

**Nicholas Gialanella**

ngialanella@utep.edu

Office Hours:

online by appointment only and can be

best reached via email.

Fox Fine Arts 262-A

**Course Prerequisite**

No prerequisites are required as this is the first design course offered within the structure of the foundation for a BFA or BA degree in art. It is suggested that students take ARTF 1302 concurrently with Design. Students interested in advancing into Graphic Design program will need to achieve a C or better in this course.

**Course Description**

Basic Design I is an introductory course designed to expose students to the fundamental principles of art, design, and visual communication. Our goal is to introduce students to the visual elements and principles of design through lectures, demonstrations, and regular assignments. The *Visual Elements* consist of: point and line; shape and mass; texture; light; color; and space. The *principles of design* include: unity and variety; balance; emphasis and focal point; proportion and scale; movement, stability and rhythm.

Students will be expected to apply the concepts learned from the lectures and demonstrations to create 2-dimensional visual compositions. Students will advance from achromatic compositions to more advanced chromatic compositions. Classroom lectures will expand upon visual elements and principles of design to include straight, curved and implied line; geometric and organic shapes; positive and negative space; approximate symmetry, symmetrical, Asymmetrical and radial balance; illusion of depth; simulated and actual texture; and color theory. The majority of class time will be spent working on assignments but outside time may be necessary to complete the work. Critiques will follow most major assignments for critical feedback from the instructor and fellow classmates.

By the end of the semester, committed students will have attained basic skills necessary to create compelling design work. In addition, students will also have a greater understanding of how to look at, interpret, and understand visual design.

**Learning Objectives**

- Development and understanding of the basic terminology of art and design.
- Development and understanding of good composition principles.
- Development and understanding of technical skills such as simple drawing, painting and cutting skills needed to render well composed 2-dimensional designs.
- Development of good craftsmanship and working habits needed to achieve these goals and objectives.

**Course Outcomes**

Students who complete the course will be able to:

- Create properly composed, well balanced 2-dimensional designs using various materials.
- Effectively use the visual elements in a composition and apply the principles of design for stronger, more creative and effective 2-D artwork.
- Identify and recognize a well-crafted piece of art.
- Be aware of various art movements and concepts through exposure to various artists and artworks
- Acquire a basic knowledge of art terminology to express their ideas verbally.

**Note:** *This course and other studio classes demand a great commitment of time in order to succeed. While much of the lab work will be done in class, all work not completed during lab sessions must be completed on your own time. Expect a significant amount of out-of-class work time per week.*

**Grading Policy**

A 98-100

The student's work far exceeds the expectations and requirements of the class.

A 94-97

The student's work is exceptional in all areas of the assignment demonstrating a high level of comprehension of class materials.

A- 90- 93

The student's work is exceptional in most areas of the assignment.

B+ 87- 89

The student's work is above average in its application of the class materials, yet appears to have a minor weakness in one or two areas of the assignment.

B 84-86

The student's work is above average in its application of the class materials and more than fulfills the assignment.

B- 80-83

The student's work is above average in most areas of the assignment yet appears to have noticeable weaknesses, which impede its ability to earn a higher grade.

C+ 77-79

The student's work fulfills the assignment and illustrates an ability to apply the class materials with a degree of success.

C 74-76

The student's work fulfills the requirements for the assignment.

C- 70-73

The student's work fulfills the assignment with the exception of a few minor errors.

D+ 67-69

The student's work does not fulfill the requirements for the assignment and demonstrates a difficulty in applying the class materials.

D 64-66

The student's work does not fulfill the assignment, is poorly executed and does not appear to have a solid comprehension of class materials.

D- 60-63

The student's work does not fulfill any aspect of the assignment and demonstrates no knowledge of class materials.

F &lt;60

Insufficient. Not completing many of the assignments, or completing assignments inadequately or both.

I

An incomplete is awarded only when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. Arrangements must be made with the instructor before the end of the semester.

W

Withdrawal must be completed on or before the final drop date. Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from this course.

