all projects, special assignments, quizzes, mid-term and final exam, class participation and attendance.

-60% Projects - up to 4 projects (will be introduced in class)

-20% Blackboard Research Assignments- research assignments will be given to supplement current areas of study, i.e. professional drawings, project research, reviews of exhibitions and or journal articles.

-10% Final Exam, Self -Assessments, Discussions and Critiques - quizzes and exams will consist of possible short answer, fill in the blank, list and define, true and false, etc.

-10% Class Participation - participation in all art classes is highly encouraged if true learning is going to occur. The free exchange of ideas between students and the instructor are a valuable tool and this interaction or lack thereof will be noted and recorded. Work will be done in class under the instructor's supervision. **Outside class-time will be required to complete some projects. Cleanliness and good organization on assigned studio storage space is part of class participation which promotes a healthy studio community.**

-Assignment due dates will be announced. Once you have turned in your assignment on time at whatever stage it is at, you may take time later outside of class and resubmit it for re-grading at any time during the semester. Late work will not be considered for regrading and will be marked down a letter grade per day. Make-up work will be granted only with a valid excused absence and should be discussed immediately upon return with the instructor.

## DESIGN STUDIO ETIQUETE

- Be present
- Be on time
- Pay attention
- Communicate effectively
- Be respectful, kind, considerate and courteous to yourself and others
- Maintain a clean space and pick up after yourself
- Remove personal work and tools from community areas in the studio

## BASIC GRADING CRITERIA

- Concept-intellectual basis for work
- Initial preparation-drawings, models, evidence of thoughtful research
- Building craft-technical skills of material manipulation
- Finished analysis-participation in critiques, self-assessment, evidence of finished research necessary to complete work, final documentation of completed work

## GRADING SCALE

-A = (100 – 90) Clearly Superior - concept, execution, presentation. Goes above and beyond the stated requirements

-B = (89 – 80) Good - Appropriate elements and principles of design, technical skills and materials are being used to render a satisfactory project. Deficiencies remain and have been identified in critiques.

-C = (79 – 70) Average - Meets only the stated requirements.

-D = (69 – 60) Poor - The completed works and the student's attitude both show serious deficiencies with regards to the understanding and application of basic concepts as identified in the class.

-F = (59 – 0) Failing - The student consistently fails to meet deadlines and produces projects that fail to utilize design, techniques or material

## CRITIQUES

-There will be individual and group in-progress critiques to help each student individually and formulate a plan to finish.

-Group critiques are scheduled at the completion of most assignments. Attendance is required to all critiques. Critiques are used to gauge the student understanding of the core concepts covered for that project and cumulatively throughout the semester.

## ATTENDANCE

-Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct is considered performance criteria for this class. Failure to perform required standards will result in strong grade penalties and can cause failure of this course.

-Each student is permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Every absence after that will lower your grade a full letter grade per absence. This can quickly turn into a bad grade, and you might consider dropping yourself from the course, failure to do so might result in an F, after 5 unexcused absences you will be asked to drop the class.

-Excused absences are defined as documented illness, serious illness, death in the immediate family or official UTEP related academic requirement. Please email as soon as you can and please provide me with your excuse slip and let me know about your situation. I will help you to the best of my ability to catch up in class. Court dates are unexcused absences. Discuss absence concerns immediately with the instructor.

-Attendance will be taken every single class at the start of class. Followed by announcements.

- All students are required to attend class on-time and to remain in the class the entire time. Entering class late, leaving early and or leaving a mess for me to clean is disruptive to the learning environment and the student community.

-Coming to class late or leaving early and or leaving a mess for me to clean is regarded and graded as half an absence in a 15 min window. After 15 minutes you will be counted absent and cannot stay in the class. If you miss part of the announcements do not interrupt me and ask me to start over. It is your duty to check blackboard announcements for the day or ask one of your classmates after I finish. You may take breaks, once you are on your working time, not during attendance, announcements, lectures and demonstrations

-Demonstrations Lectures and Assignment Introduction will start 15 minutes after class has started. When giving a demonstration I will lock the doors. I expect your full attention during these times, please put your phones in silence, no headphones or earbuds, conversing or interrupting me during these times. You may have one earbud only during worktime. If you are disruptive or not paying attention I will give you a warning in class, if done a second time I will ask you to leave class and will be counted absent. I will address these issues though email. After 2 emails about class lack of attention and distraction issues I will ask you to drop the class.

-For those who are in attendance: Thank you, thank you for taking your time and my time seriously. Please make sure to be ready at the beginning of class, go to the restroom, go get your coffee, water, snack, whatever you need to be ready to have your full attention for the duration of taking attendance, announcements, lecture and demonstration time You should not step out of the classroom during these times as you will miss information and will get locked out.

