

Special Topics Neon Sculpture

ART 3307 CEL Syllabus

Instructor: Angel Cabrales, M.F.A.

Office: 259 Fox Fine Arts Bldg.
Office hours will be by appointment.

Email: Jcabrales@utep.edu

Make sure you have access to Blackboard; the instructor will not be responsible for any missed information related to the class.

Email sent through other means different than the University email will not be attended. (i.e. Facebook or personal email)

Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 PM – 4:20 PM
257 Fox Fine Arts Bldg.

I am here to help you navigate this course successfully.

- Ask questions regularly.
- Consult about course content.
- **Review graded assignments and exams with me.**

I can be reached through email, and by appointment.

Course Description

This Special Topics CEL course, Neon Sculpture is an introduction to the history and contemporary uses of neon in sculpture as well as the initiation of sculptural concepts in relation to light-based works with neon lights. Student instruction includes the introduction to the noble gases, tube bending, studio safety, transformer wiring and the bombarding process.

The development of skill and creation of the artwork is not the end of your projects. As upcoming artist's, it is important to instill, not only a positive work ethic, but the knowledge and understanding of what it means to be an artist within your community. Students will be required to exhibit their work toward the end of the semester, as well as be involved in its curation, installation and promotion. Community outreach is a large part of exhibition, as the community are the viewers of your work.

The "CEL" designation for this course stands for "Community Engagement & Leadership" and is part of a new certificate program in the College of Liberal Arts (full details to be provided at the start of the online course). The purpose of this CEL course is to strengthen students' understanding of their role in society as engaged citizens and to build the knowledge and competencies that will enable them to be socially responsible and participating community leaders. Accordingly, course assignments and assessments are developed in line with the CEL program mission in Liberal Arts, as well as within the broader framework and mission of UTEP's "Edge Advantages" goals.

These are courses with integrated, structured community-based (*direct* and *indirect* outside of the classroom) projects and activities connected to course learning objectives where engagement with community partners is equally beneficial to the student and community partners. Participation involves reciprocal teaching-learning experiences over the course of the academic semester and students may gain additional leadership and interpersonal skills while applying their knowledge in the community-setting.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

A course in Neon Sculpture CEL is designed to:

- Be an introduction to new avenues of the artistic process and refinement of process.
- Learn and experiment with new methodologies in light-based work and incorporate them into the artistic process and style.
- Instill the habit of safe use of materials, tools, and equipment.
- Cultivate a working knowledge of historical and contemporary neon art within the students work.
- Enable the students to address the development and meaning of his/her work in critical terms.
- Expand the student's creative process and overlap performance, sculpture and video into a new artistic expression.

What skills will this class teach me?

By the end of this semester, you will:

- Have learned developed and expanded your Sculptural style and techniques with a main focus in light based works with neon.
- Have a better ability in problem-solving/critical thinking to bring your sculptural ideas to fruition.
- Give special attention to the development of a conceptual intent, aesthetics, and technical skills in order to achieve and expand your artistic objective.
- Apply this knowledge to the criticism of a work of art.

Educational Objectives

This class course will help you to achieve the following objectives:

- Think critically and creatively, learning to apply different systems of analysis.
- Engage with a variety of others in thoughtful and well-crafted communication.
- Cultivate self-awareness, balance and an openness to change.

Course Structure

By this point, you should have an inclination toward the sculptural methods you prefer. This class emphasizes combining those methods with new techniques using neon light to express your vision not only through sculpture but through the artist statement. Specific assignments will be given to students that are designed to develop light-based sculptural concepts and continue the development in your artistic philosophy. Students can expect help and guidance, although part of the purpose for the course is to develop independence and self-confidence in their work. Due to the current conditions from the pandemic, class time will be the only time available for studio use. Students will be required to work from home during the week.

SPECIAL NOTE

- Discussion with the instructor, classmates, as well, as other sources is expected throughout the production of the projects.
- Participation in class discussions, class critiques (working or final) or assigned material, is required.
- Video classes will be given on announced dates in the calendar, be aware that students must be visible on screen throughout the class time and classes will be recorded.
- **This course is dependent on time**; you are expected to make full use of the scheduled class time. While each project is given approximately one month per assignment,

students will also find it necessary to do their work outside of the scheduled class time. For every hour in class, you should expect at least two hours outside of class time. The projects require time, as such, the studio will be open a minimum of 25 hours a week outside of class time.

