



East Texas A&M University

Digital Drawing & Possible Spaces: ART 397 - 01W

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2026

Online, Asynchronous

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Sarah DePetris

Office Location: Remote

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-11am (via Zoom), by appointment

University Email Address: sarah.depetris@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: M-Th 9-5, within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

ART 397: Digital Drawing and Possible Spaces

Hours: 3

ART 397: Digital Drawing and Possible Spaces is an online, asynchronous studio art course that explores digital, alternative, and traditional modes of depicting space through mark-making. Working from the real and the imagined, students complete a series of drawings that focus on researching and rendering the landscape, human-made spaces, and dreamscapes. Working with digital tablets (i.e., iPads or Wacom Tablets), students use their choice of digital drawing programs, including Adobe Creative Suite and Procreate, to create original artworks intended for print. Alternating between virtual and physical realms, the course encourages experimentation in digital and analog mark-making with a focus on linear and atmospheric perspective. Students will need access to their own digital drawing device (e.g., iPad with pencil or tablet). Basic familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite & digital tools is expected.

Prerequisites: Drawing I & Intro to Dig. Media, or permission of the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the history, conventions, and current issues related to drawing, digital drawing, and contemporary image-making practices.
2. Use digital drawing tools, software, materials, and processes to create original, print-ready artworks from concept to completion.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of atmospheric perspective, linear perspective, spatial illusion, composition, value, line, and mark-making within digital and hybrid drawing practices.
4. Explore and integrate observational, conceptual, and imaginative approaches to drawing through representations of landscape, human-made spaces, dreamscapes, and possible spaces.
5. Apply understanding of digital drawing vocabulary, processes, and techniques to the development and analysis of artworks.
6. Use, understand, and apply the elements and principles of design within artworks, written reflections, and critiques.
7. Develop ideas and artworks based on research, exploration, experimentation, and translation between physical and digital forms of mark-making.
8. Synthesize and apply information and ideas from a range of sources, references, environments, and technologies within the development of artworks.
9. Create completed digital drawings that demonstrate an understanding of materials, process, technical skills, and conceptual development.
10. Evaluate and analyze own works and the works of others through critique, reflection, discussion posts, and visual analysis.
11. Engage and participate in online critiques of own work and the work of others using appropriate art vocabulary and terminology.
12. Demonstrate experimentation, flexibility, and problem-solving through exploratory approaches to digital drawing, layering, abstraction, transformation, and spatial construction.
13. Professionally document, organize, and present digital artworks, preliminary work, and process materials within digital portfolio submissions.
14. Demonstrate professionalism in preparation, participation, time management, craftsmanship, and engagement within an asynchronous studio environment.
15. Develop a sustained studio practice that supports research, revision, process documentation, and the continued development of a personal visual language and approach to contemporary drawing.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Please contact me via email. I respond to messages and emails usually within 24 hours Monday through Thursday. Please do not expect a response over the weekend, holidays or after 5pm. All grades will be fully updated and shared after Midterms and Finals.

The instructor values your time, growth and effort and does their best to complete grading promptly. If there is more time needed than normal, I will let you know as soon as possible about the delay. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class time and to reach out when needed. Please contact me via email to meet during office hours or at an additional time if needed.

Please email me as soon as possible if you need assistance, additional support or resources during the semester. I am here to support you in the class and my goal is for every student to succeed in the course.

MyLeo/D2L & Announcement

Please make sure to regularly check the D2L course announcements and turn-on notifications for the course in myLEO/D2L. It is the students responsibility to stay up to date with the course online.

Time Expectations & Course Structure

This is a 3 credit-hour studio art course at East Texas A&M University. Please expect to spend a minimum of 24 hours per week on this course during the Summer session to successfully complete and receive credit for the course. In a traditional in-person format, this course would meet approximately 4–6 hours per day, 4 days per week, following the standard university summer studio art schedule. Please note that some weeks may be more or less time intensive depending on the scale and complexity of individual projects.

This course focuses on the production, discussion, and virtual critique of a series of digital drawings of and about space. There are no tests or exams in this course. Students will receive project instructions, research materials, and assignment guidelines throughout the semester. Projects may vary in scale, subject matter, and processes required. Estimated work time and project expectations will be provided at the outset of each week and/or assignment.

This is an asynchronous online course without scheduled class meeting times. However, assignment pacing, critiques, deadlines, and course structure follow a standard 5-week university summer studio schedule equivalent to a course meeting Monday through Thursday each week.

Students may work ahead and complete assignments at their own pace where applicable. Exceptions include discussion posts, critiques, and peer engagement assignments that require timely participation and response to the work and research of others. All assignments and timed discussions include a minimum 24-hour submission window. Discussion posts and peer feedback cannot be revised or submitted after discussions close.

The course schedule outlines expected progress through course content, assignments, critiques, and discussions. Course modules are organized into 5 weeks consisting of 4 structured class days per week. All assignment deadlines, discussion dates, and submission requirements will be published in D2L/myLeo.

