

# ARTS 1710 - Introduction to Printmaking

updated 8-2024

UNM-Valencia, FAFDM [Fine Arts, Film & Digital Media], Fall 2024

Face-to-Face Course

**Professor: Alexa Wheeler (she, her)** | [alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu)

**Class time & location:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30am - 1pm, Fine Arts (B&T Building) Room 107

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 10am - 12pm virtual\* & Fridays 1pm - 4pm on-campus *and by appointment*

**Office:** B&T Building Rm. 114

**Zoom Office Hours Link:** <https://unm.zoom.us/j/9541776612>, Meeting ID: 954 177 6612

**Cell [for text only, please]:** 505.515.1055

**Land Acknowledgment:** UNM-Valencia is located on the traditional and ancestral Pueblo people and is unceded. This region holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this area. I acknowledge their connection to this land, and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their traditional homeland. I also acknowledge that this statement is not enough.

**A note:** Over the past few years, we have experienced both the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the painful consequences of long-endured violence against the BIPOC community. These events have caused, and continue to cause, fear, stress, and pain for many members of our community, and will continue to impact each of us in various ways throughout our lives. Under these circumstances, it is completely normal to feel overwhelmed or anxious, and to have difficulty concentrating. I have designed this course with these challenges in mind, and am committed to continuing to work with all of you to create a positive and supportive learning environment. If your health, well-being, or school work are being impacted, I offer support services and resources in this syllabus. If your needs are not being met in any way, contact me and I will help you find services that will meet your needs as best I can.

**Credit-hours:** This is a three credit-hour course delivered in-person for 16 weeks. Class meets for five hours of direct instruction per week for the semester. Please plan for a minimum of 4 hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, open lab, projects, and class preparation) each week.

## Course Description

This course provides direct experience of exploring basic printmaking processes, including relief, intaglio, and monoprint processes, as well as the investigation of materials/media, tools, techniques, history, and concepts of printmaking. Emphasis is given to solving problems through thematic development while producing a portfolio of prints.

## Objectives

1. Properly operate a printing press and safely handle materials and equipment.
2. Demonstrate an adequate ability to utilize basic historical printmaking techniques that are widely relevant to contemporary, artistic expressions.
3. Utilize formal elements of art and design (line, shape, value, texture, space, and color), to create prints that are formally sophisticated.
4. Create imagery that contains conceptual depth, which can be interpreted by viewers with regard to social, cultural, political, geographical, and/or psychological experiences and relevance.

## Student Responsibilities & Course Policies

- **Health and Awareness:** UNM-Valencia is a mask friendly community if you are not feeling well. If you are experiencing any illness symptoms, please do not come to campus. Even without a positive test for any illness (covid, flu, etc...), if you feel sick, please stay home, rest and **take care of yourself first**. If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me (see "How to Contact the Instructor" section); I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. UNM-Valencia faculty and staff know that there is a complete life for you outside of your class and on-campus time. Please let us know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources.
- **Affirmed/Preferred First Name:** As part of its commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning, living, and working environment, the UNM-Valencia Campus recognizes that many people prefer to use a name other than their legal name to identify themselves. Here is a general website for it- <https://oeo.unm.edu/resources/preferred-name.html>.
- **AccessAbility Policy:** I can and want to make appropriate accommodations that will support you in this class by collaborating with you and the [Equal Access Services at UNM-Valencia](#), 505-925-8560 or [call/email any of the Advisors](#). It is important that you take the initiative to inform me of your accommodations needs, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor and/or Equal Access of the need for an accommodation.
- **School/Life Conflict:** Many of you face obstacles to your education as a result of work or family obligations or unforeseen personal difficulties. If you are experiencing challenges throughout the semester that are impacting your ability to succeed in this course, or in your undergraduate career more broadly, please reach out to me immediately so that we can work together to form a plan for your academic success. Reach out to me at anytime to discuss this!
- **Caregiver Responsibilities Policy:** I have great respect for students who are balancing their pursuit of education with the responsibilities of caring for children or other friends/family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss class or if your caregiving responsibilities are interfering with your ability to engage in this course, please contact me. I can be flexible and support your learning!
- **Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:** Everyone is welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. I will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM-Valencia as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on the UNM-ABQ campus website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.
- **Course Conduct:** I am committed to creating a learning environment where diverse perspectives are recognized and valued as a source of strength. I request that all students work with me to create a class culture based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. As a class we will approach all discussions with curiosity, respect and civility. Disagreements and debates in academic discourse are expected and welcome, but personal attacks are never OK and will not be tolerated. I strive to ensure an open and welcoming classroom for all students. If I ever miss the mark, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We are all learning together.
- **UNM Email/CANVAS Access:** All UNM-Valencia students will be required to have a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, Canvas and UNM Email.

