



# EAST TEXAS A&M

## UNIVERSITY

### **ART380 (Section 01E): Experimental Concepts, 20190**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Josephine Durkin

Office Location: ASL 119 (Art Sculpture Lab)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by Appointment

Office Phone: 903.886.5208 (Main office)

Email: Josephine.Durkin@etamu.edu

GA: Assel Zhumageldi azhumageldi@leomail.tamuc.edu

### **Class Information**

Spring 2026: 1/13/2026 through 5/10/2026

Credits: 3.00

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 4:50pm

Location: Art Sculpture Lab (ASL 119)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Phone: 903.268.5081

If email is preferred, please cc my GA (Assel) on the email.

**Response Time:** Usually 1 - 2 business days. Please make sure that you include (cc) my GA Assel on each email. azhumageldi@leomail.tamuc.edu

### **Course Description**

This course provides students with specific strategies as they relate to the creative process via shorter, exercise-based projects. It also provides students with opportunities to explore their own interests through the creation of challenging, theme-driven work, using the medium(s) of their choice. Team problem solving, installation strategies and discussion through critiques will provide experience necessary to strengthen conceptual, technical and communication muscles in any visual arts field.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

- Discuss contemporary artists relating to perspective, text and time
- Discuss the relationship between material and meaning
- Generate and discuss ideas stemming from specific, personal interests related to thematic prompts, and then translate such interests into work that communicates more effectively and impactfully through metaphor
- Discuss the relationship between artists, viewers and affect
- Discuss strategies involving processes, materials and installation methods
- Discuss art formally and conceptually
- Demonstrate knowledge about quality craftsmanship
- Demonstrate the ability to respond to, and talk about their work and the work of others
- Demonstrate their ability to communicate their work clearly through a professional website of their work

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Textbooks, Technologies and Materials**

Textbook(s) Required: No textbook is required.

Software Required: You will need a camera or cell phone to take photographs (and possibly video) of your work. You will need to use either a free or paid for website host for your website. Options will be discussed. Please contact the instructor and GA if you have questions or concerns about using the technology.

### **Suggested Text Books and Resources**

- Gallery and museum websites
- Art 21(free, online videos)
- Other online research (technical and material)

### **Required Materials**

Students will need the following set of basic materials, as well as other materials as needed and specified for each assignment. Each assignment will be given one-at-a-time.

A good pair of sharp scissors (adult size)

Pencils and pens

Free or inexpensive shoes that can be cut apart

Basic brushes, rollers as needed

Materials for individual, longer-term projects will be purchased by students, and will vary depending on project interests and needs.

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**Write your name on all your tools and supplies. Make sure to label your materials and projects when storing them in the storage area.**

### **Instructional Methods**

This course is 16 weeks long. It will consist of:

Lectures

Discussion

Demos of materials and techniques

Short-term, how-to projects, that support longer-term projects

Class workdays, team demos, and individual, project meetings

Installation of your work and class critiques

Website portfolio

In-progress, constructive feedback throughout the course

### **Expectations**

1. Working in and outside of class is required. Expect to spend at least 6 hours per week outside of class. Access to the Sculpture Lab main work space studio area at night and on weekends (with the exception of holidays) will be through the swipecard system.
2. Completion of required work by the critique dates is required.
3. Criticism and discussion are important aspects of artistic activity and development. Attendance and active, thoughtful verbal participation at all critiques is mandatory.
4. Participation in class activities, including installation, critique, meetings and clean-up is required. Making art often requires teamwork and group problem solving – both technically and conceptually!
5. Students are expected to engage in personal research, depending on project needs. If possible, it is in the best interest of each student to visit galleries and museums in the DFW area.
6. Students are expected to attend exhibitions in The University Gallery as well as other events hosted by the Department of Art.
7. General Studio Rules:

**Clean up at the end of each class.**

**Specific safety rules will be given at the beginning of the semester.**

### **Grading**

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

### **Progress Check-Ins:**

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Grading is based on the completion of course assignments, the quality of individual technical and critical development, and the personal commitment and ability to work in a community studio and critique setting. Personal commitment involves regular attendance, consistent effort, following demos and instructions, completion of work and participation in group critiques, as well as the willingness to try new things and take creative risks. In addition to learning from me, students learn from each other as well as outside of class, safely, on their own—depending on project research needs. Successfully finding out what does and doesn't work is valuable – and should be shared with the group to add material and technical knowledge to our growing “toolboxes”.