Please see attached Course Schedule & Calendar

REQUIRED MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY

Textbooks, Readings & Viewings

There are no required textbooks for this course. All required readings/viewings will be shared via D2L/myLeo. Online readings and viewings for the course include selections from content on Art21, MoMA, ArtForum, etc.

Required Materials and Technology:

Students must have access to a digital drawing device (e.g., iPad with Apple Pencil, Wacom tablet with laptop, or equivalent), digital drawing program, reliable internet access, computer and basic traditional drawing materials (sketchbook and pencil).

Basic familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite and general digital literacy are expected; beginner-level experience is sufficient.

Laptops are available for checkout through the Velma K. Waters Library.

Required Software and Programs:

Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Fresco, etc.) available free to ETAMU students

Digital Drawing Program (if yours is not listed, please reach out to faculty prior to beginning any assignment to ensure meets expectations for the course):

Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Fresco (*not Illustrator or similar, as we are emphasizing mark-making and the visual role of the hand in the course*), *Photoshop is recommended*

Procreate, recommended

Sketch-up

Ibis Paint (*free)

Krita (*free)

Online Grammar Editing Software: Grammarly or similar for final revisions and editing (Grammarly Pro is now available free to ETAMU students, the generative AI component is not allowed in this class)

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Digital drawing tablet and stylus (of choice)
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Microsoft Office Suite or similar
- Adobe Creative Suite - Photoshop, Fresco or Comparable
- D2L/Brightspace minimum technology
- Digital Camera (phone camera works)
- Zoom
- Email
- Advanced Grammar Editor - Grammarly Free

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

In order to be successful in this course you will need to be able to:

- Use and navigate myLeo/D2L course content and submissions
- Access ETAMU email
- Download, view and/or open documents provided by instructor
- Utilize both online and physical forms of research and drawing
- Create and submit files in commonly used programs such as Google Slides, GoogleDocs, Word, PDF, JPG, etc.
- Use Adobe Suite to create new drawings and digital art works: Photoshop and/or Fresco or comparable program of choice.
- Screenshot and/or screen record documentation of digital process for the creation of artworks.

East Texas A&M University provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and other supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at: the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COURSE CONTENT

Please note that this is a studio art course where professional, global and varying perspectives on art and humanity are reviewed, discussed, examined and shared in a respectful environment. Art and course content can be challenging, if a student is not comfortable professionally engaging with a wide-range of perspectives, inclusive and expansive view points they should enroll in a different course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Digital Drawings & Projects:

Students will complete a series of digital drawings exploring landscape, human-made spaces, imagined spaces, and dreamscapes through observational, conceptual, and experimental approaches to drawing and mark-making. All major works must be completed digitally using a tablet and stylus and submitted as high-quality, print-ready files.

Weekly Checkpoints:

Weekly checkpoint submissions include all completed drawings, preliminary work, studies, sketches, process documentation, research, and assigned materials for each week. Preliminary work may be completed digitally or manually unless otherwise specified.

Discussion Posts & Critiques:

Students are required to participate in weekly online discussions and critiques through D2L. Discussions include sharing artworks, responding to prompts, engaging in critique, and providing peer feedback using appropriate art vocabulary and terminology.

Research & Process Development:

Research is required throughout the semester and may include artist research, reference collection, visual analysis, readings, videos, process experimentation, and exploratory studies related to course assignments.

Digital Portfolios:

Students will submit a Midsemester Digital Portfolio and Final Digital Portfolio consisting of professionally formatted digital documentation of artworks, preliminary work, and process materials completed throughout the course. Please note that the final Digital Portfolio is heavily weighted to allow for revisions and credit for any missed portions of the weekly checkpoints.

Professionalism & Participation:

Students are expected to remain actively engaged in the course, meet deadlines, participate in critiques and discussions, maintain professional communication, and come prepared with required materials, research, and completed work.

ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS

Assignments	Worth / %
Discussion Posts & Critiques	20
Weekly Checkpoints	45
Midsemester Digital Portfolio	10
Final Digital Portfolio (Final Course Submission)	25
Total	100 points / 100%

CRITERIA & RUBRIC FOR DRAWINGS & MAJOR PROJECTS

Technique & Use of Media - 30%

Assignment Objectives & Conceptual Development - 40%

Participation, Effort & Process - 10%

Creativity, Experimentation & Risk-Taking - 10%

Craftsmanship, Presentation & Formatting - 10%

GRADING

Final letter grades are based on assignments, critiques, discussions, portfolios, participation, professionalism, effort, creativity, technical development, and improvement throughout the course.

All projects must be submitted digitally through myLeo/D2L and presented for critique regardless of level of completion.

