



## **ART 597: Professional Practices in Art**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2023

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Leigh Merrill, Associate Professor of Art

**Office Location:** Wathena Fine Art Building, Room 223

**Office Hours:** 12:00 – 1:50am T (and by appointment via zoom)

**University Email Address:** leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** 24 – 48 hours during weekdays

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Readings will be provided throughout the semester.

#### **Course Description**

Professional Practices in Art covers tools necessary to help students create, present, promote, and share their work within a contemporary art context. Students will analyze their working methods and the methods of others to help enrich their own studio practice. They will refine their oral, written, and visual presentation of their artwork. Students will learn about area museums and galleries through site visits and research.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate effective oral, written, and visual presentation of their artwork.
2. Students will gain an awareness of a broader art community and the opportunities within that community.
3. Students will demonstrate a more comprehensive understanding of their own working methods / studio practices.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using D2L learning management system, basic computer and internet research skills.

## Instructional Methods and Course Projects

This course will meet synchronously using zoom one day a week. Our synchronous meetings will consist of:

- Lecture and discussion on course topics
- Discussion of readings and ideas
- Critiques of artwork and presentations
- Site visits to galleries and museums. All field trips will be optional with alternative research assignments.

Outside of synchronous meetings, students will be expected to work on course projects. It is expected students will work 3 – 6 hours each week outside of class meetings.

## Course Projects

### Process Journal:

- Maintain a weekly process journal. This journal will indicate how much time was spent working in the studio and related art activities, what was accomplished, and the success and challenges of your weekly efforts. You should use this as a moment of reflection each week to help you understand how you use your time and to become more effective and knowledgeable about your practice.

**Presentations:** A series of projects to help refine the oral, written, and digital presentation of your artwork.

- Interviews: Conduct interviews with your peers about the methods, strategies, and logistics of how you make art to further your understanding of your practice and those of your peers.
- The 10-minute art talk: Prepare a concise, well-crafted, well-rehearsed visual and oral presentation of your art practice.

**Gallery and Museum Visits:** Engage with the DFW area art community.

- Visit galleries in the DFW area: Field trips will be planned throughout the semester. If you cannot attend the field trips, alternative research assignments will be available.
- Visit museums in the DFW area: Field trips will be planned throughout the semester. If you cannot attend the field trips, alternative research assignments will be available.
- Identify art venues/communities for your artwork (these can be aspirational and actionable venues).

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**Critique:** Continue to make artwork based on your current interests.

- We will have three critiques throughout the semester to check in on what is happening in your studio.
- Apply for an art opportunity (for example: exhibition, grant, scholarship, residency).

**Professional Toolkit:** A series of tools to help you promote and present your artwork. You may use existing documents and refine them during this course.

- Artist Statement: Write a 250 – 500 word artist statement
- Bio: Write a 150 – 250 word biography.
- Documentation of work: Make professional digital documentation of your work to effectively share for applications (art opportunities), websites, social media, and lecture presentations.
- Website: This is your virtual professional presence. Maintain, renew, refresh, or create an artist website.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Active class participation is critical to your success in this course. An art practice and an art education practice are rigorous and demanding. As a studio art course, there is an expectation of work outside class time, scheduling time in advance to work on course projects will be beneficial to your success. Regularly logging into D2L will be necessary to keep up with course expectations. This is where detailed assignment information and submission folders will be found.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

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## ASSESSMENTS

20% Process Journal  
20% Presentations  
20% Gallery and Museum Visits/Research  
20% Critique  
20% Professional Toolkit

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary

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use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

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## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

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### **Week 1:**

**Lecture:** Introduction to course and course expectations.

**Discussion:** Set-up days/times for field trips; Interview and process journal.

**Workshop:** Setting goals for the semester

### **Week 2:**

**Presentations due:** Interviews / Introduce your practice

**Discussion:** Strategies for successful studio visits

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

### **Week 3:**

**Lecture:** 10-minute art talk, documentation of work, artist statement, bio

**Discussion:** Analyze artist talks, strategies for successful presentations

**Readings:** TBA

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

### **Week 4:**

**Lecture:** websites, locating art opportunities

**Discussion:** Artwork documentation and Reading

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

### **Week 5:**

**Critique:** Share the artwork you have made over the past four weeks.

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**To-Do:** Research the artist and galleries to be prepared for the field trip.

### **Week 6:**

**Field Trip:** Gallery Visits

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

### **Week 7:**

**Discussion:** Gallery visits and considerations for presentation of works in a gallery space.

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

### **Week 8:**

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**Discussion:** small group review/evaluation of the in-progress Art talk, Artist Statement, Bios

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**To-Do:** Research the artist and galleries to be prepared for the field trip.

**Week 9:**

**Field Trip:** Museum Visits

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**Week 10:**

**Critique:** Share the artwork you have made over the past four weeks.

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**Week 11:**

**Presentations:** 10 Minutes Art Talk

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**Week 12:**

**Field Trip:** Museum Visits

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**Week 13:**

**Critique:** Websites, Artist Statements, Bios, Resumes Critique

**Week 14:**

**Critique:** Share the artwork you have made over the past three weeks.

**Submit:** Weekly Process Journal

**Week 15:**

**Discussion:** Analyze your process journal. What have you learned? What strengths, challenges, opportunities to see from this analysis?

**Week 16:**

**Discussion:** Class wrap-up

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