



## Course Syllabus: Computers For Artists

TR 5:00 pm-7:50 pm

Spring, 2025

### Contact Information

Instructor: Michelle Castro, Assistant Professor

Office: C107 Fain Fine Arts

Office hours: TR 12 pm – 3 pm

Office Phone: (940) 397-2801

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### Course Description

Prerequisite(s): There is no prerequisite for this course.

Introductory studio experience in using the computer as a creative medium.

Emphasizes hands-on software training directed towards the art of visual design and aesthetic expression. Topics include digital imaging, motion graphics, editing, and animation. It will also trace the central role played by computers in the field of the electronic arts, from pioneering efforts to current trends.

### Objectives:

Demonstrate a knowledge of the Macintosh operating system. Define the basic computer terminology used to create computer-generated art. Demonstrate a knowledge of techniques for creating basic designs to supplement and enhance other art mediums. Gain an understanding of scanners and printing processes.

### Companion Web Site:

REQUIRED COMPANION WEB SITE(S):

Access to D2L through the MSU Texas portal.

### Required Materials:

A USB flash drive and an assigned ink cartridge. Paper for your typography project to be printed. Red River: satin or luster paper is recommended.

### Course Requirements:

1. Attendance 10% (Should we move to remote learning, your attendance will be counted through D2L login and access).

2. In-class exercises 15%
3. Artwork and Research 60%
4. Critiques 15%

### Grading

Grading Scale: A=9 to 10, B= 7 to 8, C= 4 to 6, D= 2 to 3, F= 0-1

Evaluation Explanation:

A=Superior work. Excellent development in skill, exploration, and expression.

B=Above average development in skill; exploration and expression.

C=Average work. Meeting the assignment requirements. Recommend greater need for study in academic comprehension and technical skills.

D=Below average performance. Requires greater study to improve academic understanding, perceptual and technical skills.

F=Performance indicates little or no progress in academic understanding, perceptual and technical skills. Quality of work not on level of necessary time and study. Showing little willingness or effort to improve skills.

### Projects

All work is expected to be completed and ready for presentation at the assigned date. It is EXTREMELY important to stay up to date with assignments and projects. Late work is unacceptable. Every effort must be made to turn projects in on time.

YOU are responsible for finding out what work was missed during your absence, and turning in work missed due to an absence. I will not remind you that a project was due during your absence.

IF you are absent on a project due date, and IF you are within the three allowable unexcused absences, work is DUE at the beginning of the next class period attended.

Project I: Indie band poster and cover art

**Velvet Reverie** – A dreamy, poetic vibe perfect for a band with ethereal and emotional melodies.

Project II: Typography Portrait

Project III: Stop Motion

### Critiques

Class critiques are intended to help evaluate the strengths and weaknesses within each project by practicing new vocabulary and design concepts presented in class. They will take place regularly and are designed to encourage the development of your technical and conceptual skills. Your participation and expressing ideas and opinions in critiques are a major part of this course. Missing critique is equivalent to missing an exam and will be penalized via 5% attendance grade reduction.

Critique days will be on: Thurs, 9/30, Thurs, 10/28, Thurs, 12/7

Critiques are MANDATORY and are a grade. In-progress critiques will take place one to two weeks prior to final critiques and are also MANDATORY; note – in-progress critique for your short film will be on Tuesday, 11/30.

### Attendance

Attendance and attitude are influencing factors. You should come to class prepared to work. Attendance is required for the entire class period on the date that you are assigned to be present [either Monday or Wednesday]. Incompletes for the course will only be considered in extreme cases of personal injury or family emergencies.

**You are allowed only 3 absences!** After 3 absences, you run the risk of being penalized via a 10% attendance grade reduction.

