



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

ART 1312- 01E 81217 Three-D Design & Color Theory

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Josephine Durkin

Office Location: Room 101 Wathena Temple Fine Arts

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by Appointment

Office Phone: 903.886.5208

Email: Josephine.Durkin@etamu.edu

Class Information

Fall 2026: 08.20.2026 - 12.11.2026

Credits: 3.00

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-1:50pm

Location: Art Sculpture Lab (ASL 119)

Preferred Form of Communication: Text 903.268.5081

Communication outside of class, including regular (3 x week minimum in-progress image and text-based updates): Due to neurological needs, please use text as a substitute for email, as that is the best way for me to process, keep track of, and respond to your progress. Text anytime outside of class, as I often have my phone on "Focus / Silent" and will check texts daily when able. I typically respond within 24 hours, but sometimes up to 72 hours if it's the weekend. 903.268.5081.

Course Description

This course focuses on three-dimensional problem solving with attention to material choice, composition, construction, creative problem solving, color and craftsmanship. Students will complete a variety of projects that emphasize different material uses, construction techniques and goals. A range of contemporary works and artists will be incorporated into class discussions. Additionally, at least one project will investigate how design and engineering can create a positive impact for the purpose of

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community outreach. A highlight of this course includes the exciting 3D Design Fashion Show.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate construction and creative problem-solving skills while utilizing a variety of assembly methods, including prototype, custom pattern making, and material translation
- Discuss the relationship between material, meaning, form, function and craftsmanship
- Demonstrate the ability to use an industrial sewing machine properly, utilize hand sewing techniques, paper and fabric dyeing processes, and translate ideas from flat materials and surfaces, to three-dimensional objects
- Discuss the relationship between artists, viewers and affect, objects and experience, as well as interest, history, including personal interest and history, and the role of art as a vehicle for communication, conversation, thinking and feeling
- Demonstrate and 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 the importance of documentation through a professional website of their work
- Understand how three-dimensional design is utilized in a variety of disciplines
- Utilize creative and ambitious thought processes and work habits

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

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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.

Do not worry! Other than a pencil or pen and a sketchbook, you will not need other items on the first day. You do need to wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes, boots - shoes that you can walk and work comfortably and safely in, that also protect your feet). You will need a pair of scissors on the second class day. You are welcome to start gathering the following items, or you may wait to do so until after the first day of class.

Bin / plastic tote with a lid (No need to buy these - we have them for you!)

Unlined, 9 x 12 sketchbook (no smaller than 8 x 10, and must be unlined)

Pencils and pens

Sharpie markers

X-acto Knife

Utility Knife

18 in. (or longer) cork-backed metal ruler

Cutting mat (we have these in the lab - but you may want to get your own)

Glue gun and glue gun sticks (mini or regular) (We have glue guns in the lab.)

Elmer's Glue

Loctite Super Glue Gel

Scotch Magic Tape

Blue painter's tape and masking tape

Scissors (Adult-sized, comfortable, sharp, pair of good scissors that cut paper, fabric and cardboard well. It doesn't matter which brand, but they must be sharp, fit comfortably and work well. A good pair of scissors makes an enormous difference!

Small brushes (varying sizes, as needed for projects)

Safety goggles (We have some in the woodshop, but you may also bring your own.)

Extension cord (We have some in the lab, but it can be helpful to have one.)

Measuring tape (We have some in the woodshop, but it can be helpful to have one.)

Other necessities:

Ambition and drive

Enthusiasm and appreciation – especially when it comes to the unfamiliar and unknown, as well as identifying and overcoming obstacles – both large and small.

Curiosity

Creativity

Sense of wonder and adventure

Dreams and goals – large and small, both personal and community-based.

In addition to basic supplies, students are required to gather and purchase their own materials for each project. I designed projects that are relatively low in material costs,

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as they require mostly low-cost and/or free materials such as poster board and cardboard. Materials and material costs will vary - depending on the needs of the project and the resourcefulness of the student. Again, there are no required textbooks for this course.

