



Course Syllabus: Art 1113 - 2D Design
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 pm -5:00 pm; C110
Spring, 2026

Contact Information:

Instructor: Ernest Nsimbe, Assistant Professor

Office: C107 Fain Fine Arts

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm; Thursdays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm; Fridays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, and by appointment. (Email Subject: ART 113 – 2D Design)

Office phone: (940) 397-2801

E-mail: ernest.nsimbe@msutexas.edu

Syllabus Disclaimer

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided in writing and announced via course-wide announcements.

Course Description

This course is designed as a study of the elements and principles of design as they relate to the organization of the two-dimensional surface. The focus of the course is formally based with additional exploration of creative problem-solving techniques, content, and contemporary art issues.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will have executed various abstract, non-objective, and representational designs in value and color, using wet, dry, and digital media. The student will have gained an understanding and appreciation of the formal aspects of 2D compositions and concept

development. The student will be able to describe and analyze designs and images using appropriate terminology. The development of good craftsmanship skills is integral to the course.

Student Expectations

Studio Projects:

- Designs and images that address and illustrate the elements and principles of 2D surface design will be the emphasis of the course.
- All work submitted must be original and created only for this class. Assignments will be collected for grading on their assigned due dates.
- All studio projects will be viewed and discussed by the class. These critique sessions are important
- opportunities to exchange ideas, and should always be considered professional, not personal.
- In-process critiques will be conducted one-on-one during class time and in small groups, leading up to the due date.

Writings and Sketchbooks:

You will be required to keep a sketchbook (approximately 9" x 12") with white, blank pages - no lined paper. This will include thumbnail sketches of projects, as well as visual and/or written responses to exhibitions, articles, studio projects, videos, etc. It is important to keep your sketchbook neat and organized with dates, assignment criteria, and no loose pages.

PLEASE TAKE NOTES always - do not trust your brain to retain new information you passively receive while listening to a lecture.

Homework Environment:

Students should create a studio environment to complete homework. In an ideal studio, a student should be able to work at various distances, heights, and angles from the subject; move away from the work to view it at a distance; control lighting; work at various sizes; and create a desired environment, loud or quiet, bright or dark, etc. Working outside of class is an essential factor in successfully completing this course.

Work Ethic:

Personal motivation and discipline are keys to a student's success in this course. These qualities are demonstrated to me by actions - such as preparation for each class, thoughtful inquiry, involvement in

projects, discussions, and critiques, and the successful resolution of various problems and challenges presented throughout the course. Students should expect to spend at least six hours per week on homework in addition to studio/class time. Further, all work should be stored and transported in a manner that preserves it for critiques and portfolio reviews. Late work will be penalized.

Engagement and Professionalism:

- Actively engage with the material and cultivate curiosity.
- Participate in discussions, ask questions, and show genuine interest.
- Demonstrate professionalism by being punctual, prepared, and organized.
- Take detailed notes, follow instructions carefully, and meet deadlines.
- Embrace revisions as a critical part of the creative process.
- Communicate proactively; for example, if an emergency requires you to take a personal call, notify me in advance.

Class time and conduct.

- Use class time exclusively for activities related to this course, such as sketching, ideation, production, and research.
- Avoid working on assignments for other courses during class hours
- Headphones are allowed during individual work periods to support focus
- Silence your phone and turn off notifications to prevent disruptions
- Be on time (or better yet, be a little early).
- On workdays in class, please set mobile devices to vibrate.
- Please turn off mobile devices during critique, lecture, and presentation days.
- Submit projects neat and orderly and ensure that your name, course number, and project number are included on every single file you submit.
- Digital craft will be stressed throughout the semester. This includes image quality, file organization, and overall presentation for anything submitted (Keynote, PDF, etc.). The understanding is that to complete the assignments well, you will need to spend at least as much time outside of class working as the class is scheduled for in a week. There will be in-class time devoted to troubleshooting, but it will not be enough to complete the assignments satisfactorily. Back up your digital work. Given the current size and affordability of storage devices, there is no excuse for losing digital files. Get in the habit of doing regular back-ups.

Commitment:

Studio Access

Expected Workload: The generally accepted ratio of outside-of-class study and preparation for college-level coursework is two to three times the amount of in-class contact with your professor. Therefore, you should invest 6-10 hours per week outside of class to complete coursework successfully outside of class meetings.

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 cleanup will take place during the last 10 minutes of each class session. Students will maintain discipline in studio safety precautions, maintenance, and upkeep throughout the semester. The instructor will drop those students who are unwilling to actively participate in those goals. Follow the posted lab rules.

Feedback:

You will receive frequent feedback from your instructor and classmates throughout the course. Regular opportunities for self-reflection, evaluation, and discussion will also be provided to support your development.