**Evaluation**

Assignments will be graded on the students' ability to take concepts introduced in class and techniques previously learned and apply them to meet the criteria of each assignment.

**Expectations**

The work presented in class must be made by the student from initial idea to final product. Work made by anyone but the student will not be accepted nor will work that was made previous to this class. Doing so could result in automatic failure of the course and possible university suspension. See the section on plagiarism at the end of this syllabus.

**Course Assignment Descriptions**

*Specific details for each assignment will be given in class and on Black Board*

**Attendance**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions your class time will be greatly reduced, because of this students are allowed a maximum of 2 unexcused absences per semester. 2 tardy arrivals (more than 15 minutes late) will count as 1 absence. Information you miss due to absence is your responsibility. Any additional absences require a legitimate, written excuse. Excused absences will require official documentation stating why the student was not able to attend that particular class period and must be worked out with instructor in advance whenever possible. After 2 absences, your grade will be affected accordingly:

3 unexcused absences - drop one letter grade for the course

4 unexcused absences - drop two grades

5 unexcused absences - instructor may drop the student from the class

*Critique days are an exception – any absence will result in an immediate drop in letter grade for the project (provided the assignment is turned in on time).*

**Late Work**

Late work will NOT be accepted. A valid medical excuse will allow you to make up the work, but it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make the necessary arrangements.

**Professional Courtesy**

Success in this class depends on being present, and arriving on time and being prepared. Please use studio time and the luxury of peer advice to your advantage.

**Cell Phone/Internet Policy**

No texting or talking on the phone during class. If you must take an important call, please be respectful and leave the classroom. No checking personal email or surfing the web during class, unless it is specifically for classwork or research. Failure to respect these policies may result in ejection from class.

### ***Critique***

Formal critiques will occur after every major assignment throughout the semester. Critiques require mandatory participation by each student in order to gain constructive feedback of your work in addition to presenting your understanding of the core concepts covered by each project. At the end of the semester each student will receive a grade based on their accumulated participation in critiques.

Consider the following:

Find what you like about the work and be descriptive. Explain why you like it using specific examples.

Constructive criticism is to find certain aspects of the design that are not working. Try to explain why or offer suggestions on how they can be improved.

- Examine the technical quality of work.
- Does the work follow directions of the project guidelines?
- Ask the designer questions about their process / techniques.
- Consider elements & principles of design.
- Interpretation: Describe how the work makes you think or feel.

### ***Please abide by the following:***

No food or drink in the Lab. Clean up after yourself.

Do not cut anything without properly protecting surfaces with board.

Follow posted guidelines.

Do not remove any equipment from the Lab. Do not leave anything of value in the classroom.

### ***Communication***

Each student is required to use and respond to their UTEP email for updates on the class schedule, projects, critiques, and other scheduled and non-scheduled class activities. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly. Announcements and resources will be posted on Black Board regularly.

### ***Adherence to Class Schedule***

You will be provided with a class schedule, which is subject to change throughout the semester. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes that may occur.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The UTEP Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at: [www.libguides.utep.edu/c.php?g=525615&p=3593136](http://www.libguides.utep.edu/c.php?g=525615&p=3593136)

### ***Special Note***

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cover issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), please contact:

Center of Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) – Union East Bldg.  
Room 106

Phone: (915) 747-5148 E-mail: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

Website: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination. The essence of Title IX is that an institution may not exclude, separate, deny benefits to, or otherwise treat differently any person on the basis of sex. It protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination. This commitment to non-discrimination applies to both employment in and admission to such programs and activities. Title IX also applies to issues of program equity such as in athletics and sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Equal Opportunity Office) – Kelly Hall, Room 302

Phone: (915) 747-5662 E-mail: [eoaa@utep.edu](mailto:eoaa@utep.edu)

Website: <http://utep.edu/TitleIX/>

\*\*Students are supplied with some materials for this class although, each student will be expected to purchase materials outside of class in order to be successful with this course.