My pedagogy is centered on responsive, professional critique that mirrors how we engage with art in the field. I've developed a framework that ensures transparency and rigor for students while preserving the essential, nuanced judgment that art requires. It focuses on process, intention, and holistic achievement rather than transactional point-scoring.

It is critical that you save *everything* in regard to your material, technical and creative problem-solving process (samples, drawings, sketches, prototypes, material tests - what worked well, what didn't, and why...writing, and any other related research) as it applies to the growth and evolution - from beginning to end - of each assignment. Each fragment will contribute to a larger, physical, as well as digital, "creative map" that documents the detailed efforts made, and respective growth achieved, from the creative, problem solving process, of making each project.

#### **Late Work:**

**Do not miss critiques. Work submitted after critique dates will receive lower grades. Should you have an emergency or need an extension, please reach out to me, as well as my GA about your concerns before the critique.**

#### **Assignment Submission & Format:**

**Instead of grading each assignment individually, I will meet with students at various check-in points throughout the semester and assess their progress via the collective documentation of their project "maps". Although final grades will be informed by your efforts shown throughout the semester, as well as discussed during individual, check-in meetings, the final grade earned for the course will depend on the quality, quantity and consistency of work presented in your online website portfolio project.**

#### **Assessments**

**A (Excellent)** will be awarded to students that demonstrate superior conceptual, expressive, and technical abilities. A sustained and committed work ethic must be evident.

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**B (Good)** will be awarded to students who complete the requirements of the assignment in a creative manner, display a good level of technique, and in which a good work ethic is evident.

**C (Average)** is awarded to students who satisfy the specifications of assignments on an adequate level. Reasonable effort has been demonstrated in order to complete the assignments.

**D (Passing - Minimum)** will be awarded to students who attempt to address the assignments but present work that falls short in understanding, creativity of solution, quality of technique, and effort.

**F (Failure)** is assigned to students who show a complete lack of understanding, creativity, and effort.

Effort is evaluated through the actual physical work the student shows for the critique, the installation effort required to showcase their physical project, the effort of curiosity, idea development, trial and error, and the creative process shown in their "creative map", the care that they put into class participation, teamwork, discussion and cleanup, and the effort that they make when contributing to the critique discussions. Students are expected to thoughtfully contribute to each critique, by actively engaging in the discussion. Students who do not submit a final online portfolio will not receive a grade higher than a C in the class.

## **Course Procedures and Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is critical for your success in this course. Students are expected to be present in each class, with materials ready to work. Demos and homework direction will not be repeated in their full capacity. Should you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact other students and the GA through the "Group Me" in order to keep up with the homework, projects and information provided in class. I am happy to talk with you should you have additional questions about the assignment and missed class, and need additional help. Please reach out to both me and Assel so we can assist most effectively.

Please note that the location of your studio for the creation of longer-term projects (*Perception, Text and Time*) may change, and is dependent on the needs of your project. Please let us know where you will be working on your project, should it not be the sculpture lab during studio time. This is necessary for attendance purposes. Individual meetings will involve sign-up sheets, and will be scheduled in advance. You do not need to be present in the Sculpture Lab area for the entire duration of class on studio work days / individual meeting days should your project require you work in a different location, but will need to meet with me in my office, in the lab, at your scheduled meeting time.

