

ART 4399

Independent Study

Subject to change as necessary

Spring 2026: Dates/ Times TBA

Professor Alexis Serio

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Office Hours: T & TH by appointment during the hours of 2pm-5pm (please note: some appointments may be best conducted via phone, email or zoom). *Additional contact info: my cell number will be provided during first day of class and students may text me between 7am-8pm, 7 days a week.*

UTT Student Resources and University Policies and Information

Please see the Syllabus Module in Canvas for the UTT Student Resources and University Policies and Procedures

AI policy: Students are not permitted to use AI software in this class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Pre-requisites: ART 2316 (Beginning Painting)

ART 3366 (Intermediate Painting)

ART 4337 (Advanced Painting) or consent of instructor

In collaboration and approval with Serio, the student will select a material, dimension(s), and quantity from the list below to complete throughout the semester to support an ambitious advanced artistic exploration that is consistent with an upper-level studio course. Students must have familiarity with painting basics such as color mixing, knowledge of UT Tyler's approved solvents, stretcher building and canvas preparation prior to taking this class. Students are expected to produce a focused and individual collection of work (thesis) during the semester.

For Final Grade Assessment: students must turn in a digital compilation of the following: 1) Portfolio of images of agreed upon minimum or more of FINISHED artworks created during the semester and any additional UNFINISHED works (if applicable) which exceed the agreed upon minimum 2) Inventory list and 3) Artist/ thesis statement. 4) All in progress documentation and studio notes, times/record of dates and hours demonstrating outside of classwork 5) Self-assessment based on syllabus expectations. More details regarding format are TBA.

REQUIREMENTS:

-Digital artwork will not be accepted for credit in this Independent Study Course

-Students are to select from the options provided below for assigned sizes and quantities in collaboration with Serio.

-Thesis proposals will help determine which size and quantity makes the most sense for your body of work. Sizes and quantities should be outlined in relationship to your formal/ conceptual goals. You must have Professor approval for the size / quantity selections.

-Students wishing to appeal these sizes (for instance, wishing to work smaller or on less quantities) MUST provide justification in collaboration and agreement with Serio. Appeals are typically reserved for students in their senior exhibition semester.

a) ***Works on paper:** (media is up to you: colored pencil, charcoal, watercolor, acrylic paint, gouache, combination etc.)

-10 pieces of 22" x 30" good quality paper such as Arches, Fabriano, Reeves BFK, and so on (either stick with the quantity of 10 or rip down for more pieces at a smaller scale but you must use *all the paper*).

***Students must submit a portfolio of imagery of 5-8 artworks which demonstrates an Advanced level skill set in the media they wish to pursue before being approved for this selection.**

OR

b) **Paintings:** (acrylic or oil)

Option 1: 4 paintings between the range of 50" x 60" variations within these dimensions
OR larger
(at least half of the pieces must be on the larger end within this spectrum)

Option 2: 6 paintings between the range of 30" x 40" variations within these dimensions
OR larger
(at least half of the pieces must be on the larger end within this spectrum)

Option 3: 8 paintings between the range of 20" x 30" variations within these dimensions
OR larger
(at least half of the pieces must be on the larger end within this spectrum)

-If working from observation, students will be expected to create their own resource material (i.e. using their own photographs, compositional set ups, or a combination of found imagery for which to abstract).

-Compositions must be created by the student and explained in a class critique. Students must be able to verbalize their compositional and formal decisions in class conversation.

-Creative content generated by A.I. will not be allowed as resource material.

-Students who are caught using A.I. generated content will have *at minimum* one letter grade reduction for their overall GPA for this course.

-Artist statements and “studio notes” will be collected each week and will be part of a weekly classroom assignment and discussion. Students are not to use A.I. generated statements and will be asked to verbalize reasoning for their written statements.

-Students will also take weekly in-progress photos and keep an online journal on canvas discussing what they did each week / alterations made /and track the hours they come in outside of class (process is TBA).

-All resource image material must be in hard copy form. Either the physical object or a print. Imagery on iPad, laptops and phones will not be allowed in the workspace while you are painting.

SUPPLIES

All required supplies and materials are listed separately. There are no textbooks required for this course. This course does not have a final exam.

BFA STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. **Technical Proficiency:** Students will be able to create technically proficient works of art.
2. **Conceptual Proficiency:** Students will be able to create conceptually proficient works of art.
3. **Interpretation of Artworks:** Students will be able to explain how formal or conceptual elements function in works of art.
4. **Historical Context:** The student will be able to contextualize works of art in relation to art history or contemporary practices.
5. **Document Works:** Students will be able to document works of art for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.
6. **Disseminate Research:** Students will be able to disseminate research through exhibition participation.

ATTENDANCE AND MISSED WORK POLICY

Because this is an Independent Study, the meeting times are flexible, however there will still be scheduled review times throughout the semester. **The onus is on the student to contact the professor to schedule meeting times! Work must be presented to faculty in person for review. A minimum of 5- 7 meetings or progress conversations must take place during the semester.** Failure to be prepared or show up to scheduled meetings with Serio will result in an absence. **After 2 absences you may be dropped a full letter grade from your semester GPA, at 4 absences students may fail the course!** If you are unprepared for a meeting, you will be marked absent.

