

Art 4399.006: Independent Study

Fall 2025

Class Time and Days: TBD

Chris Stewart, Professor of Art

Contact: christopherstewart@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Friday by appointment

Course Overview/Purpose

The Independent Study studio course is not a regularly scheduled university course, but is arranged, planned and managed by a supervising professor in conjunction with the goals that are proposed by the student, and then refined and approved by the supervising professor. A maximum of six credit hours for independent study courses may be applied toward an undergraduate/graduate degree.

This course utilizes Canvas. You will find all course materials and requirements on the Canvas page for the course, including: the syllabus, course calendar, and assignments. You will also find additional resources and technical information on Canvas. All course announcements will be communicated through Canvas, so please check the site frequently.

Professional Communication

When referring to any faculty member, please remember that they all have earned a high degree of respect, and should be referred to, or addressed as "Professor" or "Dr." In any academic situation, sticking with "Professor" is the safest path, until you have been invited to address your professors otherwise, even then, I would be circumspect as to the propriety of doing otherwise. Likewise, engagements with university/departmental staff members should be equally respectful. Please understand that the staff members are critical partners in the department. Please refer to them as Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Office Hours & Email Etiquette

I am here to help you and I want each of you to do well in this course! I am always available to meet with you. It is always best for you to make an appointment with me during my office hours or, if this does not fit your schedule, we can arrange an alternate meeting time. The best way to contact me is through email. I will check and respond to emails during the workweek, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 5 pm. I will do my best to answer promptly, please allow 24 hours for a response. If you contact me through email, please use formal email etiquette and use your UT Tyler student email address if you wish to get a response.

Recommended Text

There is no required text for this class.

Class Participation

Students will be expected to be actively working during studio hours, and will also be expected participate in class discussions and critiques.

Final Grade

Your final grade for the course will be based upon completion of the following:

5% Description of Study **Must be submitted and approved through Canvas January 27**

Like the course description in a college catalog, the student will provide a description of study, which should describe the general theme and scope of the independent study. The description may address the following:

- Material choices
- Process
- Formal and aesthetic explorations
- Conceptual concerns

- Historic and contemporary influences (art or otherwise)
- How do you see the work progressing?

The description might indicate where the student is starting out and where the student would like to get in terms of answering a question, or exploring a formal or conceptual concern, or some other goal. It should articulate the theme and strategy of the study as clearly as possible within 500 words, typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.

90% Body of Work & Critiques

Body of Work: Each student is expected to create an ambitious body of work over the course the semester through a directed study approach. The assessment of the body of work will give consideration to:

- Completion of an ambitious body of work
- Technical skills
- Design skills
- Quality of the finished work
- Quantity of work produced during the semester
- Effort -Craftsmanship
- Overall growth and development (improvement in skill)
- Experimentation/innovation
- In class participation

Critiques & Presentation of Work: Critiques are a time when completed work is presented by all students for the purpose of receiving formal criticism, as well as a time to develop a vocabulary to effectively communicate your ideas to others. There will be several formal group and individual critiques scheduled throughout the semester at which each student will present an ambitious amount of work in progress. Actual work and work in progress must be presented at each critique. You may augment work in progress with sketches, proposals for new work, etc., but these materials alone will not suffice or count as new work. Your final grade will be lowered 20% for not having new work present at a scheduled critique or for not being present at a critique. Students are expected to actively participate in the critique process and are graded not only on work presented but also on participation.

The presentation of work promotes the serious and significant nature of your efforts. It is not enough to simply produce work; students are required to present work in the most advantageous manner possible. Consideration of presentation should begin at the inception of the work so that any challenges that arise can be addressed and improved, as the work progresses. Each student has access to pedestals, wall space etc. Professional presentation of work at critiques is required, no exceptions.

Critiques will be arranged via email. The student is responsible for scheduling at least two critiques over the course of the semester.

