

ARTS 1220-501, Art Practices 1, Fall 2026

Prerequisites: None
Instructor: Professor Heyward
Email: sheyward@unm.edu

Meeting Times/Location
T/Th: 10:30 - 1pm.
Rm:106 Bldg. Business & Technology
UNM-Valencia Campus, Los Lunas

Office Hours
- *Office Hours: Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 AM.*
104A (Office) Bldg. B&T
- *By appointment:*
Email sheyward@unm.edu to schedule a meeting outside of posted hours.

Division Contact
FAFDM Chair: Dean of Instruction, Dr. Laura Musselwhite, lmusselwhite@unm.edu

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR





My name is Sarah Heyward (Professor H), and I am a Professor of Fine Arts. I especially love teaching Art Practices and Drawing courses and introducing beginning students to the visual arts.

I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area of California and moved to New Mexico from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the pandemic. I have an MFA and BFA in Painting & Drawing, as well as a BA in French. During my undergraduate studies, I had the opportunity to study abroad in France for two years, living in both Aix-en-Provence and Paris while learning French. My experience learning another language greatly influenced the way I think about art, communication, and visual language. Those years ultimately inspired me to pursue Fine Arts at the graduate level and played an important role in leading me to become the artist and professor I am today!

I am very excited for another semester of teaching Art Practices 1, and I cannot wait to meet all of you and learn more about your own artistic interests and endeavors! Welcome to Art Practices! I am looking forward to a great semester of learning, experimenting, and making art together.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art Practices I is the first of two required interdisciplinary art studio courses that explore the processes, ideas, and diverse media of visual arts at the foundational level. This course addresses the thematic concepts that are central to the nature of art making today. The semester's assignments will investigate issues of Light, Frame, and Mark. Lectures, assigned readings, sketchbook activities, in-progress and final critiques, and response essays will accompany each project. Visual problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course, in addition to an in-depth exploration of various materials and the nature of artistic meaning. The course will culminate in each student creating a final portfolio of the artworks they created during the course.

Student Learning Outcomes
By completing this course students will be able to:
1. demonstrate how frame, light, and mark can be used to communicate ideas in visual art.
2. produce two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and time-based artworks.
3. develop a research practice that informs the development of artworks.
4. critically analyze works of art.
5. assemble a final portfolio of artworks created during the course.
6. write statements about artworks elaborating on ideas and processes.

Class Modality
This is an in-person class with a Canvas homepage. Lectures, demonstrations, slide shows, assignments and exercises, reading discussions, critiques, and regular in-class one-on-one discussions with the instructor will be used as the learning tools in this class. Grades, assignment guidelines, submission tools, etc. will be located on the Canvas page for this course.

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

No student should drop this course based on their access to obtaining course materials. Reach out to me privately if you are unable to gather your course supplies so that I can help find solutions/lend you materials :) *sheyward@unm.edu*

Required Texts
- Assigned readings will be available in PDF form on Canvas

Required Materials
**Some supplies can be borrowed/used during open studio hours at UNM-Valencia Campus*

Sketchbook / Paper
- *Blank-Page Sketchbook for Drawing (make sure it is drawing grade paper and white)*
- Black Canson paper sheet 18" x 24" (1)
- Full sheet of watercolor or canvas paper

Tools
- Graphite Artist Grade Drawing Pencils / Set (range from 2H - 6B), one of each (Drawing Grade graphite pencils are mixed in with drafting / architecture graphite pencils. I recommend General's/Kimberly brand)
- Basic acrylic paint set
- Variety of soft-haired brushes
- Cups /jars for water and paint
- Good drawing pen set (suggested: Micron Pen Assorted Nibs Black .01, .03, .05, .08, .005)
- X-acto knife and blades for fine detail (regular and/or detailed cutting tool)

Online/Digital tools
- Smartphone/DSLR/Point and shoot camera
- Stop motion studio app (https://apps.apple.com/us/app/stop-motion-studio/id441651297)
- Adobe Portfolio (free for UNM students)

Optional Supplies / Handy Tools
- Any additional art tools or materials you have around the house or want to explore through your artist sketchbook / drawing exercises such as colored pencils, markers / pens, collage materials, experimental surfaces (like rice paper), etc.

Where to Buy:
UNM-Valencia Campus Bookstore
280 La Entrada Rd.
Los Lunas, NM 87031

Artisan Albuquerque
3017 Monte Vista Blvd NE, Albuquerque NM 87106

505 256 4540
Bring syllabus and ID in case they need them for student discounts

Other / Online Retailers
Blick Art Supplies, Jerrysartarama, Utrecht Art Supplies, Amazon
Hobbylobby, Walmart, Michael's, and the likes will have some supplies but not all. Ask about student discounts.