A—Excellent Work: All requirements for the course have been met and many have been exceeded, and the work has been developed beyond previous levels on both an aesthetic and a conceptual basis. Artwork shows excellent intellectual skills and ideas, technical skills and craft, and control of the medium. Critical and conceptual understanding is evidenced through visual and verbal class participation that evidences both scholarship and leadership.

B—Very Good Work: The art work, its presentation, and the student's class participation shows competence in skill development, craft, and control of the medium. Completed work shows an understanding of conceptual concerns in the context of contemporary art.

C—Average Work: Satisfactory work quality. Requirements for the course have been fulfilled adequately.

D—Poor Work: Requirements for the course are not adequately fulfilled

F—Failure: Lack of attempt in class and participation. No attempt has been made to fulfill the requirements of the course.

Late Work

Late work is not accepted in this course due to the abbreviated nature of the summer class. Assignment due dates/deadlines are posted in D2L. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor in a timely manner within this time frame. Discussion posts, peer feedback and other non-major assignments may not be submitted after the assignment is closed. Course work will not be accepted after the last day of the term unless arranged as part of a pre-approved course extension.

Please reach out to your instructor and/or the Dean of Students as soon as possible if there are extenuating circumstances so that they can support you in the class. Discussion posts, peer feedback, checkpoints and other non-major assignments may not be submitted after the assignment is closed.

Computer issues do not qualify as an excuse for late or missed work in this course. Occasionally problems arise – files can be accidentally erased, disks can get corrupted, networks crash and printers or other digital devices break down. Since this is a fully online and asynchronous course, computer issues

do not qualify as an excuse for late or missed work as this is not an acceptable real-world professional practice. Please schedule and manage your time to submit all assignments in advance of the deadlines, as assignments cannot be reopened.

Extra Credit

During the semester, assignments and opportunities for extra credit will be shared with everyone in the class via D2L. These are not required and will not impact a student's grade if they choose not to complete them or participate. The instructor will provide all students with the same variety of opportunities. Extra credit is not available to students that have engaged in academic dishonesty. Extra credit is provided at the discretion of the instructor and is not eligible to be applied toward specific assignments or offered to students individually. A total of 5 points of extra credit may be earned towards the student's final course average.

Grade & Course Questions

Please stay in contact and keep up with the course canvas. Please ask questions well before an assignment deadline. The more time given, the better support you will be able to receive. If you have a question about a grade in the class, please email your instructor to set up an individual meeting within 1 week, as grades cannot be discussed by email. Please note that instructors are not able to adjust grades based on need or desire, etc. and that all grades are assigned according to the syllabus.

Class Participation & Attendance

Each student is expected to actively contribute to class discussions and engage in the online course format. A component of your grade will be based on your online canvas participation and involvement. We can all learn from each other's responses, solutions, challenges and questions. Please be respectful, professional and courteous in class and online.

This is an online, asynchronous course. All relevant course information and materials will be shared via D2L. The format of this varies, but includes all required information. Your participation and engagement in the D2L represents your attendance in the online course. Please visit the ETAMU attendance policy to learn more.

If you have not participated in the course and missed over 40% of the course assignments at the midpoint of the semester, you may be administratively dropped from the course.

Academic dishonesty

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, AI use, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean

of Students, dismissal from class, expulsion from the University, and a failing grade. Turn-it-in is used for all written assignments in the course.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus and course schedule is subject to change with notice. Any changes will be announced via D2L.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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 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 are having difficulties with the course material or content, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulties please contact the program technical support resource (ie Adobe or Brightspace) or the ETAMU Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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>

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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

TAMUC Attendance

Students participating in sports or other University activities can be excused from the Departmental policy if they have made arrangements with the instructor to address missed class-work BEFORE the scheduled event. A schedule of the days they are planning to perform or play must be provided at the beginning of the semester or at least a month before their first planned absence. Excessive absences may result in the student being administratively dropped from the course.

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

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

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>

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

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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.

AI Use Policy

ETAMU AI Use Statement

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Generative AI & Student Responsibility to Document Authorship

Generative AI use is not allowed in the course for writing or any assignments, unless specifically noted in the assignment where it may be used only as a visualization tool and not a producer of original work for the course or any environment. Generative AI and AI use submitted as original work or writing constitutes Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty and will be referred to the office of the Dean and Student Affairs. All submitted work must be fully original and created by the student.

Students are expected to document the process, time and history of any and all work completed digitally.

All writing should be completed in Google Docs (or similar) where a history of the document and the full writing process can be shared with faculty upon request. Any digital imagery or artworks created for the course must have their process and creation like-wise documented and able to be shared to clearly demonstrate authenticity, whether that is through screen recording (ie automated feature on Procreate, add-on to other programs), timed screen shots and use of layers to document history of art work, etc. It is the sole responsibility of the student to create and maintain documentation of their process and proof of authorship for all course submissions and assignments throughout the length of the class to be shared with submissions and/or faculty upon request.

Students may use Grammarly or other AI supplemented programs for final **revisions and editing only**. This should be documented and noted along with any corresponding submission.