

## Syllabus: Arts 125 Studio Practices I

Artists, designers, illustrators, and others in related fields have a vital interest in communicating their feelings to someone else through a visual language. The effectiveness of this communication must be based on the understanding of how we perceive our world, how we react to what we perceive and experience, and how we can utilize the elements of art to convey our messages clearly to someone else. In order to elevate these visual messages to the level of art, we must employ design principles so that our messages are aesthetically pleasing as well as informative. Some artists describe this condition as a unification of form and content in which form refers to the visually successful total integration of the shapes, lines, colors, and other elements that may be present in a design, and in which content refers to the meaning of the design.

This course will enable you to achieve this union of form and content through the study of our perceptual processes and through the implementation of the information thus gained in design assignments that involve the following:

### Elements:

marks  
line  
shape  
value  
texture/pattern  
color

### Concepts:

emphasis  
proportion  
rhythm  
positive/negative space (figure/ground)

### Principles

variety/contrast  
emphasis/focal point  
repetition

**balance:** symmetrical/asymmetrical, radial

Your grade will be based on the design assignments that you will be executing.  
Your artwork will be graded using the following criteria:

1. Design
2. Concept/originality
3. Technical execution

The final grade for each assignment will be the average of the three criteria.

Frequent class critiques will be held on work in progress as well as on completed assignments. Since valuable insights are gained from these critiques, your active participation is expected. Your grade in the course will be influenced by how much you contribute to the critiques.

We will begin the semester with assignments that will be carried out on the computer using the Microsoft Publisher program. We will use the computers in room B124 in the Business & Technology building for the first few weeks. You will be given design assignments that explore basic design concepts.

The second part of the course will focus on work done by hand using drawing and painting materials.

**Attendance:** Be there! You can't learn if you aren't in class. I will permit **two** unexcused absences. Exceeding that number will result in the lowering of your final grade and being dropped from the course. Being late for a class may count as an absence.

**Expected outcomes:**

This course should provide you with the following:

1. Awareness of the expressive and descriptive nature of line as an art element
2. The ability to incorporate various types of lines in a visually effective manner in art projects.
3. The understanding of the expressive power of shapes and their placement in design.
4. The ability to interpret and express a variety of emotional states through the use of basic geometric shapes.
5. The ability to employ geometric and biomorphic shapes in a balanced design.
6. The ability to create the illusion of texture employing a variety of media and techniques and to incorporate these textures into a balanced design.
7. The ability to create decorative patterns using a variety of media and to incorporate them into a balanced design
8. An understanding of the color principles of hue, value, and intensity.
9. The ability to create an achromatic design and to then create a duplicate design in which the achromatic values are matched with equivalent chromatic values.
10. The ability to mix acrylic paints to create color schemes that are monochromatic, analogous, primary, secondary, and triadic.
11. An understanding of the use of warm grays and the ability to create a design in which warm grays are effectively combined with an intense color as a foil.
12. An understanding of the need for balance in a design and to achieve this balance in a symmetrical and asymmetrical design.
13. An understanding of and the ability to employ the design principles of variety and contrast, emphasis, repetition, proportion and rhythm in all of the assignments.
14. The technical ability to execute work in dry and acrylic media, to measure, cut, and apply paper media precisely, to present assignments in a professional manner.