Process:

For this course, you will be asked to be thoughtful and creative in your approach to your projects. You will also be asked to demonstrate how you arrived at every submission. To do this, you will need to document, collect, and organize your research throughout the entire semester.

This final process documentation will be in printed and digital form. Process documentation will be graded on the thoroughness of the investigation, creativity in approach, and diversity in the exploration. It will contain sketches, storyboards, documentation (images of photos/videos), critical analysis, reflections, observations, research findings, & etc. Everything should be included with intent. This means that the images and texts you've collected include notes and analysis. Do not simply post

pages or content from the web. It will show whether you haven't taken the time to analyze and reflect on what you are including in your research. Save all your processes and keep them organized. When designing a book, it is easy to lose track of your process as you move from one phase of the project to another.

Note: If you incorporate AI-generated content or use AI tools in your project, please disclose this clearly. Be transparent about how the AI was used and include the prompts or instructions you provided to generate the content.

Course standards and instructional methods

We meet twice a week. **PLEASE TAKE NOTES** - do not trust your brain to retain new information you passively receive while listening to a lecture. Active student participation is encouraged through learning activities, including individual and/or collaborative learning, lecture, guided discussion and feedback sessions, student presentations, and personal/group-based exercises and projects. Students should bring all materials they need to work to class. Lack of preparation and preparedness will affect grades. Not following instructions can result in the loss of a full letter grade. Time management is an integral part of any learning process or creative project. Review of student work can take several forms, ranging from wall critiques that engage the entire class at one time to one-on-one Critiques (Crits) or feedback sessions with individual students.

Critiques/presentations

Critiques: Critiques are formal discussions that can happen as group or individual discussions. During a critique, every project will be evaluated. It is essential to bring all research, sketches, notes, ideation, and project development for discussion.

Critiques and presentation skills are a crucial part of the learning environment. Your dialog with your fellow students about your work helps you grow and learn as an artist. The discussions you have about their work help you build your skills to analyze and communicate about the work of others. Attending every critique and being entirely prepared is in your best interest. Class critiques cannot be made up should you be absent. In this class, there will be one-on-one desk critiques, minor group critiques, and full-class critiques at key points throughout the project. During small-group and full-class critiques, everyone involved is expected to participate for the entire time. These will be identified in the project schedule.

During the critique, you will receive a lot of feedback and information in a very short time. It is up to you to determine a method for capturing this information that works best for you. The discussions that

occur during a critique or in a presentation are impossible to recall later, and it is, therefore, recommended that if you do not already have a strategy for this, you should develop one. At a minimum, you should be taking notes. Consider asking another student to take notes for you.

There are two kinds of analysis of student work:

Pin-up Critiques: These informal group discussions use student exercises, projects, and research as touchstones for further exploration. All students participate in a class that looks for common themes and problems, and for examples of successful and unsuccessful solutions. Not every student's work will be discussed. The goal is to generate a group dialogue.

Evaluation

Student work will be reviewed through formal critique evaluations and portfolio reviews. Students will be evaluated according to predetermined requirements for all projects. Individual projects will have a grade weight attached when given to the class.

Learning Activities

- Watch lectures and or other media
- Read D2L instructions and any assigned readings.
- Participate in workshops or exercises.
- Participate in discussions. (group/ small groups, progress reviews, critiques)
- Execute assignments.

Course Materials

Always have the required materials with you. I will specify any additional materials for the assignments. There will be required readings and discussions for everyone in the class. I'll assign readings and discussion topics.

Textbooks:

- **Design Basics 2D and 3D, Pentak, roth, Lauer (recommended)**
- **Introduction to Two-Dimensional Design: Understanding Form and Function (2nd Edition, John Bowers)**
- **Principles of Two-Dimensional Design (1st Edition, Wucius Wong)**

Other materials:

- Folder for handouts anywhere
- Pencils (H) graphite, 2h, HB, 2B, 4B 20421-2020 (**dickblick.com order #**
- Micron or Artline pen 22128-2021 (.1mm) / 22128-2025 (.5mm)
- Sharpie pen anywhere
- Set of Prismacolor (24) 20508-2409
- Kneaded Eraser 21502-2720
- Bristol Board 14 x 11 13307-1015
- Sketchbook, approximately 9 x 12 anywhere
- Blue painter's tape ½ in anywhere
- Ruler, 12” or 16” metal or plastic anywhere
- X-acto knife 57445-1101
- Extra X-Acto blades anywhere
- Scissors anywhere
- Rubber cement 8 oz 23903-1005
- Rubber cement remover 23988-1001
- Container for art supplies anywhere
- Access to a digital camera, color
- Access to digital resources, D2L, and online editing apps
- Padlock anywhere

Grading Summary:

Course Grading

A = 90 –100% B = 80 – 89 % C = 70 – 79% D = 60 – 69% F = 59 % OR LESS

Your final grade will be calculated from all major projects, small studies, and quizzes, and will also factor in attendance, participation, and work ethic. Each project rubric will outline the specific expectations and criteria. For information on how to view your grades, please refer to D2L.