- **Computer & Internet Policy:** Students will need to have access to a computer with **high-speed Internet** for this course. If you do not have access to a computer with high-speed internet at home, I want to help! UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ have implemented **laptop checkout options**.
  - If you are a **UNM-Valencia student** and you need access to a laptop, please contact the UNM-Valencia Library at :<http://valencia.unm.edu/library/index.html>
  - If you are a **UNM-ABQ student**, you will need to fill out this form: <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/summer-2023-laptop.pdf> and send it to [avdept@unm.edu](mailto:avdept@unm.edu).  
For more information on computer checkout and wifi access for UNM-ABQ Campus, visit this website: <https://at.unm.edu/coronavirus/student-tech-access.html>.
  - **ALL students can request** access to a LoboVirtualDesktop. Here is the website: <https://lobovirtualdesktop.unm.edu>. Fill out the online form. This virtual desktop is a work-in-progress, and you would need a decent computer and internet connection to make this work. But, it would give you access to a variety of UNM owned software.
  - Students should have basic computer and file management skills for all courses, especially online courses. If you are struggling with these, reach out to tutoring and support services (see support section on syllabus).
  - If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me!
  - All students, whether online or in-person (or in-between) are able to access the computer labs on the UNM-Valencia Campus and the UNM-ABQ Campus regardless of where you are taking classes.
  
- **Access to internet:** The UNM-Valencia Campus has great wifi if you are on campus. [UNM-ABQ does too- see this login info](#). Also, [this is a great list of internet options for qualifying households](#). Lastly, [this is an ABQ listing and map of wifi hotspots](#). If you still need access off-campus and do not have the resources, please reach out to me, Student Services, or any other faculty and staff.
  
- **Computer Lab Responsibility:** Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM-Valencia and UNM-ABQ properties is governed by "Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use" which can be found at <http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html>. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.
  
- **Title IX:** Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM-Valencia faculty are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member must be reported by that faculty member to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>
  
- **Academic Integrity and Honesty:** Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University. You are capable of meeting my expectations for this course! The arts are such a personal, unique experience for each person, and your story and how you choose to share it with the world are so important! If you are concerned about how well you are doing in this course, please reach out to me instead of considering academic misconduct.

# Participation

Student participation is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Course participation and attendance is key to mastering skills and successfully completing projects. You are adults and I expect you to be motivated to grow your knowledge and abilities by engaging in coursework. You are still held responsible for all academic work required regardless of weekly participation and attendance. Class participation influences your grade heavily. Participation includes:

- You should complete all projects on time (to your best ability), participate in scheduled critiques/class discussions, and maintain a safe, respectable, positive lab environment.
- You are required to attend class and be prepared for each day's work.
- If you do not attend the first week of class you may be dropped.
- You will need to work a few hours each week in addition to the scheduled class times. Open Studio hours will be announced.