- Students will be expected to have the necessary materials at the start of class. Class time will not be allowed to acquire materials for an assignment unless we arrange to do so as a class. The university provides most of the tools required to create your work and strives to assist you in your artistic endeavors and will purchase some of your materials, but you will have to buy the remainder of supplies needed to complete your work. The supplemental materials are paid by you, the student. Just as you cannot take a class without the required textbook, this class requires supplies. **Expect to spend a minimum of \$500 in this class this semester.** This is non-negotiable. One should not see this as a cost, your education is not a cost, it is an investment and should be a priority for the betterment of your future. One letter grade on the final grade will also be subtracted.
- **A notebook/sketchbook** of the materials covered in the class will be kept by all students. You must have these items on hand for every class session. This sketch book will be used for your conceptual designs and will be part of your grade. Designs turned in outside of your sketch book will not be accepted.

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A series of video, power point or slide presentations, as well as readings will be assigned in addition to the studio projects. The guidelines for these assignments will be given separately.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Student progress in this class is assessed through **three (3)** art assignments(including project writings of intent), critique, participation, and a portfolio review which includes an artist statement (**This is your final**).

EVALUATION

The grade dispensed for each project will be based on several factors involved in the course of its production. Such factors might include:

- The commitment to craftsmanship
- Time management
- Work ethic
- Attendance
- Participation in lectures and critiques

Grades:

A (90-100): Exceptional level of production, ambition, and problem resolution; commitment to tasks and active group participation.

B (80-89): Above average level of production and ambition; noteworthy, if not consistent, commitment and class participation.

C (70-79): Completion of assigned projects with the least amount of effort and minimum dedication; and sparse class participation.

D (60-69): Below the required level of completion of tasks, performance and participation.

F (59 and below): A failure to meet the minimum expectations of the course.

******SPECIAL NOTE******

Grades for work will not be accepted unless the development of the sculpture has been viewed prior to final group critique.

Final grades will be determined by the following percentages

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| • Projects | 60% |
| • Participation | 20% |
| • Portfolio Review | 20% |

IMPORTANT!

Failure to complete **ANY** of the assignments without a valid and documented excuse will automatically result in a grade of ZERO and will have a great impact on your over-all grade.

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is an integral part of this course, as time is a factor in creating work as well as the availability of me and other students who will provide information and input. Studio time missed when working toward a project will be detrimental to students work. Please sign in within the first ten minutes of class, thereafter, will result in a tardy, three tardies will equal one day of absence. If a student is absent from class for more than five days they will be dropped from the class with a "W" if it is before the drop date and an "F" if it is after. Failure to arrive to class prepared will also be taken as a tardy. When a student misses a class, **it is the**

responsibility of the student to find out what was missed. When asked, I will inform the student during class as best as possible without affecting my responsibilities to the rest of the class. The student is accountable for information gathered from classmates, no matter how accurate.

LATE WORK

Work that is not submitted on the day of critique will decrease one letter grade per class period following the original due date. If, due to mitigating circumstances, an absence occurs and prevents the completion of work, **it is the responsibility of the student** to contact me and arrange a new due date by the next class meeting.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

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](#).

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI prohibited

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and

reported to the Office of Community Standards (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/standards/>).

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.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgement.

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is **only allowed with proper attribution given for its use**.

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.

Using AI for brainstorming

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often "hallucinate" or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Free use of AI without acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase. Any plagiarized work will be reported to the Office of Community Standards (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/standards/>).

COURSE RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit:

https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.



ACCOMMODATION

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

PREGNANCY and PREGNANCY-RELATED

Title IX for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, you are entitled to reasonable accommodations for as long as your doctor deems medically necessary.

It will be important to review each student's situation individually, as reasonable accommodations will be highly dependent on the requirements of individual courses.

Examples of possible reasonable accommodations (when deemed medically necessary) are:

- Excused absences due to pregnancy or related condition
- Reviewing lectures online if available
- Opportunity to make up field / lab work.
- Rescheduling of tests or exams
- A larger desk or other adaptive furniture
- Breaks during class, as needed.
- Submitting work after a deadline missed due to pregnancy or childbirth.
- Providing alternatives to make up missed work.
- Assignment of an Incomplete grade (if eligible)
- Allowing "Withdrawal" with refund (if eligible)

If you have questions related to student pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at cass@utep.edu or at 915-747-5148.