STUDIO REQUIREMENTS

Studio Work Sessions and Preparation
This is a hands-on course, and productive in-class work is expected. Plan ahead to bring necessary tools and materials each day.

Limit phone use. Texting and social media should be minimal. Listening to music is fine on work days, as long as it doesn't disrupt your focus or the class. No videos. Keep screens down to stay present.

For everyone's safety, wear appropriate clothing: closed-toed shoes, work clothes, and gloves or eye protection as needed. Use caution with tools like blades, hot glue guns, and installation materials. Keep personal items and food out of the way to maintain a clean, safe workspace. Dispose of X-acto blades in proper "sharps" containers and put back supplies properly to ensure safety protocols are met.

Clean up after yourself. Claim a cubby for supplies or mid-size work. Storage of large projects must be limited to keep shared space accessible for all. Keep all artworks for the duration of the semester in good condition for the final portfolio review.

Open Studio Hours and Studio Etiquette
Open studio hours (posted on classroom doors) are available outside class time. Use them to work and build community. Most Art Practices supplies are in Room 106; request permission to use supplies in other rooms. Treat all tools and materials with care, return them after use, and do not take them home. Borrowed books must be returned promptly. Division Lab Technician and Work Study students can answer questions during open studio but cannot assist with individual projects.

Locker/ Cubby Policy
Lockers and cubbies are available for your material and tool storage. Locker/Cubby use is contingent upon enrollment in a Fine Arts class. Claim a locker/cubby by labeling it with your name, semester, and year. For lockers you must provide your own lock. All lockers/cubbies must be cleaned out at the end of each semester. Failure to do so will mean the lock will be cut and your belongings will be removed. If you are taking an art class the following semester and need to store materials over break, reach out to the lab tech, Sophia Wasteneys. She will do her best to make accommodations.

FAFDM Lab Technician
Sophia Wasteneys. Office: 107C located in classroom 107. Email: swasteneys@unm.edu
Work Study Office: Rm. 103

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

- If you anticipate a UNM sanctioned absence, contact instructor immediately to make appropriate arrangements.
- If you experience an unexpected medical emergency and need specific accommodations, contact instructor immediately AND the Accessibility Resource Center.
- All course accommodations must go through the ARC. It is your responsibility to contact the ARC as soon as possible if you think you might or know you need an accommodation.

Please make every effort to show up to class on time, prepared, and ready to work. Because this class is largely experiential (based on what we do in class), students who attend and participate in every class will get the most out of the course. If an absence is unavoidable, it is appropriate for you as the student to reach out to notify me immediately and then obtain notes, assignments, and other relevant information ***from classmates***.

- Students can be absent 3 times (excused or not) without impact to their grade. After that, each consecutive absence will result in a drop of their grade by one degree (i.e., A to A-). Students will be marked tardy if arriving after five minutes into the class start time.
- Three tardies are equal to one absence.

In my efforts to set healthy boundaries for students and instructor, I reserve the right to drop any student missing three consecutive classes without contacting me.

Participation
Class participation is a large part of your final grade. Participation is demonstrated first by attendance, then by listening, taking notes, responding to, and asking questions, and interacting respectfully with others in group activities, critiques, and discussions. Students are expected to attend class prepared by having completed any readings and assignments and ask questions when needing clarification on anything. Please see attendance policy for more details on how attendance plays a role in your grade.

Studio Assignments
Studio Assignments are the art projects you will work on throughout the course. Each module will have a different theme and consist of studio assignments (including a written statement), sketchbook assignments, critiques, work-in-progress critique discussions, and reading discussions. Class critiques will occur on the date each studio assignment is due. Please check

the schedule regularly for these dates as they are a required part of your grade for each assignment.

Sketchbook Assignments
A consistent sketchbook practice is essential. Each module's studio assignment is supported by sketchbook work. This may include research notes, idea maps, development sketches, technique exercises, and observation studies. Follow each module's requirements and deadlines; catching up last minute is not possible.

In-Progress Critiques
In-progress critique assignments provide an important opportunity for peer feedback before a studio assignment is due. You will be asked to showcase the progress of your studio assignment which often includes the artwork itself alongside a series of questions you will be asked to prepare based on prompts. In-progress critiques can also include: the sketches/studies for the assignment, material studies or practice, research notes, source materials, etc.