# Grading Policy

- Grading is based on completion of course work and projects, the quality of your individual technical and critical development, and a personal commitment to your work. Personal commitment involves regular participation, consistent effort, completion of work, participation in critiques and class discussions and the general willingness to try. Make each project meaningful to yourself!
- Each assignment will culminate in a critique, which will consist of pinning up your work. Being prepared for these critiques, both with your completed work and your readiness to participate in the discussion surrounding your and your peers' artwork are a meaningful part of the process of creating art. Attending the critique, even if your project is incomplete/late, is extremely important.
- If you are submitting work past the posted deadline, it is super important that you communicate your circumstances with me so that we can work out a plan for you to grow and succeed in this art class!
- Incompletes are rarely issued. If 75% of the semester's work/deliverables and participation has been completed with a satisfactory grade, and incomplete may be issued.

A+	101+
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	50-59

# Grading Breakdown

**Semester Requirements:**

Projects (3)	<b>60</b> points (20 each)
Individual Meeting (10)	<b>10</b> points - for attendance & preparation
Final Project (30)	<b>30</b> points
Extra Credit	<b>10</b> points - maximum

Extra Credit will be offered throughout the semester for various points at a maximum of 10 points for the entire semester. Points will be added up and a letter grade will be issued according to this scale above in "Grading Policy".

# How to Contact the Instructor

## Remind App\*:

The instructions on how to join the REMIND App portal for this course are posted online in the Week 1 module in our UNM Canvas Portal, and on the Canvas home page in the footer. My official virtual student drop-in/office hours are listed on page one of the syllabus and in the footer on Canvas. I am available on the Remind App everyday between 8am and 8pm (officially, but try anytime). Plan on a response within 48 hours for REMIND.

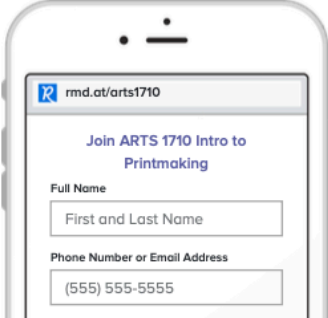
Pick a way to receive messages for **ARTS 1710 Intro to Printmaking**:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/arts1710](https://rmd.at/arts1710)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @arts1710 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @arts1710 to (240) 297-4477.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/arts1710](https://rmd.at/arts1710) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

**\* You can also contact EACH OTHER and the class via the REMIND app!**

**\* The link to join is: <https://www.remind.com/join/arts1710>**

**Zoom Link:** <https://unm.zoom.us/j/9541776612>, (Meeting ID: 954 177 6612).

During office hours, I will attempt to have my Zoom open and available for us to connect. But, I might be working with a student in a studio or otherwise not in front of a computer. If you are trying to Zoom in and I am not responding, please text me and let me know!

## Email:

Email can be sent through UNM email ([alexa08@unm.edu](mailto:alexa08@unm.edu)). PLEASE: in the subject line, write the class number, for example - "ARTS 1710". I will check email regularly and plan to respond to emails/messages within 48 hours/2 business days. At some points in the term, my inbox gets quite full, but I do want to hear from you! If you email me and don't hear back from me within two business days, please send a follow-up email. I will appreciate the gentle reminder.

## Phone:

I am not available via phone call for this course. But, you can text me (no calls please) on my personal cell phone if needed at *anytime (truly!)*: 505-515-1055. This and Remind are probably the best way to contact me for fastest response.

## Office Hours:

Thursdays 10am - 12pm virtual & Fridays 1pm - 4pm on-campus *and by appointment*

## Support Information, Resources, & Tutorials

UNM-Valencia provides extensive academic supports for students, and these supports are there to support you to achieve the academic success you are truly capable of. Most students access them at some point in pursuit of their degree. **There is no shame in seeking help!** See below for a list of the academic support offices offered:

### Open Studio Time:

- Located in B106 Studio/Classroom: Times and hours TBD.

### Support for UNM Canvas:

- <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html>

### UNM-Valencia Tutoring Services:

- Custom tutoring services are available through [The Learning Commons](#). Even online tutoring is available!