You may also contact the Title IX Program at titleix@utep.edu or at 915-747-8358 if you believe you have been discriminated against due to being pregnant or a pregnancy-related condition.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible via email, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations..

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

Be aware that Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with missed work and assignments, and to stay in contact with the instructor regarding health status, recovery, and anticipated return to class. Use your UTEP email account to stay in contact.

Student Responsibilities if sick

- Wear a mask
- Always maintain 6 feet of separation, including when conferencing with other students
- Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch your face until you can wash hands.
- Use an alcohol wipe, to sanitize the area where you will be sitting.
- Follow faculty protocols for leaving and re-entering the classroom during class.

COMPLIANCE

Because everyone's cooperation is needed to help prevent the spread of disease, repeated refusal to comply with this policy will be referred to the appropriate University official (Provost for faculty, Human Resources for staff, and Dean of Students for students) and may result in disciplinary action.

SAFETY PROCEDURES and SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Safety is of the utmost importance in this class, you are expected to wear the proper safety attire when working in the studio. Everyone is expected to share in the order and cleanliness of the classroom. You are expected to cleanup your personal work area when you arrive and after leaving the classroom. An understanding of your own and your fellow classmates' personal space is essential to everyone's well-being. Please be respectful of other classmates' belongings.

Students will be using a variety of tools in this class, **safety, I repeat, is of the utmost importance**, it is vital that students be present for all tool demonstrations. If you are not present for the demonstration you will not be allowed to use the tools. There are specific tools that are locked with a red lock. These tools may only be used under supervision of your professor, Angel Cabrales, the department studio technician, Derek Caulfield or the woodshop technician, during the week. **These tools are unavailable on weekends**. If a student does not have their safety equipment the student will not be allowed to use the tools and will be sent home to retrieve their equipment. Please be aware of the safety protocols for the tool you are using (e.g. no gloves for the metal shears or sheet roller, safety glasses).

All students **must** have the following safety equipment to work:

Face mask (masks must always cover mouth and nose, loose bandanas and neck gaiters are not allowed)

Safety Glasses, the studio has some, but it is recommended that you have your own.

Work gloves

Welding Gloves, the studio also has some, but they are all size large.

Good boots, sandals will not protect your feet! You will be sent home if you are not wearing the proper foot attire. **(NO CROCS)**

Hearing protection, music headphones do not count.

Dust mask/ Respirator

A long sleeve shirt that you don't mind getting dirty

Jeans that you don't mind getting dirty

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

On June 13, 2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed into law a bill (S.B. 11) allowing license holders to carry concealed handguns on public university campuses in the state of Texas. The legislation, which goes into effect August 1, 2016, provides an opportunity for individual campuses to develop rules, policies and practices associated with the law's implementation. Included in the law is the opportunity for campuses to identify gun-free exclusion areas where concealed carry will not be allowed. As stated in the law, the University President has the authorization to enact "reasonable rules and regulations" for excluding concealed handguns from areas on-campus, but the rules may not either "generally prohibit" or "have the effect of generally prohibiting" license holders from carrying concealed handguns on campus. The exclusion zones have been approved as exclusion areas by UTEP's President. Other rooms and venues on-campus could become exclusion zones due to activities taking place such as national testing, a formal hearing, collegiate athletic events, on-campus voting locations organized by government agencies, or special events produced by external agents. In these cases, appropriate signage will be displayed at the entrance to the venue or room. Rationale for UTEP's exclusion areas can be found in the Campus Concealed Carry Task Force Report. The Sculpture room is a gun-free exclusion area. No guns are allowed in the room or work areas. If you do have a CHL and have a weapon, please leave your gun in your locker or your car.

Go to the following link for the entire list of exclusion areas on campus

<http://sa.utep.edu/campuscarry/exclusion-zones/>

FOOD PANTRY

It is well known that everyone functions better when they are not hungry. UTEP is working with El Pasoan's Fighting Hunger to stock the on-campus pantry with literally tons of food per month.