### Studio Access and Health and Safety Rules

The computer lab is available for your use whenever scheduled classes are not in session. You must adhere to room capacity and social distancing rules. No more than 8 students are permitted in the lab at any given time and that includes during open lab studio hours. You must follow safety guidelines as stated in the room. That means always WEARING a MASK, making frequent use of the hand sanitizer, and cleaning your keyboard and mouse with the E-26 cleaning spray in the lab before and after use. There will be no eating or drinking in the lab.

IF YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING AFTER CLASS HOURS, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOUR STUDENT ID AND PROOF OF ENROLLMENT IN CLASS IF AN OFFICER ASKS FOR IT. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM AND NEED ASSISTANCE, CALL THE CAMPUS POLICE AT 397-4239.

### Studio Maintenance

General studio clean up will be the last 15 minutes of each class session. Students will maintain discipline in studio safety precautions, maintenance and up keep throughout the semester. The instructor will drop those students not willing to take active part in those goals.

### Health and Safety continued

Department of Art will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the University Health and Safety Program in an effort to maintain a safe academic and working environment.

The mission of the Midwestern State University Counseling Center is to provide opportunities for students to know themselves as individuals, to form deeper relationships with their peers, and to increase their wellness. The staff of the MSU Counseling Center provides these opportunities through individual and group counseling services, consultation, and mental health educational programs focused on key student development issues and reflecting concern for holistic health and wellness. As providers of mental health services to the student population, the staff is guided by the highest professional and ethical standards of their professions. Our personal, academic, and career counseling services are directed towards enhancing the skills which students bring with them to MSU and

encouraging the development of skills which will increase their success both at MSU and beyond.

## **Meeting the Counseling Needs of MSU Students**

### **LOCATION**

Corner of Hampstead and Louis J. Rodriguez Drive

### **Hours of Operation:**

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday

8:00.a.m. to 5:00.p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

**Phone:** 940-397-4618

### Academic Dishonesty and Student Creed

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonest act will be sanctioned appropriately.

Enrollment in this class constitutes an acceptance to adhere to the Student Honor Creed and all other student conduct policies outlined in the university Student Handbook.

[Student-life and Conduct](#)

[Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### Conduct Statement

Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to and including an F. Electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, iPads, personal computers, etc.) are not allowed to be used in class except with the expressed authorization of the instructor. Absolutely no texting will be tolerated. The use of any recording devices or recording media during the class and lectures is strictly prohibited. Students in violation to these rules will be sanctioned at the discretion of the instructor, and penalties may include lowering of the student's grade, up to and including an F, and to include an instructor drop.

**The instructor reserves the right to initiate an instructor drop with a grade or W, WF, or F, as specified in the Student Handbook (see link above) for reasons to include attendance issues, academic performance in the class, indifferent attitude, or disruptive conduct.**

### Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the

financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### College Policies

#### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

#### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

#### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### Covid-19 Pandemic Policy

You must wear a face mask that covers your nose and your mouth in the classroom. C115F is not conducive to maintaining 10 feet of distance from each other. Neck gaiters and face shields are unacceptable. If you do not adhere to this policy, you will be required to leave the classroom. If you forget your mask at home, our art secretary has masks available at her desk.

D2L is an official means of communication and repository for this class's recordings. Please check D2L content and email daily.

Cleaning Protocol: As stated previously, use hand sanitizer before using the E26 spray bottle to clean your keyboard and mouse before and after use.

MSU Coronavirus policies and updates can be found here:  
<https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php>

Social distancing: You must maintain 6 feet of social distance from your peers and faculty in this room at all times.

### Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### Class Structure and Schedule

You will receive demonstration lectures on the day that you meet in person with me. Demos typically last 1.5 hours. We are in class for approximately 3 hours, so the second half of the class will be devoted to studio time where you can ask questions and I can help you individually or as a group. You will be provided instructional handouts for exercises in class and projects. Rubrics will also be provided in advance of each major project. On the day that you are working remotely, you will be able to tune in via Zoom if you'd like to review what you missed or ask questions during studio time.

Critiques are MANDATORY and are a grade. In-progress critiques will take place one week prior to final critiques and are also MANDATORY