\*\* The instructor reserves the right to change any portion of the syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be notified of any changes in a manner specified by the instructor.

### Supply List

- Sketchbook (11"x14") Spiral bound
- 1 sheet Bristol Paper 18"x24"
- Metal Ruler – 18 - 24"
- Drawing Pencils of different hardness (5H, HB, 2B, 6B)
- Rubber Cement
- Erasers: Rubber Cement Eraser or Gum Eraser
- Black Construction Paper Pack
- X-acto Knife with Blades
- Utility Knife
- Black Sharpie in various tips, i.e. Fine and ultra-fine
- Compass
- Magazines (Architectural or Home Improvement)
- Portfolio (Carrying kind)
- Small container to carry supplies
- Cutting surface – self-healing cutting mat 18" x 24"
- \*Acrylic Paints (buy an assortment)
- Palette (for mixing paints)
- Container for water
- Drafting Tape or Masking Tape (blue one works best)
- Clear/transparent tape (Scotch brand)
- Tracing Paper for cover sheets (a roll should suffice)

### The following list will be provided by the department:

- Mat board white; two full sheet approx. 32"x40" (you may need to purchase an additional one for Final Assignment if you make a lot of mistakes)
- Acrylic Paints: Primary Yellow, Primary Blue, Primary Red, White, Black
- \*1/2" Flat Paint Brush for Acrylic Paints. (You may need to purchase an assortment of brushes—fine tip to broad tip)

**Supplies may be available at: The Art Center & Signs, UTEP Bookstore, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Office Depot, Office Max, Wal-Mart etc.**

UTEP Police Department: (915)747-5611  
Counseling Center: (915)747-5302  
Dean of Students: (915)747-5648  
On-campus Emergencies: 911

## **COVID-19 AND SAFETY**

**All Faculty, Staff, and Students are required to stay home & self report if they:**

1. test positive for COVID-19
2. are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or
3. were exposed to any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks.

The CDC defines an “exposed person” as anyone who has had close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual must also have occurred within 2 days *before* the COVID-19 positive individual’s first positive test and until that same individual meets the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

### **How to Self-Report**

To make sure reports are tracked accurately, self-reports must be made to [screening.utep.edu](http://screening.utep.edu). Self-reporting will allow the University to provide guidance on how to prevent exposure to others, and provide the criteria and procedures required for returning to campus when appropriate. Information will be safeguarded and used only for supporting you and determining exposure of other faculty, staff, and students.

### **What Faculty, Staff, and Students must do before coming to campus**

The web link, <http://www.screening.utep.edu>, which can be saved to a home screen on Apple or Android devices, includes daily screening questions. All faculty, staff and students will use this link each day before coming to the UTEP campus. Upon completion of the daily screening questions, the page will tell you whether you are clear to proceed to campus or not. Using this tool will automatically send an email to your supervisor letting them know that you are or are not coming to campus. If you report COVID-19 symptoms, the system also automatically reports to UTEP Environment, Health & Safety who will reach out to you directly with further instructions.

Faculty, Staff, and Students should comply with these instructions and any subsequent guidance that may be provided by Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), Human Resources, the Dean of Students, or other university officials.

### **What to do when on campus**

Each of us helps to build our collective commitment to use best health practices all the time. Getting the basics right is the most important thing each of us can do to protect ourselves and each other.

It is everyone’s responsibility to help keep our campus safe by following best practices when on campus, especially faculty, staff, and student leaders who are important role models. All faculty, staff, and students are required to:

- Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present.
- Maintain a minimum separation of six (6) feet between yourself and others, when possible, and arrange spaces to make this possible in almost all circumstances.
- Adhere to room/space limitations on number of occupants
- Wash hand frequently

**Syllabus statement regarding COVID-19 Accommodations:**

Students who use the screening application to report a positive COVID test, exposure, or symptoms will not be allowed on campus and may need accommodations. If this occurs, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible so necessary accommodations can be made. If necessary please contact Dean of Students' Office and the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS), to help provide reasonable accommodations.

**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.