Course Information

**Basic Design I-Spring 2015 / ARTF 1301/ CRN 21593**
Class Hours: 8:30 am -11:20 pm Mon/Wed, Room 263 FOXFA

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Manuel Guerra  
Office: Fox Fine Arts Building Room 260-A  
Office Hrs. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 - 1:30 pm and by appointment  
Office phone: 915-747-7965  
E-mail address: gumanuel@utep.edu

Instructor Introduction

Manuel Guerra is your instructor for this course. He received an Associate of Arts degree from El Paso Community College, a B.F.A degree from the University of Texas- El Paso and an M.F.A from the State University of New York-Albany. For the past 19 years, he has taught different course levels in printmaking and drawing and had vast experience as a press assistant for Master Printer Mike Simms at Lawrence Lithography in Sunland Park, New Mexico. His work has been shown throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe and is included in museums and private collections.

Course Description

Basic Design I is a foundation level class structured for the needs of art majors who plan to pursue a career in art. Students are introduced to the visual elements and principles of design through lectures, power points and demonstrations. Students will be expected to apply the concepts learned from the aforementioned to create 2-dimensional visual compositions. Students will advance from achromatic compositions to more advanced chromatic compositions. The majority of class time will be spent working on assignments but outside time may be necessary to complete the work. Critiques will follow most major assignments for critical feedback from the instructor and fellow classmates.

Course Prerequisite Information

Basic Design I • Spring 2015 • ARTF 1301 • CRN 21593 • Manuel Guerra
No prerequisites are required as this is the first design course offered within the structure of the foundation for a BFA or BA degree in art. It is suggested that students take ARTF 1302 concurrently with Design I.

### Course Goals and Objectives

This course focuses on:
- Development and understanding of the basic terminology of art and design.
- Development and understanding of good composition principles.
- Development and understanding of technical skills such as simple drawing, painting and cutting skills needed to render well composed 2-dimensional designs.
- Development of good craftsmanship and working habits needed to achieve these goals and objectives.

### Course Outcomes

Students who complete the course will be able to:
- Create properly composed, well balanced 2-dimensional designs using various materials.
- Effectively use the visual elements in a composition and apply the principles of design for stronger, more creative and effective 2-dimensional artwork.
- Identify and recognize a well-crafted piece of art.
- Be aware of various art movements and concepts through exposure to various artists and their works.
- Acquire a basic knowledge of art terminology to express their ideas verbally.

### Course Requirements

All assignments will be graded upon the scheduled completion of the assignment and a grade will be given for each problem. All grades are of equal weight and will be averaged together for a final semester grade. All problems will be evaluated on the following criteria: creative original approach to solving the problem, clearly expressed final product, strong craftsmanship in constructing the art works, completion of project on scheduled due date. Simple completion of an assignment will earn a grade of C or lower. Higher grades will be awarded to finished art works that show evidence of working assigned problems past easy or immediate solutions. Strong conceptual exploration and notable
technical effort will achieve maximum credit. All grades are calculated using the following scale:

100-90 = A • 89-80 = B • 79-70 = C • 69-60 = D • Below 60 = F
Incomplete = I • Withdraw = W

Course Policies

Attendance: The majority of work for the course will take place during the scheduled class meeting. Therefore, attendance is critical to class performance. You are expected to arrive on time and work through the entire class period. There will be a fifteen-minute break. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. All students will be allowed three absences, excused or unexcused. A total of four absences will lower the final grade a full letter grade. Instructor reserves the right to drop a student after 4 absences. Extenuating circumstance such as incapacitating illness, military service, accident, or death in the immediate family should be supported by satisfactory documentation and will be dealt with on an individual basis. Students who have 3 absences before midterm must provide a medical excuse or they will be dropped after the 4th absence. Grades will be lowered by excessive absences and tardiness -- 4 absences - one grade lower (ex. A to B), two tardiness = one absence. Students hold the full responsibility for withdrawing from the course after the fifth absence, failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the course.

NO TEXTING! Please turn off your cell phones before entering class. If, because of an emergency situation, you must have your phone on, inform the instructor, put the phone on silent mode and exit if needed.

Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture, or during critique. Students may listen to music at a low volume with headphones during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students.

Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail: Incompletes or “I” grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All “I” grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department chair. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a “W”. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade of an “F” for the semester.
Critiques

Formal and informal critiques will be held during the course of the semester. Students are expected to participate fully in class critiques both by offering constructive commentary to their peers and by later considering and applying discussed formal and substantial issues to their own work. Remember, when you examine and critique your work or the work of others, evaluate not just the aesthetic sensibility or the artistic achievement of the print (although you should consider these). Evaluate also:

- The focus of the work.
- What you think is being communicated.
- The points of struggle in the work, and
- How these points of struggle could be resolved.

If possible, ask your peer about his/her goals, struggles, and influences. Your critique should help direct the strengths of the work toward the artist’s goals.

When your work is being criticized, remember:

- You can always learn from others. Make an effort to be as open as possible. Good advice should resonate with you as you develop in your studio practice; it is an opportunity to learn. Try to avoid deflecting comments.
- Most people have a hard time offering criticism. Hear criticism as the gift that it is.

Critique etiquette:

- Don’t miss critiques!
- Come to class ten minutes early on critique days, and set up your work before class starts.
- If you are late to critique, do not interrupt by setting up your work. We will review your work at the end of the critique session; you should remind the group if we are about to proceed without critiquing your work.
- Listen carefully to comments about your own work. Either take notes or have someone else take notes for you.
- Listen to comments about the work of your peers (it probably applies to you too.)
- Contribute to the discussion honestly and thoughtfully.
- Don’t disrupt the critique with private conversations.
Materials and Personal Equipment

This is a list of the materials needed to start the class, **other materials may be needed**: 

- Sketchbook 7” x 10” minimum
- Strathmore Drawing Pad 18” x 24”
- Metal Ruler, 18” minimum
- Drawing Pencils, small variety such as 5H, HB, 2B, 6B
- Rubber Cement/Glue Stick/Elmer’s Glue/Aleene’s Glue/ Super 77 Spray Adhesive
- Erasers, Mars White, Rubber Cement Eraser
- Black, Gray, Lt Gray construction paper
- Ex-acto tool with #11 blades
- Black Sharpie Markers, permanent, varied tips, fine and ultra-fine
- Scissors/ Other Cutting Tools
- Compass
- Small lightbox
- Old magazines
- Portfolio
- Supplier container
- Cutting surface minimum 12”x15” – Self Healing Mat
- 3-4 Mat boards (white; a full sheet approx. 32”x40” - not foam core board which is about ¼ thick)
- Acrylic Paints (Liquitex, Grumbacher, Van Gogh, or Windsor Newton):
  1. Cadmium Yellow (not light, though medium is okay)
  2. Cerulean Blue
  3. Napthol Crimson or a basic red (be careful not to choose a red-orange color)
  4. Titanium White (be careful not to get iridescent)
  5. Mars Black or Jet Black (make sure all paints are not translucent)
- ½” or 1” Flat Paint Brush for Acrylic Paints
- Palette (anything will do such as a pie pan, a piece of foil, a Styrofoam plate or tray
- Container for water
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Drafting Tape or Masking Tape (blue one works best)

Suppliers:
- UTEP Bookstore
- Art Center (10% discount with student ID)
- Craft Stores: Hobby Lobby / Michael’s
- Online

Other Information:
- Locker Sign-Up: Art Department Office (Rm. 350)
In case of an emergency call the Campus Police at 747-5611 or dial 911

**University Policies**

Plagiarism/academic dishonesty statement

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

Disabilities statement

**Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: http://www.utep.edu/dsso
Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY
E-Mail: dss@utep.edu
*This schedule may be subject to change according to the needs and creative activity of the class.

January
- W-21-Classes Begin
- M-26
- W-28
- M-28

February
- W-29
- M-2
- W-4
- M-9
- W-11
- M-16
- W-18
- M-23
- W-25

March
- TR-7-Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University
- M-2
- W-4
- M-9-13-Spring Break (No Classes)
- M-16
- W-18
- M-23
- W-25
- M-30

April
- W-1

M-6-Course drop Deadline
- W-8
- M-13
I have received and reviewed the attached syllabus for this course. I have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and I understand and agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

Name (print) __________________________________________________________

UTEP Student ID# _____________________________________________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________