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, class critiques, and a final, class exhibition (Fashion Show)

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 studio 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 a completion of course assignments, quality of individual technical and critical development, personal commitment and ability to work in a community studio 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. This includes technical and material problem solving, as well as the effort needed to advance and refine various skillsets and material problem solving. In addition to learning from me, students learn from each other as well as outside of class, safely, on their own- through the process of learning by doing, trial and error. 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 piece will serve as physical, as well as digital, documentation, and make up a map that details the effort made - and growth achieved - throughout the evolution of 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.

Assignment Submission & Format:

Instead of grading each assignment individually, I will meet with students at various check-points throughout the semester and assess their progress via the collective documentation of their project "maps". Final grades will be determined by the quantity and quality of work presented in your online website portfolio projects.

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.

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.

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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.

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 meet with you should you need additional help.

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 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

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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 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

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: 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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](#).

<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.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

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.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:

<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 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

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.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.tamuc.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.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

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

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

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1

Thurs 8/20 – Welcome! Course Overview + Syllabus Review. Intro to Hand Sewing (stitches + tools). Prep for Paper & Fabric Dyeing (materials + safety).

Week 2

Tues 8/25 – Paper & Fabric Dyeing (hands-on).

Thurs 8/27 – Pin Cushion Construction (hand sewing continues).

Week 3

Tues 9/1 – Intro to Aprons + Pattern Making.

Thurs 9/3 – Template Translation / Pattern continued.

Week 4

Tues 9/8 – Intro to Machine Sewing (basics + safety).

Thurs 9/10 – Machine Sewing Practice Samples.

Week 5

Tues 9/15 – Machine Sewing Continued.

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Thurs 9/17 – Dress Form Draping / Fitting.

Week 6

Tues 9/22 – Fashion as Prosthetics – Concept Development.

Thurs 9/24 – Custom Apron Design – Sketches + Planning.

Week 7

Tues 9/29 – Custom Aprons – Prototyping.

Thurs 10/1 – Custom Aprons – Fitting on Dress Forms.

Week 8

Tues 10/6 – Custom Aprons – Construction.

Thurs 10/8 – Custom Aprons – Critique Prep.

Week 9

Tues 10/13 – Final Project Launch – Integrating Dyed Paper + Fabric via Sewn Construction (Concept + Sketches). Intro to Documentation (photographing work, portfolio basics).

Thurs 10/15 – Final Project – Concept Development continued. Documentation Q&A.

Week 10

Tues 10/20 – Final Project – Material Experimentation.

Thurs 10/22 – Final Project – Sample Making.

Week 11

Tues 10/27 – Final Project – Studio Work.

Thurs 10/29 – Individual Meetings.

Week 12

Tues 11/3 – Final Project – Studio Work.

Thurs 11/5 – Demos (as needed) + Studio Work.

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Week 13

Tues 11/10 – Final Project – Mid-Critique / Peer Review.

Thurs 11/12 – Final Project – Continued Work + Revisions.

Week 14

Tues 11/17 – Final Project – Final Push.

Thurs 11/19 – Documentation Prep + Studio Work.

Week 15

Tues 11/24 – Flexible Work Schedule – Individual meetings, studio time, or catch-up as needed.

Thurs 11/26 – No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday.

Week 16

Tues 12/1 – FINAL SEWN PROJECT DUE + DOCUMENTATION PROJECT DUE –
In-class presentation / critique (Tuesday section).

Thurs 12/3 – FINAL SEWN PROJECT DUE + DOCUMENTATION PROJECT DUE –
In-class presentation / critique (Thursday section).

Finals Week

Tues 12/8 or Thurs 12/10 (exam slot TBD by class time) – Clean-up / Wrap-up. Studio reset, tool inventory, portfolio Q&A, course evaluations.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

A pair of scissors (sharp, for fabric and paper)

Pins and needles (hand sewing)

Thread (assorted colors)

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Pencil and sketchbook (for patterns and concept development)

Fabric scissors (dedicated shears, optional but recommended)

Ruler or measuring tape

Paper (for patterns and dyeing experiments)

Fabric (to be discussed in class – cotton recommended)

Fabric dye (provided in class, or bring your own if desired)

Notebook or folder for handouts and notes