5% Course Documentation Materials & Final Assessment

Course Documentation Materials: Each student will submit course documentation materials through Canvas at the end of the semester. The documentation required includes:

1) Portfolio of Images with Image Information

- Professional digital images, saved as a single .pdf file
- All images should be labeled with title, date, material, and dimensions.

2) Statement of Assessment

Review the Description of Study you submitted at the beginning of the term. Provide a critical assessment and response of the body of work created, and of your progress towards the goals and intentions provided earlier in the semester.

The course documentation materials should be a compilation of your semester research and should be organized and cohesive. Course documentation materials are due **April 26 at noon**.

Numeric to Letter Grade Translation: 100 - 90% = A 89 - 80% = B 79 - 70% = C 69 - 60% = D 59 - 0% = F

Remember, Teachers do not give grades; students earn them!

Additional Information in regard to grades and course requirements:

- o Poor attendance/participation and non-adherence to deadlines will result in a lowered grade.
Remember, you will be working two to three times as much outside of class as in class.
- o This class has no final examination.

Classroom Etiquette

It is important to keep the studio clean and to maintain a healthy working environment. Maintenance of the studio is a daily responsibility. It includes cleaning up your workspace, and all of the equipment used. Additional clean-up will be required at the end of each class period. Please take care in moving other student work, and be respectful to the work of other students and their spaces. Leave everything in better shape than when found!

CELL PHONES: Are to be put on silent during class. Screen time not related to class is prohibited. The first incident warrants a warning. Subsequent violations are equivalent to a tardy.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and in extreme cases will result in the expulsion of the student from class. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, habitually arriving late or leaving early from class, talking during instruction and failure to listen to directions.

Studio Safety & Maintenance

Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. The student should only use these materials and equipment after the instructor has given instruction in the safe use of such equipment and materials. The instructor has the right and responsibility to suspend any art student from operating a piece of equipment if the instructor believes the student is incapable of operating the equipment in a safe manner. This is done so not to jeopardize the health and safety of the student or other members of the class.

- o Students in studio classes are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during the class session.
- o Children and non-registered students are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- o Food and drink are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- o Radio use in the studio is restricted to the use of personal headphones (not during class).
- o A first aid kit is located in the studio.

Facility Access & Studio Lab Safety and Mechanical Safety Training

Studio facility access is for enrolled students only. Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment (PPE) and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. All students must successfully complete the lab safety training and mechanical safety training and quizzes on Canvas and complete an Art Safety Agreement before after hours access to the complex is

granted. Failure to adhere to the terms of the Art Safety Agreement will result in the loss studio facility access.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For your safety, you must follow all safety requirements established by the department and university. It is required that you provide your own Personal Protective Equipment for use in studio areas. This equipment includes: dust mask with at least a N95 rating and attached filter, safety glasses, ear protection, gloves, closetoed shoes, and appropriate clothing. Failure to use this equipment while working may result in the loss of studio privileges.

Materials and Chemicals

Any additional materials or chemicals not included on the course material list must be approved by the faculty member in charge of the area where the chemical (material) will be used prior to the material/chemical being brought into the studio. Students are responsible for notifying the studio technician of any new materials/chemicals the day they are brought to the studio in order to ensure that the appropriate Safety Data Sheet is on file and in the SDS binder.

Labels for any new, approved chemicals brought into the art studios must include the following information when they are transferred to a new container or if the original chemical label is damaged: Name of Chemical, Date chemical was opened, and any basic hazards associated with the chemical. Labels are located in each studio and must be filled out and adhered to the container immediately.

Student Resources and University Policies

Please see the Getting Started & UTT Syllabus module in Canvas for a full list of student resources and university policies.

* This syllabus is subject to change

**Please see UT Tyler's academic calendar for all important academic deadlines and dates. Important dates for critiques and assignments will be posted on Canvas, announced in class, and stated on handouts. There are no required fieldtrips for this course.

*** A separate list of all required materials and supplies will be provided.