Written Work
For each studio project, a written statement is due a week after the project's deadline. It should address the outcome of your project, how successful you feel the piece is and what you could have done differently to make it even better. You should also make a connection between your own work and the ideas presented in at least one of the assigned readings. For detailed guidelines on writing a successful statement, please refer to the document "Statement Guidelines" found posted in the Course Resources module on Canvas.

Reading Discussions
A reading discussion will be due for each module. These will be counted as part of your overall grade and must be completed on time. Please refer to the Discussion Reflection for instructions and refer to the schedule for the due dates.

I'm committed to creating a respectful, inclusive learning environment and I ask you to do the same. Our discussions should honor diverse perspectives across age, ability, race, religion, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation.

Communication and Response Time
Please email me directly at sheyward@unm.edu (preferred). I check my Outlook email regularly Monday through Friday from 8 AM - 5 PM. You can typically expect a reply within 24 to 48 hours M-F though I will do my best to respond as soon as I am able.

Students must check UNM emails regularly throughout the week in order to keep up with class announcements, instructor emails, etc. Don't hesitate to reach out - I am happy to answer questions about your projects or the course!

EVALUATION & GRADING

Critique dates: 9/10, 10/01, 10/22, 11/12, 12/01
Final Portfolio Due: 12/10

Expectations

- Students complete and turn in all assignments promptly.
- Students engage authentically with each project and push themselves to grow creatively.
- Students actively and respectfully participate in class discussions and critiques.
- Students work, draw/practice, and read for this class at least 6 hours each week.
- Students maintain a research sketchbook that will be scanned and turned in for regular review.

Studio Assignment Grading Rubric
All studio assignments will be graded using this rubric:

Execution 30%	Prompt completion of the project based on a firm understanding of the concept, discussions, and materials.
Presentation 25%	Your ideas are presented clearly using technical and conceptual skills
Participation 20%	Participation in critiques.
Statement 25%	Ability to articulate your process, reflect and make connections in writing. Connections between your work and the assigned readings

Look for the written feedback instructor has provided for each assignment. Contact the instructor directly and promptly to discuss a grade given to you on a project.

Final Grade

Studio Assignments, including written statements (5 @ 8 points each)	40
Reading Discussions (5 @ 3 points each)	15
Sketchbook Assignments (5 @ 4 points each)	20
In Progress Critiques (5 @ 3 points each)	15
Final Portfolio	10
Total:	100

Grading and Lateness

- All assignments must be submitted in person on the date they are due at the beginning of class. Please refer to the course schedule for specific due dates. Studio assignments that are not done on the due date will not be evaluated for group critique.
- Studio Assignments must be ready for critique on critique days at the beginning of class. Come to class early to hang your work, clean up detail, crop, etc. to ensure that your work is on time for critique. No altering of work during critiques will be accepted.

- Assignments will be graded within 7 days of submission. There is a 2-day grace period on all assignments meaning that as long as they are turned in within two days after the original due date, they will not receive a grade reduction beyond missing critique points.
- Assignments turned in within seven days of the original due date but after the 2-day grace period will receive a full letter grade reduction to their assignment grade. No late work will be accepted after 7 days from the original due date.
- If you are having difficulties keeping up with the course work, please contact your instructor(s) immediately. If you are having difficulties accessing the course materials online due to lack of internet or proper equipment, contact instructor as there are resources available to help**.**
- Lack of supplies is not an acceptable reason for incomplete work.
- If you need supplies, please reach out to me.

My job as your instructor is to support you. Please reach out through email or during Office Hours

STANDARD UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Accommodations:
UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740:
Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the Arcoiris Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Title IX:
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance[.]"

Credit-hour statement:
This is a three-credit-hour course. Class meets for two 150-minute sessions of direct instruction for 15 weeks during the fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Respectful Conduct Expectations:
I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. Three or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Thriving and finding support:
Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support and get involved in campus and academic life. The Student Life tab on the student and instructor MyUNM login page provides direct links to well-being resources, including PASOS, financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. The Student Life tab on MyUNM will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on MyUNM. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty:
Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work
submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource.