**Instructor Support:** see "How to Contact the Instructor" for methods of contacting the instructor for help.

### AccessAbility & Equal Access:

- [UNM-Valencia's accessibility/ADA compliance](#) and [UNM-Valencia's Equal Access Services](#)

**Mental Health and Counseling Services:** All of us need a support system, and many students benefit from the use of counseling services. I know I do! UNM-Valencia has mental health counseling as part of the [PASOS Recourse Center](#). The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a "one-stop" for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students. Also, here is a [list of services available in Valencia County and around the state: https://valencia.unm.edu/students/student-resources/index.html](#). UNM ABQ Students have access to mental health counseling via the [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\) Center](#), which includes [Timely Care](#), a free 24/7 virtual care services (medical, emotional support, health coaching, self-care, basic needs support).

### Community Support:

We can all reach out to each other, to the whole class, or only to me (the instructor) via the REMIND app. Use this as a place to post questions about the course content to the community. If one student has a question about course materials or an assignment/project, that question is usually shared by their peers. This allows everyone in the course to benefit from each other's questions. I will respond to messages, but you can help out your peers as well!

## Supplies

Required	Optional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nitrile Gloves</li><li>• Apron or old shirt</li><li>• Permanent marker (black)</li><li>• Set of Linoleum Cutting Blades or Woodcut Tools</li><li>• 1 linoleum block</li><li>• 1 copper plate</li><li>• Twisted etching needle</li><li>• Printmaking paper- discussed in class</li><li>• Newsprint Pad (18" x 24" minimum)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sketchbook</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• X-acto Knife with Extra Blades OR snap-off Utility Knife</li><li>• Blue Painter's Tape and/or Masking Tape</li><li>• Clear Packing Tape</li><li>• Handful of cheap paintbrushes of various sizes</li><li>• Handful of tupperware (small-ish) that you don't mind getting ruined!</li><li>• Brayer, at least 2 1/2", 3" or 4"</li><li>• Drypoint tool - Carbide Point Scribe</li></ul>

Dates	Schedule	Projects
<b><u>Week 1</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Review Syllabus</li> <li>• Equipment &amp; Supplies Overview</li> <li>• Demo - explore: collagraph &amp; transfer</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 2</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work time - collagraph &amp; transfer</li> <li>• Demo - Linoleum technique</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 3</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demo - paper, curating</li> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 4</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Spotlights</li> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 5</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 6</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project 1 Due- Critique</b></li> </ul>	<b>Project 1</b> Due: <i>Self-Portrait</i>
<b><u>Week 7</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demo - Intaglio technique &amp; chine colle</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 8</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Spotlights</li> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 9</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project 2 Due- Critique</b></li> </ul>	<b>Project 2</b> Due: <i>Boundaries</i>
<b><u>Week 10</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demo - Silkscreen technique</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 11</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Spotlights</li> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 12</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project 3 Due- Critique</b></li> </ul>	<b>Project 3</b> Due: <i>Habits &amp; Rituals</i>
<b><u>Week 13</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demo - monoprint</li> <li>• Individual Meetings</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 14</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 15</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work time</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Week 16</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Project Due- Critique</b></li> </ul>	<b>Final Project</b> Due: <i>Curiosity</i>

# Projects

## Project 1: Self-Portrait - LINO CUT

### **Objective:**

To study two-dimensional design and introduce basic printmaking techniques. To create a self-portrait that introduces us conceptually to you via two-dimensional visual imagery using the lino cut technique. To share with us your values and how you access joy. Demonstrate your knowledge of tearing paper, registration, rolling ink, printing, and curating.

**Consider:** what objects in your life you would use to describe part of your identity and how you interact with them. Why are these necessary and/or important? How do you see yourself? How do you perceive others see you? Are you thinking of a memory? Dream? Reality? How can we become more empathetic by experiencing your self-portrait edition?

