University of Texas at El Paso
Art Education 3357: Issues, Ideas, and Artmaking
FALL 2026*

Course Information

Course Title: Issues, Ideas, and Artmaking
Course prefix and number: ARTE 3357
Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 – 3:50 pm
Location: Fox Fine Arts Building Room 463

Instructor Information

Course Instructor: Dr. Heather Kaplan
Email: hgkaplan@utep.edu
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:15-1:15pm and by appointment
Office location: Fox Fine Arts Building, Room A461A

Course Description

Through the study of contemporary art this course connects making practices to ideas and issues. This course builds upon practices begun in introductory art studios and highlights art making and curriculum writing as meaning and making practices connected to each other and to ideas and issues. Contemporary issues pertaining to the art world, art education, and to the larger world are explored. This course is a hybrid course that involves lecture and studio components. Students can expect to view, make, and critique art as well as write reflective papers and plan written curriculum.

Course Prerequisites

ARTE 3307 is a prerequisite for this class.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. To cultivate an understanding of different curricular approaches to art education and visual culture in schools and other cultural institutions.
2. To develop visual communication skills using visual and verbal language.
3. To conceive and create visual arts curriculum through basic lesson planning strategies.
4. To explore artistic, dialogic, democratic, and inquiry-based methods of creating and learning in the visual arts.

Course Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify, compare, and implement various art education and visual cultural curriculums.
2. Students will exhibit proficiency in visual languages through verbal and visual competency.
3. Students will create implementable and original visual arts lesson plans.
4. Students will discuss, explore, and create original ideas, art works, and curriculum relevant to visual arts.

General Course Requirements

Course Texts and Readings (will be provided)

TBA

Technology Requirements

Up to 49% of course content may be delivered online. This means that some of the course content will be delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk.

Course Communication

Communication in this class may take many forms including in-person communication, email, Blackboard discussion, or zoom meetings. Below a variety of methods of communication are enumerated:

- Office Hours: My office hours will be Tuesday/Thursday 12:15 – 1:15 and by appointment. Due to my responsibilities that pull me away from campus for student teaching, it is advisable that you make an appointment to meet on campus or on Zoom as my office hours can be subject to changes outside of normal operation. Please email me to set up an appointment.
- Email: For this course, UTEP email is used as a primary means of communicating with students. Email is sent to UTEP accounts. It is the student's responsibility to check email or forward emails to an account that he or she checks regularly. Please DO NOT email assignments- unless otherwise indicated assignments should be submitted to blackboard. UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt.
- Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.
- Synchronous zoom meetings may be held in lieu of in person discussions/lectures and/or will constitute office hours. During zoom meetings please turn on the video and mute your microphone unless you are actively speaking.

Professionalism

You are expected to maintain professional conduct. This includes being on time to class meetings, respecting all members of the class, and allowing for individual differences and opinions. Please follow these guidelines:

- All communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to your classmates and to the instructor. Refrain from harassment or inappropriate behavior.
- Electronic communication carries the same accountability as face-to-face interaction and all electronic communication shall reflect your professionalism.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Attendance and Participation

Regular class attendance is expected. For each absence after the second (2) absence your grade will be lowered one letter grade (A to B). Three (3) incidents of tardiness or leaving class early equals one absence. Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your

learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating/ engaging in discussion with your peers on the discussion boards
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Participating in classroom activities and discussions
- Participation in any experiential learning activities scheduled inside or outside of class time.

Active participation is an important component of any studio or art-based environment. You will be expected to come prepared for class, to participate in class discussion and to share your work while contributing to an atmosphere where others may share and participate in turn. Should these issues become problematic, the instructor reserves the right to deduct a letter grade from the final grade calculation.

Missed Assignments

It is the responsibility of the student to be in class to complete course work. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to complete the work missed or to propose and complete a similar assignment. The instructor must approve any proposed makeup assignment. Please make an appointment outside of class time to discuss missed work.

Late Assignments

Instructor reserves the right to assign lower grades on late assignments.

Working and Preparedness for Class

You will be expected to come prepared for class (bringing all necessary supplies, projects, and readings) and be ready to work. On workdays you will be engaged and working. If you come unprepared to work or do not work during the entire time allotted 10-25% of the points possible for the project will be deducted.

Email

For this course, email is used as a primary means of communicating with students. Email is sent to UTEP accounts. It is the student's responsibility to check email or forward emails to an account that he or she checks regularly. Please DO NOT email assignments, they will not be accepted.

Course Drop Policy

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.

In Person and Synchronous Online Meetings

Typically, this class will meet in person. It is possible (especially in emergency situations) that this class may require that you participate in scheduled synchronous online class sessions. During these online sessions we will use zoom; however, please be flexible as issues or changes with the technology may require that we switch to Microsoft Teams or Blackboard collaborate (both of which should be available through the blackboard website). The purpose of these sessions is for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates. These sessions will be held during our scheduled class time.

AI Policy: AI allowed only with prior permission from 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 given permission 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.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty Statement

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 ones' 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.

Accommodations Statement

The university is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of university programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act

(ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. I will work with students through CASS to make reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Student Pregnancy and Parenting Nondiscrimination Policy

The University of Texas at El Paso (University) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discrimination of pregnant or parenting students in accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 51.982 and other applicable laws, such as Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy discrimination) in education programs or activities; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability (including disabilities based on temporary medical conditions from pregnancy); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in public schools such as institutions of higher education.

Grade Distribution and Criteria

All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

A = 100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

Your grade will be determined across an array of activities and skills. You will be graded on participation, art making, written reflections, lesson plans and assessments, performance-based assessments of instruction, curriculum creation and planning, pedagogical activities and your reflection and assessment of your own pedagogical practice.

The following is a general outline of the class assignments and their grade distribution (which is subject to change based on the needs of this class – additional determinations will be made based on the emergent needs of the class):

Assignments

Teaching Ideas through Artist	10pts
Art for the Heart	15pts
Artist Resource Repository with Visuals and Visual Responses	25pts
Proto-Lesson Plans	20pts
Developed Lesson Plan	15pts
Developed Artwork	15pts

TOTAL 100pts

*Please note that this syllabus is subject to change. Please pay attention for changes and contact the instructor with questions. By choosing to enroll in this class, you agree to the conditions of this syllabus.