No Generative AI Use:
This course is meant to help you develop and demonstrate key knowledge and skills without the support of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for submitted work. Using generative AI to complete submitted coursework in this course will interfere with the advantages in learning and understanding that this course offers you. You are expected to complete submitted work without any generative AI assistance. Prohibited generative AI use includes tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly's generative AI features, AI image generators, AI video or audio generators, AI code generators, AI paraphrasing tools, AI presentation generators, AI design tools, and similar technologies. The purpose of this course policy is educational, not punitive. The assignments in this course are aligned with specific learning processes and outcomes that support your future learning and expertise. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted in this course is inconsistent with course expectations and may violate UNM's academic integrity standards and Student Code of Conduct. If AI use is suspected, I will use submitted coursework, assignment directions, conversations with you about your work and process, and this syllabus to determine whether academic misconduct occurred. If you are unsure if a tool or use is allowed, please ask before submitting the assignment.

Generative AI:
Generative AI is a type of AI that refers to technologies that generate text, images, audio, video, code, or other content in response to user prompts. You must acknowledge meaningful generative AI assistance when you submit work if you have used the tool. A brief statement is sufficient.

For example:
I used ChatGPT to help brainstorm possible paper topics and revise my introduction for clarity. I reviewed and edited the final version myself.

or

I used Adobe Firefly to generate an illustrative image for my presentation. I revised the slide design myself and verified that the image was appropriate for the assignment.

You do not need to disclose minor uses such as spelling correction, sentence-level grammar correction, citation formatting, basic image cropping, basic color correction, file conversion, or accessibility-related tools related to an accommodation documented with UNM Accessibility Resource Center, unless an assignment specifically requires disclosure.

You remain responsible for the quality and appropriateness of the work you submit, including AI-generated content. You may not use AI to misrepresent your learning, fabricate sources or data, create misleading images or visual evidence, submit work you do not understand, or avoid the intellectual or creative work the assignment is designed to support. UNM's Academic Integrity Guide for Students applies to AI-assisted work.

You should not enter private, confidential, regulated, or sensitive information into AI tools unless the tools and use have been approved by UNM for that purpose. This includes personally identifiable information, peer or instructor created work, nonpublic community data, private chat logs, and images, voice recordings, or likenesses of real people without appropriate permission.

Learning works best when we start from a position of trust. In our course, students are expected to act honestly and responsibly, and I am expected to provide clear guidance about course expectations. On my part, I will also disclose to you how and when I am using generative AI tools with statements like those above. I also hold myself to the same standards of authorship, critical judgement, quality, and integrity that I have outlined in this policy. If you have questions about what constitutes appropriate AI use, please ask. Questions? Contact Pamela Cheek at pcheek@unm.edu.

COURSE CALENDAR & DUE DATES

Module 1: Weeks 1 - 4
Reading Discussion 1 Due: 08/27
Sketchbook 1 Due: 09/03
In Progress Critique 1 Due: 09/03
Assignment 1 & Critique Due: 09/10
Written Statement 1 Due: 9/15

Module 2: Weeks 5 - 7
Reading Discussion 2 Due: 09/17
Sketchbook 2 Due: 09/22
In-Progress Critique 2 Due: 09/24
Assignment 2 & Critique Due: 10/01
Written Statement 2 Due: 10/06

Module 3: Weeks 8 - 10
Reading Discussion 3 Due: 10/13
Sketchbook 3 Due: 10/15
In-Progress Critique 3 Due: 10/15
Assignment 3 & Critique Due: 10/22
Written Statement 3 Due: 10/27

Module 4: Weeks 11 - 13
Reading Discussion 4 Due: 10/29
Sketchbook 4 Due: 11/05
In-Progress Critique 4 Due: 11/05
Assignment 4 & Critique Due: 11/12
Written Statement 4 Due: 11/17

Module 5: Weeks 14 - 16
Reading Discussion 5 Due: 11/19
Sketchbook 5 Due: 11/24
In-Progress Critique 5 Due: 11/24
Assignment 5 & Critique Due: 12/01
Written Statement 5 Due: 12/03

Final Assignment:

Final Portfolio and Portfolio Statement Due: 12/10 during scheduled final exam

16 -Week Course Dates Breakdown

Week 1: August 18-20
Week 2: August 25-27
Week 3: September 1-3
09/07: Labor Day; No Classes
Week 4: September 8-10
Week 5: September 15-17
Week 6: September 22-24
Week 7: September 29 - October 1
Week 8: October 6-8*
*10/08 - 10/09: Fall Break; No Classes
Week 9: October 13-15
Week 10: October 20-22
Week 11: October 27-29
Week 12: November 3-5
Week 13: November 10-12
Week 14: November 17-19
Week 15: November 24-26*
*11/26 - 11/29: Thanksgiving Break; No Classes
Week 16: December 1-3

Finals Week

12/07 - 12/12

Scheduled:
12/10: 10:30 a - 12:30 p.