NOTE ON SICKNESS

If you have a fever, do not attend a meeting with Serio until you are fever free without medication for 24 hours- you will be excused if you have a Dr. note.

NOTE ON EXCESSIVE / EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excessive absences, even those which are due to illness or emergencies out of your control, may still result in a lower grade or failure of the course. If you are not able to be present for all, or most meeting times, it is in your best interest to drop the course and retake during another semester instead of receiving an F. Please speak to Professor Serio regarding concerns and options. Incompletes are given for medical or other type emergencies and are typically discussed as an option for students in strong academic standing in the class, when the semester is nearly over, when the drop period has long passed, and extra time may be needed to complete a *small amount* of coursework.

STUDIO DRESS AND SAFETY WEAR CODE

- 1) All students working with paint (oil or acrylic) or solvents must wear protective gloves.
- 2) All students working with the chop saw must wear eye/ear protection. *PROVIDED*.
- 3) Appropriate work clothing is required for the *entire* Department of Art and Art History, however individual classes may have different requirements depending on the materials and equipment being used.
- 4) **Painting classes require the following dress code**
 - No open toed shoes are allowed in the painting studio
 - Students are expected to wear long pants
 - Students should wear long sleeved shirts (preferred) however short sleeved shirts will be permitted as long as shoulders are covered.

It is best to cover yourself! Painting materials and solvents are known to cause skin irritation and even cause cancer!

MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

Any solvent or brush cleaner with a harmful vapor that requires ventilation will not be permitted inside the classroom. Serio will provide a list of approved chemicals. Please check with Professor Serio before opening any container that is not on the approved list. Save all receipts in case you need to return items to the store.

GRADING PROCESS

The student is graded on his or her dedication and output in completing the course objectives. **Progress meetings, studio work ethic, completion of required quantity, quality of artwork, discovery/ visible maturation of painting technique and aesthetic, thesis investigation, concept maturation and sophistication of ideas, participation and presentations during critiques, and any additional writing assignments and artist statements are all part of the overall grade.** Plan to work at least 13-26 hours each week on your collection of work.

NOTE ON WORKING AT HOME

Artwork created outside of the studio classroom will not be considered for credit unless student brings the artwork to class for in-person review, each week. Special arrangements or appeals to this expectation must be agreed upon between Serio and student at beginning of semester).

NOTE ON GRADING

By simply completing the above listed requirements, you may earn the average letter grade of C. You must go above and beyond the basic requirements of the course to earn yourself a grade that is above and beyond average.

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

HOW FINAL GRADE IS DETERMINED

100% body of work and progress meetings

HOW TO RECEIVE AN A: Go above and beyond in all that you do for this course. There must be a **visible outstanding level** of skill, aesthetic maturity, and dedication to the course. **Outstanding development, discovery, and growth over the duration of the semester** (from whatever point

of skill level you entered the class) must be apparent. Complete all the requirements. Do not miss meetings with Serio. Turn in weekly updates/ studio notes. Always Be prepared. Plan to work at least 13-26 hours each week on your collection of work.

HOW TO RECEIVE A B: Go above and beyond the class requirements. There must be a **visible elevated level** of skill, aesthetic maturity, and dedication to the course. **Elevated development, discovery, and growth over the duration of the semester** (from whatever point of skill level you entered the class) must be apparent. Complete all the requirements. Do not miss meetings with Serio. Turn in weekly updates/ studio notes. Always Be prepared. Plan to work at least 13-26 hours each week on your collection of work.

HOW TO RECEIVE A C: Average development, discovery, and growth over the duration of the semester (from whatever point of skill level you entered the class) must be apparent. Complete all the requirements. Do not miss meetings with Serio. Turn in weekly updates/ studio notes. Always Be prepared. Plan to work at least 13-26 hours each week on your collection of work.

NOTE ON CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

It is expected that you attend all gallery openings and any art lecture/ workshops (unless excused). Most of our events occur on Thursday evenings at 6pm.

NOTE ON STUDIO ACCESS

Students will have 24-hour access every day of the week once any online safety trainings are completed/approved and Art Student Safety Agreements have been signed and completed/approved. Students working after hours must always have their UT Tyler student ID on them. Friends and family members who are not enrolled in studio courses are not allowed in studio spaces after hours. Please note that any abuse of access privileges will result in the loss of after-hour studio access. Please report any suspicious behavior immediately to campus police!

NOTE ON CLEANUP

Clean-up is an imperative part of this class. You are expected to do your part in keeping the classroom organized, safe, and flowing smoothly! Policy of cleanup will be discussed with the class on a case-by-case basis.

2026 STUDIO SAFETY AND ACCESS INFORMATION

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 through Canvas 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, close-toed 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 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 in each studio and must be filled out and adhered to the container immediately.