

Fall 2026

ART 5370.001: Graduate Studio Practice, Merrie Wright

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Purpose/Objectives

This course is intended to intensify awareness of the studio practice. In addition to an exploration of ideas through the experience of making, students will examine tendencies and ideas found within their own practice through readings, a research and presentation assignment, and discussions. Students will explore the context of contemporary studio practices and consider the multiple ways in which art can live in and beyond the studio.

MA/MFA Student Learning Outcomes

Portfolio of Works: Students will be able to create a body of work that demonstrates a mastery of technical skill, process, and composition, and a succinct and original visual aesthetic.

Analyze Artworks: Students will be able to demonstrate in-depth analysis, interpretation, and criticism of works of art from multiple perspectives.

Contextualize Aesthetic: Students will be able to provide in-depth contextualization of an artist's aesthetic to the canon of art history and contemporary art theory.

Document Works: Students will be able to apply professional standards to the documentation of their portfolio for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

Disseminate Research: Students will be able to demonstrate the dissemination of research through professional exhibition participation.

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.

Required Text

This course has no required text.

Canvas

This course utilizes Canvas. You will find all course materials on the Canvas page for the course, including the syllabus and course calendar. All course announcements will be communicated through Canvas, so please check the site frequently.

Attendance: Students enrolled in ART 5370 are expected to set individual work schedules that allow for the student to produce a significant and self-directed body of work. It is expected that the student will be an active and involved presence in the art studio. Setting a consistent studio schedule with ample dedicated studio time/presence, is expected. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should inform the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class. Faculty should initial the request to indicate approval.

The student, regardless of residency status (low or full), is expected to meet with their committee chair at least once a week face to face during the semester. The student, regardless of residency status (low or full), is expected to meet with their committee members face to face at least 3 or 4 times during the semester. Faculty must see graduate student work in person repeatedly throughout the semester as it progresses. The onus is on the student to initiate meetings around the faculty member's schedule. The student should speak with their committee chair regarding quantity expectations per graduate studio course. The student is required to attend in person faculty-led group critiques, group midterms, and group finals. The student is required to attend and assist in recruiting events, art exhibitions and other activities on campus.

Committee Selection and First Semester Graduate Student Requirements: First semester graduate candidates are required to meet with each and every faculty member during the semester, prior to selecting a committee. It is the responsibility of the candidate to solicit, schedule, and confirm these meetings. At the end of the first semester the candidate must select a graduate committee. The candidate shall select a Chair for his or her committee and invite additional faculty members to sit on the committee, typically a minimum of two more faculty are selected to serve (totaling a minimum of 3 members). This is an invitation and must be formalized by acceptance by the faculty member. Once a committee is confirmed, please forward this information to the Graduate Advisors Professor Serio and Professor Hughes. Changes to a committee may be made up until the end of the third semester. Please see the current MA and MA/MFA graduate program policies and guidelines for detailed information about changes to the committee.

Critiques with Committee Members: After the selection of a graduate committee and in accordance with the MA and MA/MFA studio art graduate policies, graduate students are required to schedule regular critiques/updates with their committee members at least once every month during each semester in which the candidate is registered for credit. At this point, meetings with faculty who do *not* serve on the committee may be limited to full department critiques or at the requested at the discretion of the student throughout the semester. It is important to realize that the graduate student is expected to have continual dialogue with his or her committee, and that the dialogue need not be a formal critique. In addition to critiques and informal meetings it is highly recommended that students provide committee members with an email update of their progress to date every two weeks. The critique/update is intended to maintain an appropriate level of communication between student and committee members.

It is the candidate's responsibility to schedule these critiques/updates and to maintain a critique confirmation form signed by the professor who conducts the critique/update. The form can be found in the most current version of the MA and MA/MFA studio art policies and guidelines manual available on the department website. This form must be turned in to the Studio Art Graduate Coordinator at the end of each semester.

Beginning, Mid-Semester & End-of-Semester Reviews: All MA or MA/MFA candidates will participate in a review/critique three times each semester. The Graduate Faculty, all faculty members of the Department of Art + Art

History, and all graduate students are required to attend and participate. The beginning and midterm reviews are for the graduate students and faculty, the final review is open to the undergraduate cohort as well. Every graduate student is required to participate by showing and discussing current work at the date and time scheduled.

The student's committee will determine semester grades.

During the final critique, candidates will be expected to present an oral defense of the work.

Graduate MA or MA/MFA candidates must provide the graduate faculty with the following at the end of semester

graduate review/critique:

1) Artist statement, following the criteria below:

- Title Page: conventional page showing essential bibliographical information
- Artist Statement: the main body of the statement
- Students will provide a hard copy of the artist statement in a notebook at the end of semester review/critique, as well as a digital copy to all faculty members.
- The artist statement should be thoroughly considered, well written and edited. Students are encouraged to seek assistance through the writing center.

2) Photographic documentation of the semester's work, following the criteria below:

- Images should be professional and of the highest quality.
- Students will provide a hard copy of the images in a notebook at the end of semester review/critique, as well as a digital copy to all committee members.
- List of works including titles, media, and size should accompany the hard and digital copies.

3) Curriculum vitae with exhibition participation

4) Artist's biography

5) Statement of influences

Final Semester Grade:

Your final grade for the semester is based on the quality, quantity, formal and conceptual development of the body of work, aesthetic maturation, and engagement with the program (communication with faculty and committee members).

25% Communication/critiques with faculty & committee members

75% Body of work

Your final semester grade will be determined after the final semester graduate critique and in consultation with the student's graduate committee.

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!

*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.

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! **Keep all cell phones and headphones turned off during class time!**

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.

- Students in studio classes are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during the class session.
- Children and non-registered students are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Radio use in the studio is restricted to the use of personal headphones (not during class).
- 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 you 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 in order to insure that the appropriate Safety Data Sheet is on file and in the SDS binder.

* 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.

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.

Storage/Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker with a partner. Due to space limitations clay and tools may not be stored in the classroom unless being used at the time. Any clay or tools found will be removed. You should store your materials in your locker or elsewhere, bringing to class only what you need to work with.

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