-For those who did not make it and are more than 15 minutes late please don't knock on the door. If the doors are locked, you are counted absent and cannot come in. If you are absent on a Assignment Introduction and Demonstration Day, you have lost the privilege of completing the assignment that has been introduced and will get a 0 for that assignment. My time is valuable, and it is for those who have gone through the lecture material that I have prepared and have questions about the project once they have started, not to catch up students who were not there. I have this rule in place out of respect to myself as your professor and the time I investment to prepare a good lecture and demonstration. I also have these rules in place to acknowledge students who are interested in understanding and learning from the content of my class. If you have missed an introductory lecture or demonstration and you have lost the privilege to complete the assignment, please email me to let me know. I will take this case by case and email you back to either ask you to drop the class or let you know when you can return to attempt the next assignment.

-I value the students who are on time, take notes, make inquiries and are ready to learn during demonstrations; Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent. Information missed during an unexcused absence is the sole responsibility of the student.

## CLASS CONDUCT

### COURSE PARTICIPATION

- Participation in all discussions, critiques and class days is required for this course.
- Development and execution of class projects must be done utilizing all class meetings. Projects executed solely out of class will not be accepted.
- Participation in the collaborative group environment of the studio is essential to the successful completion of this course.

### SICK POLICY

If you are not feeling well, or if you are sick, then you should not come to this class under any circumstances. You should instead seek medical care, and/or recuperate at home. Email me when you are able and let me know the circumstances, attach the doctor's note and I will help you to catch up in class when you are feeling better. If you are pregnant or have other physical issues such as allergies to dust, respiratory issues, anything that I should be aware of, please inform me of this immediately, and we will work to make you safe and comfortable. If a family member is ill, and you need to care for that person, please email me and let me know what your situation is.

### GUESTS

– Guests are not permitted at any time during class. Please tell your friends, family members, partners, that they may see you before or after class time. You are expected to remain engaged in class and may not step-out to visit with guests during class. You will be held responsible for adhering to this policy, and I will give you one warning. After that, I will ask you to leave class and you will be counted absent for that class period.

### CHILDREN

– Children are not permitted at any time, ever, to be in the studios. The studios can be very dangerous places and constant supervision requires unfocused course work.

### GIFTS

– Gifts of any kind cannot be accepted. While the thought is appreciated, professionally speaking, it is not permissible.

### CELL PHONES

– Please silence your cell phones during class time. You will be asked to leave if your phone or pager goes off during class and be counted absent for that class period.

### MUSIC

– Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture or during critiques. Students may listen to music at a low volume with ONE headphone during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students. It is expected that these devices will be switched off when the instructor is addressing the class as a group for comments or directions.

### DESIGN STUDIO TIME

– The studio will only be open for you to work in it during class time due to high traffic of other design and drawing classes, do take advantage of this time. Be aware of other classes and professors and exit your classroom when class ends to allow other to use the space.

### STUDIO SAFETY

– All safety procedures will be explained to you throughout the semester, and every consideration has been taken to create a safe environment for you to work in. Expect to get dirty as we are working with art tools and materials. Please dress appropriately, if you do not wish to get your clothes or hands dirty you may consider wearing an apron and gloves to class. Open toe shoes are not allowed, for your safety make sure to always wear closed toe shoes.

#### STUDIO TOOLS, ORGANIZATION AND CLEANLINESS

- Every time you exit the studio you are required to clean up and organize your storage, work area and community areas you worked on. Please sponge/ wipe tables, sweep and mop area you worked on and throw away any trash you might have produced. Clean, rinse, dry and put away (in proper place) all borrowed studio tools. Please get a locker near our class, Art Lockers are available for check-out through The DoART Office, #350A.

#### ASIGNED STUDIO STORAGE SPACE

You must always maintain a clutter free and organized storage space.

#### PERSONAL SAFETY

– If you must work alone, late at night at any of the UTEP labs, please be sure to let someone know where you are, and please keep a cell phone with you. If you feel unsafe for any reason, you should call the UTEP police immediately (747-5611). Additionally, if you would like an escort to your car at night, please call the UTEP Police department, and they should accommodate your needs. Please inform me if there is a problem, and I will address it immediately with the proper authorities.

#### WORK REMOVAL

– Finished works must be removed by the date set by the instructor of this course. All works left in the studio after this date will be removed and disposed. Any tools and supplies left will be considered orphaned and will become the property of the department.

#### INCOMPLETES, WITHDRAWLS, 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 Chair.  
-Students hold 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.  
-ARTF 1303 Basic Design II is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

*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 under your name that you did not do yourself. 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://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

#### DISABILITIES

All reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities will be made and or provided. This course does require certain manual dexterity and physical abilities to complete the required projects. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:  
Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> Phone: 915-747-5148 Email: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

#### UTEP FOOD PANTRY

The University of Texas at El Paso, Memorial Gym, Room 105, 101 W. Robinson El Paso, Texas 79968 E: [foodpantry@utep.edu](mailto:foodpantry@utep.edu) P: (915) 747-8053

#### PROVIDING ACOMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS

The University of Texas at El Paso is a top-tier, open access research university that has long supported a culture of care and belonging for historically underserved students. Title IX is a federal law that requires schools that receive federal funds to provide reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant or have pregnancy-related conditions. This includes pregnancy, pre-natal doctor appointments, childbirth, false pregnancy, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. If you are a student and need to request an accommodation, please go to the following website: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

By choosing to enroll in this class you agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes she sees fit during the term of the 2026 Spring semester.