Hunger is impossible to see, but it does affect your ability to learn in class. Please take advantage of the **FREE** food pantry on campus. All you need is your student ID. Located in Memorial Gym. Go to the link for their hours.

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/foodpantry/>

THE RUBIN CENTER

The Rubin Center for the Visual Arts is UTEP's contemporary art gallery; each semester, the Rubin features exhibitions of contemporary art by artists from around the world, working in diverse media. The Rubin also hosts family days, visiting artist workshops, public programs, and the annual student exhibition and biennial faculty exhibition for DoArt faculty. Every Rubin Center program and exhibition is free and open to the public. The Rubin also employs up to 10 paid student interns, most of whom are DoArt majors. The Rubin is located between Fox Fine Arts and the UTEP Miners' stadium, just beside the Sun Bowl Garage. Updates about exhibitions and programs can be found on the website: www.utep.edu/rubin or on the center's Instagram page @el.rubincenter. Paid student internships at the Rubin Center are posted on the university's Handshake page.

Hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am to 5 pm

Thursday, 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm (except on home football game days)

MATERIALS LIST

Students will be supplied a complete Neon kit so that they may bend tubes in the studio. Materials will be provided to produce a maximum of 3 finished tubes of up to 4 feet in length (12 feet total footage). Students must purchase their own transformers, bending screen, and tool box. As sculpture materials vary due to the idea, aside from the neon, the following is a rudimentary list of needed materials, students may have to purchase other materials to bring their ideas to fruition.

Need:

- A minimum \$150 for bombardment
- Tube holders
- 20 Gauge copper wire spool
- 3 transformers
- Bending screen

- Tool box
- MAPP Gas cannister
- Lighter

Pencils, Sharpie, Sketch book, combination square, measuring tape, Utility Knife and/or Xacto knife, Tool box or bucket, Duct tape, masking tape, consumables such as sandpaper, nail screws, Enamel paints or spray paint, stain, varnish, etc. as needed.

NOTE

Students will be responsible for supplying all materials for all projects.

SUPPLY STORES:

STEEL

- **RAM Steel**
4137 Rosa Ave
(915) 544-0726
- **Aarmor Metals & Supply Inc.**
9925 Carnegie Ave.
915-594-8263
- **Area Iron & Steel Works Inc.**
4605 Osborne Dr.
915-833-9494
- **Northern Tool & Equipment**
6990 Gateway Blvd E, El Paso, TX
79915
(915) 613-1348

Tools and Consumables

- **Tractor Supply Co.**
6869 South Desert Blvd Ste 500
(915) 877-5397
- **Lowe's**
430 E. Redd Rd
915-581-4401

- **Home Depot**
7545 N. Mesa St.
915-585-2319

LUMBER

- **Dakota Hard Woods**
11630 Rojas Street, El Paso, Texas
79936
915-590-WOOD (9663)
- **Building Specialties (L&W Supply)**
905 Hawkins Blvd.
915-779-5753

RESIN SUPPLIES

- **Reynolds Advanced Materials**
<https://www.reynoldsam.com/locations/phoenix/>
1727 E Weber Drive
Tempe, AZ 85288
(888) 967-7727
Fax: (480) 967-8113

Please Note:

This is a trying time and I will be doing my best to ensure the best outcome for the semester but adaptation will be needed throughout the semester and as such the instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time, if necessary.

Sign the contract below

Please sign and return this form to me via email

SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR Neon Sculpture ART 3307

I _____ (print your name here),
Student ID# _____ acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus.

I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies, the safety protocols, as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions. I understand the need to wear mask at all times and will comply with the safety rules of social distancing. It is understood that poor attendance will have a serious and detrimental effect on my grade at the instructor's discretion.

By taking this course, I agree not to commit acts of academic dishonesty including plagiarism, cheating, forgery, and failing to cite sources.

I understand that any act of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" in the course and a written report sent to the Office of the Provost and the chair of the UTEP Department of Art.

I further understand that Mr. Cabrales and the chair of the Visual Art Department will pursue disciplinary actions against me with the University should I commit any act of academic dishonesty.

I understand that failing to complete any of the exams or assignments will result in a grade of "F" in the course, regardless of the points I have accumulated.

Student e-mail address (print)

Signature

Date