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## **Studio culture and cell phone usage**

We will be working together in a shared space. Each student is expected to treat other students, the instructor and GA with respect. Cell phones should either be turned off or muted. In the case that you are expecting a call related to a family emergency, please let me, as well as Assel know at the beginning of class. In this instance, you are expected to step outside of the class to take the call before answering it. Should you need to do online research for your current projects in this class, please let both me and Assel know. Students are not permitted to engage in online research during lectures and demonstrations.

For the health and safety of everyone, please clean up your workspace, table, floor and all tools and equipment that you used before you leave the studio. *Always leave the studio (or any other space) cleaner than you found it!*

Headphones: You may wear headphones when working on your individual, long-term projects, but may not wear them during announcements, lectures, demos, discussions, clean-up, group set-up or critiques. This is a safety issue, and is necessary for your progress in this class.

Video and audio recording is prohibited during this class. In certain circumstances, please discuss and gain permission in advance (documenting certain projects and processes for reference and presentation).

## **Respect for Diversity**

Each student is welcome, and should also *feel* welcome in this class. Everyone is different, as well as embraced (gender, age, race, orientation, etc.), and offers their unique life experiences, perspectives and histories. This adds to our shared learning environment, as well as the work that we make and discuss! Should you have any concerns, please let me know so I can assist. I want to make sure that each student feels welcome, safe and valued in my class.

## **Safety**

Always wear closed-toe shoes and studio-appropriate clothes that you can work in. It is important that your body be protected from certain tools and materials. Athletic wear (shorts, crop tops, flip flops, crocs with holes, etc.) or other minimal clothing is not encouraged for safety reasons. Jeans, work pants, tennis shoes, work boots – clothes that provide coverage that you feel comfortable getting dirty (mold making and casting materials can be messy!) are important to wear. Aprons are great for protecting clothing, and you can also leave a set of studio clothes in your plastic tote should that work best for you.

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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.

### **Technology Requirements LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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)

### **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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** Should you have a personal computer issue, please problem solve as needed. This may include reaching out to a friend or family member to borrow a computer, using computers available at the local library or accessible computer labs on campus, accessing wifi at Starbucks or on campus, etc.

### **Communication and Support**

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

### **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>

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## **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>

## **ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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.p df](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**

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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**

East Texas A&M University  
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.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)  
<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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:

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

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel](http://www.etamu.edu/counsel)

**Department of Art, Health and Safety Guidelines:** All students enrolled in face-to-face art courses are required to comply with the procedures and policies of the Department of Art's Health and Safety Guidelines. The Guidelines cover activities in all East Texas A&M art facilities on both the main campus and off-campus sites. Please report any safety issues immediately to your instructor(s), per health and safety guidelines outlined, studio/lab assistant, or the Department of Art, studio technician & health/safety liaison.

[https://inside.etamu.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/art/documents/DOA\\_health\\_safety\\_handbook.pdf](https://inside.etamu.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/art/documents/DOA_health_safety_handbook.pdf)

Health and Safety Form (to be signed online by all students)

<https://dms.etamu.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

Please, click on the following link to access East Texas A&M's Covid 19 Information,

<https://new.etamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Course Calendar:

Week 1: Welcome! + Found Objects and Masking Tape Sculptures

Week 2: Dismantle shoes (Creative Process: Objects as Custom Tools + Mark Making)

Week 3: Dismantled Shoes (Creative Process: Destruction / Construction)

Week 4: Intro to *Perception* Project + Intro to final website project

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Week 5: Studio work time + Individual meetings

Week 6: Studio work time + Individual meetings + installation planning

Week 7: *Perception* project class critique

Week 8: Intro to *Text* project + Individual meetings

Week 9: Studio work time + Individual meetings

Week 10: Studio work time + Individual meetings + installation planning

Week 11: *Text* project class critique

Week 12: Intro to *Time* project + Individual meetings

Week 13: Studio work time + Individual meetings

Week 14: Studio work time + Individual meetings + installation planning

Week 15: *Time* project class critique

Week 16: Website Project Critiques, Clean-up, Wrap Up

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