### **Process:**

Carve one linoleum printing plate. Using a reductive technique, print an edition of 5 prints in 3 colors. You will have a total of 5 identical prints each having 3 colors on each print. Use at least 8 pieces of printmaking paper in order to get 5 good prints, allowing 3 for possible mistakes. Because each print will need to have 3 colors, and you are using 8 pieces of paper, you will be running your edition through the press 24 times.

Group critique will discuss design principles and printmaking technique, as well as the visualization of you via your imagery.

## Project 2: Boundaries - INTAGLIO

### **Objective:**

Use visual imagery that highlights literal boundaries, and consider how that can become metaphors for your own physical and metaphorical boundaries. Propose an interpretation on imagery you choose to create. Demonstrate your knowledge of tearing paper, registration, plate wiping, inking, printing, and curating.

**Consider:** what do you feel our class community can learn about you via the exploration of your real and perceived boundaries depicted via the intaglio print. How much of your story can we hold and cherish and love, and how much of it do you feel we deserve to learn? What boundary are you trying to free yourself from? What boundary do you feel is holding you back? Think about boundaries that help and support you, and boundaries that may be limiting to your growth.

### **Process:**

Create one plate using drypoint using a copper plate. Print an edition of 5 prints while incorporating the technique of chine collé, monoprint, xerox transfer, and/or hand coloring. You will need to use 8 pieces of paper in order to have an identical edition of 5 prints, allowing 3 for possible mistakes.

Group critique will discuss design principles and printmaking technique, as well as the visualization of boundaries via your imagery.



### Project 3: Habits & Rituals - SILKSCREEN

#### **Objective:**

Research your own internal habits & rituals, or that of an external source, such as someone you know, your community, an entire culture, etc.... What do you want your audience to learn by experiencing your prints? What colors explore the emotion you feel in creating your print? Trust yourself and your instincts. Demonstrate your knowledge of tearing paper, registration, squeegee inking, printing, and curating.

**Consider:** who or what is the object of a habit? Who or what is the object of a ritual? How can you depict habit and ritual visually? Are the habits you are sharing good habits or not-so-good habits? Who determines what is good? What is the history of you engaging in your rituals and who benefits from them? Do ritual and habit both create a sense of purpose larger than ourselves? How are habits and rituals different? How are they the same, if they are at all?

#### **Process:**

Create imagery via silkscreen. Print an edition of 5 prints on a substrate of your choice: paper, metal, fabric, wood, etc...

Group critique will discuss design principles and printmaking technique, as well as the visualization of habits and rituals via your imagery.

### Final Project: Curiosity

#### **Objective:**

Explore and develop an idea using imagery to create a narrative. This series should engage the viewer, draw them in, and share your story - your story is super important because you are important. Take this opportunity to think conceptually and explore the definition of curiosity and how that relates to you, your beliefs and values, and your personal truth. Use the time and energy of this process for personal exploration, expression and interpretation.

**Consider:** What are you curious about? Do you feel that curiosity creates a sense of vulnerability because you have to surrender to some uncertainty? Do you choose to feed your curiosity or starve it at times? Why? Is curiosity a choice? Do you prefer certainty over curiosity? Can embracing discomfort feed curiosity? How can you explore your curiosity as an aspect of yourself and your own personal narrative visually? What qualities does printmaking have? How do color and emotion work together? Consider the interactions between what you know and what you do not know?

#### **Process:**

Create a composition utilizing any technique that we have used this far in printmaking, or make any combination of them. Feel empowered to combine other artistic media and techniques with the printmaking process. Print an edition of 8 prints using at least 2 colors (each print will be run through the press twice, or for silkscreen, you will need 2 screens). Use 12 pieces of paper to create the edition of 8, allowing for possible mistakes.

Group critique will discuss design principles and printmaking technique, as well as the visualization of curiosity via your imagery.