The University of Texas at El Paso
Department Art
Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

ARTF 1301 – Basic Design 1
CRN: 20529
Term: Spring 2026
Delivery Method: In-person
Meeting Day and Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.
Location: Fox Fine Arts Center, Room A256

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Vicente Delgado, Assistant Professor of Instruction
Written Communication: UTEP Email: vdelgado17@utep.edu (preferred) or Blackboard
Office Location: Fox Fine Arts Building, Room A455A
Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 1 to 12 p.m. or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic Design I is a foundation-level class structured to meet the needs of art majors who plan to pursue an art career. Students are introduced to the visual elements and principles of design, including 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. Discussion will expand upon these topics to include straight, curved, and implied lines; geometric and organic shapes; positive and negative space; approximate symmetry, symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial balance; the illusion of depth; simulated and actual texture; and color theory. Students will be expected to apply these introductory concepts to create 2-dimensional visual compositions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Development and understanding of the basic terminology of art and design.
- Development and understanding of good composition principles.
- Create properly composed, well-balanced 2-dimensional designs using various materials.
- Explore various art movements and concepts through exposure to various artists.
- Effectively use the visual elements and apply the principles of design to artwork.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of art terminology to express their ideas.
- Develop good craftsmanship and work ethic to succeed in achieving the above-stated goals.

Technology Requirements

This class will primarily meet face-to-face, but supplementary content, materials, and announcements may be posted to Blackboard throughout the semester. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and you can access a stable web browser, such as Google Chrome.

Course Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading

Grade distribution, standards, and criteria:

Course Participation: 20%

Main Assignments: 40%

Homework: 30%

Attendance: 10%

Course Participation includes:

- Development and execution of assignments during class meetings.
- Contribution and attendance for in-progress, mid-term, and final portfolio critiques.
- Projects made solely outside of class will not be accepted.
- Work removal and studio clean-up at the end of the semester is part of your final grade.

Evaluation for each project and final letter grade will be determined by the following factors:

- Understanding of conceptual ideas and application of techniques associated with each assignment.
- Presentation and physical condition of projects.
- Participation in group critiques and overall work ethic.
- Cumulative effort, improvement, and quality.

o A = Excellent, B = Good, C = Average, D = Below Average, F = Failure

Course Requirements: Critique Participation, Midterm, and Final Portfolio

Main Assignments - In this course, students will receive assignments that complement class discussions and the skills they've learned. Before attempting each assignment, students will receive sketches and proposals. These preliminary steps help students gain a better understanding of visual elements and explore possible design changes to achieve positive outcomes.

During class, students will receive guidance and peer feedback. Additionally, discussions will enhance their understanding of the assignments. Deadlines for submission and evaluation will be announced by the instructor and will align with the pace of the class.

Homework – Homework assignments serve to reinforce concepts and skills learned during the course. These assignments may involve sketching or writing proposal ideas for the main assignments. Homework deadlines are typically on Sundays at midnight, but the instructor may adjust due dates based on the course progression.

Discussion Items- Art investigations discussions will take place on BlackBoard. During these discussions, artist videos or readings will be presented. Students will respond to assess their understanding of the concepts presented. These are graded under the homework percentage.

Attendance - Students are expected to attend all scheduled class hours and days. Arriving late or being absent will be documented and graded as a percentage. Regular attendance is crucial for successful participation and learning

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodation.

Course Policies

• Students are permitted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. It is the student's responsibility to email the instructor to obtain any missed information during class. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences should consider dropping the course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course.

• Excused absences are defined as documented serious illness, death in the immediate family, or university-sanctioned events with prior approval.

• Each absence after 3 will result in the final course grade being lowered to a full letter grade. After 5 unexcused absences, you should drop the course. If elected it is the student's responsibility to drop the course, not the instructor's.

• Late to class (**ARRIVING AFTER THE ROLL IS TAKEN)** constitutes one-half of an absence. That is, 2 tardies = 1 unexcused absence.

• Coming to class unprepared (not having the required materials) or attending class and not working is regarded and recorded as 1 full unexcused absence. If unprepared students might be asked to leave the class.3

• Coming to class late and returning late from a break will be recorded as half absences. 2 half absences constitute 1 full absence.

• Leaving class early without permission is regarded as a 1 full unexcused absence.

• Please turn off your cell phones before critique. If, because of an emergency, you must have your phone on, inform the instructor, put the phone on silent mode, and exit if needed.

• Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture, or critique. Students may listen to music at a low volume with headphones during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students. NO NETFLIX, HULU, SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, TIKTOK) AND NO YOUTUBE. If you wish to listen to music please use a music app that does not require your attention. If the student is found violating this policy student will only receive one verbal warning, if found violating the policy a second time a half absence will be recorded for the day without a second warning.

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Assignments

- Assignments/Homework will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM) via Blackboard. **FIVE points will be removed after each day it is late.**
- No late work will be accepted after a **WEEK** has passed. Only if the reason is not considered excusable.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

This is different from continuing to work on older assignments and adding new elements brought up on critiques from peers.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare if you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your

work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

*ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY*

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

*GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI prohibited.

The use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is ***not allowed*** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical

and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

AI is allowed only with prior permission from the instructor.

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is ***only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used***. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.

If permitted to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

> Chat-GPT (version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgment.

The use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is ***only allowed with proper attribution given for its use***.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

> Chat-GPT (version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

Using AI for brainstorming

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often "hallucinate" or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you must cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before

doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Free use of AI without acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.

Required Materials

Studio Supplies Provided by UTEP (Supplies will be distributed to students):

- Sheets of Blick Studio Bristol Smooth Paper, 17”x 11”
- Crescent No. 99 University Grade Cold Press Illustration Board 16” x 20”
- Liquitex Basics Acrylics, Set of 6
- Elmer’s Rubber Cement
- Blick Construction Paper - 9" x 12", Scotch Gray sheets.
- Blick Construction Paper - 9" x 12", Black sheets
- Blick Construction Paper - 9" x 12", White sheets
- Princeton Real value brushes, Short Handle, Set of 4

Additional supplies needed (students will obtain these on their own):

- Sketchbook (11”x14” recommended)
- 5 Canvas board 16” x 20”
- Cutting surface – self-healing cutting mat 18” x 24”
- X-acto knife with blades

- Black Sharpie Markers (a variety of tips such as fine and ultra-fine)
- Metal Ruler – 24” or 36” (wood is not acceptable!)
- Drawing Pencils – (a small variety such as 5H, HB, 2B, 6B)
- Erasers
- Rubber Cement Eraser or Gum Eraser
- Palette (for mixing paints)
- Container for water
- Drafting Tape or Masking Tape (blue one works best)
- Color Pencils

Additional supplies may be available at: The Art Center, Hobby Lobby, Office Depot, Office Max.

Online stores: Utrecht, DickBlick Art Materials

COURSE SCHEDULE

*This schedule may be subject to change according to the needs and pace of the class.

Week 1	Grid-Based Self-Portrait
Week 2	GBSP 100
Week 3	GBSP 200
Week 4	GBSP FINAL
Week 5	Depth on a Picture Plane (NOTAN)
Week 6	Anti Reality Structures
Week 7	Anti Reality Structures
Week 8	Associative Color
Week 9	Associative Color
Week 10	Associative Color/Progressive Abstraction

Week 11	Progressive Abstraction
Week 12	Progressive Abstraction
Week 13	Progressive Abstraction
Week 14	Progressive Abstraction
Week 15	**FINAL Crit** **Monday, May 11th,** **1:00 pm – 3:45 pm**

Oct 23rd	Spring Registration Begins
Jan 4th	Last Day to Clear Students on Suspension/Probation as well as those with Insufficient Prerequisites
Jan 5th	Drops for Students with Unsatisfactory Academic Standing, Insufficient Prerequisites, and Prior Grades of C in the Course
Jan 8th	Financial Aid is Disbursed
Jan 15th	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University Closed
Jan 16th	Spring classes begin
Jan 16th-19th	Late Registration (Fees are incurred)
Jan 31st	Spring Census Day
	Note: This is the last day to register for classes. Payments are due by 5:00 pm.
Feb 12th	20th Class Day
	Note: Students who were given a payment deadline extension will be dropped at 5:00 pm if payment arrangements have not been made.
Feb 16th	Graduation application deadline for degree conferral
Mar 11th-15th	Spring Break
Mar 20th	Freshman midterm grades are due
Mar 28th	Spring Drop/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.
Mar 29th	Cesar Chavez Holiday - No classes; Spring Study Day
Apr 12th	Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program

May 2nd	Spring – Last day of classes
May 3rd	Dead day
May 6-10th	Spring Final Exams
May 11-12th	Spring Commencement
May 15th	Grades are Due
May 16th	Grades are posted to student records; students are notified of grades and academic standing
Payment Deadlines	For more information on payment deadlines, visit the **Student Business Services Website**