All assignments must be completed and presented in the specified formats on the given due dates. Failure to submit a finished design presentation solution, as specified, will result in an F for that assignment. Assignments will not be accepted after the specified due date and time.

- Attendance 10% (Should we move to remote learning? Your attendance will be counted through D2L login and access.)
- In-class exercises 15%
- Artwork and Research 60%
- Critiques 15%

Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900 - 1000
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Work Submissions:

All work must include digital/ physical submissions, which must be made via electronic file transfer (not email). The following are requirements for digital submissions. Failure to adhere to any of these will result in a project grade deduction:

- artwork must be packaged appropriately (image files, sketches, etc., made available)
- must be submitted via electronic transfer (no thumb-drive submissions)

If your document doesn't open wholly and accurately, it receives a zero. Your folders must be named in the following format: all files in that folder must be named the same, with their appropriate extensions.

For example:

- 1113 - 2D Design_Lastname_projX (outer folder)
- 1113 - 2D Design_Lastname_projX.pdf
- 1113 - 2D Design_Lastname_projX.docx

Any file that does NOT arrive in the correct format will not be accepted. Points will be taken off for each missing or incorrectly formatted item, which could affect your final grade dramatically. **THIS IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE POLICY.** Your final designs will be stored in a digital archive for future

reference. We reserve the right to use these in the future as educational aids in the graphic design program.

Late Work

All work is expected to be completed and ready for presentation at the assigned date. It is essential 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 your absence. I will not remind you that a project was due during your absence. Late work will be counted against one letter grade for each class period after it is due. Ex: An A grade is lowered to B after one period late, after two periods late, the A is lowered to C, etc.

Students should never miss a class critique. Apart from late grades on projects, this counts against overall participation.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a 0 for the project. No exceptions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the student handbook.

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 a greater need for study in academic comprehension and technical skills.

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

Performance indicates little progress in academic understanding, perceptual, and technical skills. The quality of the work is not commensurate with the time and effort required. Showing little willingness or effort to improve skills.

Attendance Policy, Late Grades, and Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in the Juanita and Ralph Harvey School of Visual Arts must comply with the following department-wide Attendance, Absence, and Lateness Policy:

- Students arriving 10 minutes after class begins will be considered late and will be counted absent.
- Three late arrivals count as a single absence.
- Students may be absent from class up to 2 times without penalty or documentation.
- If a student incurs a 4th absence, his or her final course evaluation will be reduced by a full letter grade.
- If a student is absent 5 times, whatever the reason, he or she will receive a failing grade (F) for the course, be dropped from the class roll, and be asked to stop attending class
- Students are required to remain in class for the entire class session. Students will earn an absence if they leave before the professor has dismissed class.
- Excused absences must be brought to my attention prior to the absence, or, if later, the student must have supporting documentation (academic, medical, or family emergency) for excessive absences.
- Students are required to remain in class for the entire class session. Students will earn an absence if they leave BEFORE the professor has dismissed class.

Art Shows

Students must attend 2 art show openings for credit. Attendance must be for a reasonable amount of time (not just to eat food!). Criteria, place, date, times, and other information will be given out in class as the show approaches. If a student does not attend, he or she will turn in a typed paper on a related topic.

Health and Safety

Department of Art will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the University Health and Safety Program 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 are guided by their profession's highest professional and ethical standards. Our personal, academic, and career counseling services are

directed towards enhancing the skills students bring to MSU and encouraging the development of skills that 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. No texting will be tolerated. Using recording devices or media during the class and lectures is strictly prohibited. Students violating these rules will be sanctioned at the instructor's discretion, and penalties may include lowering the student's grade, up to and including an F, and an instructor drop.

The instructor reserves the right to initiate an instructor drop with a grade of 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.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

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 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) exist in determining the refund amount. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request.)

Services for Students with Disabilities

By 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 apply for such assistance through Disability Support Services in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required 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 that prohibit 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.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

COVID-19 Pandemic Policy

You must wear a face mask covering your nose and mouth in the classroom. C115F is not conducive to maintaining 10 feet of distance from each other. Neck gaiters and face shields are unacceptable. You must leave the classroom if you do not adhere to this policy. 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. Please check D2L content and emails 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.

Grade Appeal Process

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