CNST 1250 - INTERIOR FINISHING

Instructor: Mrs. Melinda Schwartz
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Office: WTC 1201C

Office Hours: Mondays 8:00-9:20am or by appointment
Meeting Place and Time: MWF 9:30am-12:00pm
UNM-Valencia Workforce Training Center
Classroom 1111, Lab 1112

Course Dates: August 17, 2026 – October 8, 2026 (8-week section)


COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the interior of a building wall, ceiling, and floor finishing. The use of different types of covering, paint, paneling, and texture will be emphasized. The installation of decorative tile for bathroom, kitchen, and floors will be explored.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Demonstrate how to hang, tape and texture drywall.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of a variety of painting techniques.
3. Demonstrate how to install interior doors and cabinetry.
4. Demonstrate how to apply millwork.
5. Demonstrate the installation of ceramic tile.
6. Demonstrate the installation of interior flooring.

TEXTBOOK(S): Instructor-provided handouts, manufacturer installation instructions, safety data sheets, lab demonstrations, and selected NCCER/construction reference materials provided in class or through Canvas. Any physical materials provided must be returned at the end of the course when requested.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is required and part of your final grade. There will be a sign-in sheet on the front table daily; it is your responsibility to sign in. If you leave class early or arrive late, it will be reflected in your attendance score unless this is due to school bus transportation issues. Students with excessive absences, more than 3, may be dropped from the course. If you are not in class by the start time listed on this syllabus, you are late. Three tardies equals one unexcused absence. Excused absences will require a note.


GRADING POLICY:

To receive a passing grade for this course, you must score at least 70 percent in the class. Grading scale:

970-1000 A+ 930-969 A 900-929 A-
870-899 B+ 830-869 B 800-829 B-
770-799 C+ 730-769 C 700-729 C-
670-699 D+ 630-669 D 600-629 D-
599-0 F

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Number	Total Points
Weekly Skills/Knowledge Tests	100	7	700
Lab Projects and Skill Checks	40	8	320
Attendance/Participation	2	22	44
Extra Credit	TBD	TBD	TBD
Total			**1044**

COURSE OUTLINE:

This course is in person and contains a great deal of time in the construction lab. Students will complete interior finishing work through demonstrations, guided practice, and individual or team lab projects. Work may include drywall hanging, taping, texture, wall repairs, painting techniques, interior doors, cabinetry, millwork, tile layout and installation, backsplash work, interior flooring, and final inspection. At the end of most weeks, there will be an exam or skills check covering the work from that week.

Homework: Reading assignments, safety review, Canvas materials, manufacturer instructions, and preparation for lab activities. Time in class will not always be given for this. Most learning will be hands-on in the lab, so review of procedures, terms, and safety expectations outside class is required.

Exams/Skills Checks: Exams or skills checks may include multiple choice, short answer, diagram, layout, measurement, material identification, or hands-on demonstration formats.

Late Work: In general, I do not accept late work. If you are absent for an exam or lab skills check, you must schedule a retake with Mrs. Schwartz. Excused absences will not be marked late; unexcused absences may result in a 10% deduction.

Extra Credit statement: Extra credit is at the discretion of the instructor and may not be offered. Should the opportunity arise, the instructor will make an announcement in class.



The following schedule is subject to change should the instructor deem it necessary.

Date	Topic	Homework/ Testing Dates/ Notes
8/17-8/21	Course introduction; lab safety; PPE; interior finishing tools; measuring and layout; material identification; wall, ceiling, and floor finish systems; drywall types and fasteners.	Safety orientation; tool check; introductory quiz; begin measuring and takeoff practice.
8/24-8/28	Drywall hanging: layout, cutting, fitting, hanging sequence, fastening patterns, inside/outside corners, openings, board handling, and basic ceiling/wall installation practices.	Drywall hanging lab; material takeoff assignment; weekly test/skills check.
8/31-9/4	Drywall taping and texture: paper tape, mesh tape, bedding coat, fill coat, finish coat, corner bead, inside corners, sanding, dust control, texture application, and finish levels.	Taping, mudding, and texture lab; weekly test/skills check. September 2nd- Belen no school- Class vote from non-Belen students
9/7	Labor Day - No class.	No class today.
9/9-9/11	Wall repairs and painting techniques: patching holes, damaged corners, cracks, matching existing texture, surface preparation, primer, paint selection, cutting in, rolling, and finish-quality inspection.	Wall repair, texture match, and painting techniques lab; weekly test/skills check.
9/14-9/18	Interior doors, cabinetry, and millwork: door fitting and installation basics, cabinet layout and installation considerations, base/casing trim, fasteners, adhesives, caulking, and finish details.	Door/cabinet/millwork lab; weekly test/skills check.
9/21-9/25	Ceramic tile installation: substrate preparation, layout, cuts, spacing, thinset, trowel selection, tile setting, leveling, grouting, sealing, and safe cutting practices.	Tile layout and setting lab; weekly test/skills check.
9/28-10/2	Backsplash and interior flooring: wall prep, layout around outlets and edges,	Backsplash and flooring lab; weekly test/skills check.

	tile trim, grout cleanup, flooring layout, transitions, underlayment considerations, and finish cleanup.	
10/5-10/8	Final interior finishing project completion, punch list, inspection, cleanup	Final skills check; course checkout.

Credit-hour statement:

This is a four credit-hour course. Class meets for three 2.5-hour sessions of direct instruction for eight weeks during the Fall 2026 semester, with a final course meeting/project checkout on October 8, 2026. Please plan for a minimum of eight hours of out-of-class work, homework, study, assignment completion, project preparation, and class preparation each week.

Academic Integrity and/or Plagiarism Policy:

Having academic integrity is paramount to your success in any class. Plagiarism or cheating is not tolerated. Any instance of this will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Here is the link to the UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy: https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html. The policy states:

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, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as: "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; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Electronic Device Usage:

Phone usage is not allowed in class. Phones must be on silent. If you are caught on your phone without permission, you will lose your participation point for the day. The use of cell phones while in the lab for testing is strictly prohibited. They must be silenced and placed in your backpack or on the instructor desk during testing.

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 the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Or the UNM-Albuquerque Accessibility Resource Center (https://arc.unm.edu/) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 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

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.