

Topics in Creative Arts and
Performance Studies:

Collage

Syllabus

COURSE DETAILS

NO. ARTS 4301
LEVEL Undergraduate
PREREQ. None
TERM Fall 2025
TIMES TTH, 2-4:45
ROOM Classroom Hall 105

INSTRUCTOR

Sarah Fox
sfox@tamusa.edu
Office Hours:
Friday 10-1 or
by Appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores collage as both a fundamental tool for developing visual language and a dynamic art form in its own right. In the first half of the semester, students will investigate the building blocks of visual art—composition, color, shape, line, texture, and movement—through hands-on cut paper collage. These focused studies will sharpen design skills, encourage intuitive decision-making, and build confidence in formal art principles.

In the second half of the course, students will expand their approach to collage through layered materials, larger formats, and integration with other media such as fibers, painting and drawing. Collage will be examined not only as a method of image-making but as a conceptual practice with a strong presence in modern and contemporary art. Throughout the course, we will also study the rich history of collage, examining key movements and artists—from Dada and Cubism to contemporary practitioners—who have pushed the boundaries of the medium.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the class students will be:

- Familiarized and confident with the building blocks of visual art.
- Able to problem solve and experiment with materials and ways of working.
- Able to articulate your ideas about your work and that of others.
- Able to use collage as a tool for problem solving and idea generating.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The beginning half of the course we will be making smaller, quicker collages that will re-enforce or introduce key visual art elements and principles. The second half of the class will be broken down into two larger projects that push the boundaries of collage as a medium and expand on material use.

Project 1: Line Collages (utilizing our own photography; emphasizing Line/Value/Contrast)
Project 2: Surrealist Color Collages (magazines and books; emphasizing Color/Juxtaposition/Symbolism)
Project 3: Cubist Collages (created collage materials, paper making; emphasizing Composition and Texture)
Project 4: Hybrid Creature Collages (open source images and digital tools; emphasizing Repetition, Pattern, Rhythm)
Project 5: Collaged Zines (collage and drawing materials; emphasizing narrative, text, typography)

Project 6: Story Quilts (fabric, printed images, embroidery)

Project 7: Collage Expanded (material of choice)

ASSESSMENTS

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 10 % Project 1 (100 pts)
- 10 % Project 2 (100 pts)
- 10 % Project 3 (100 pts)
- 10 % Project 4 (100 pts)
- 10 % Project 5 (100 pts)
- 20 % Project 6 (250 pts)
- 20 % Project 7 (250 pts)
- 10 % Critique Participation and Preparedness (100 points, 4 critiques, 25 pts each)

GRADING CRITERIA

- **Projects** are evaluated based on concept, formal qualities, craftsmanship and a demonstration of knowledge of visual art elements and principals. Project will be photographed and turned in online for grading.
- **Critique Participation** grade is based on having the work completed by the start of class, showing up on time, and participation. You must actively give feedback on your peers work and

be willing to hear feedback from your instructor and peers. You will be introduced to several different ways to critique. Be willing to listen to the feedback of your peers and grow your work.

GRADING SCALE

- **A** = 100–90% (Outstanding work, perfect documentation, not only fills the requirements of the project, but pushes past expectations.)
- **B** = 89.99–80% (Good work meeting the minimum requirements. Student demonstrates an average understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts, and puts forth considerable effort. Strong work ethic, average documentation of work.)
- **C** = 79.99–70% (Average work not meeting the minimum requirements of the project. Adequate understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts. Underdeveloped technical skills and minimum innovation, poor documentation and effort.)
- **D** = 69.99–60% (Poor work. Requirements barely met. Student's work shows little understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts. Studio time is not used effectively and student puts forth little effort.)
- **F** = below 60% (Unacceptable work. Requirements for the course are not met; a majority of work has not been completed. Student's work shows minimal or no understanding of techniques, materials and relevant concepts; little or no regard shown for in-class and out-of-class assignments.)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- **utility knife (and extra blades)**
- **small sharp scissors**
- **glue sticks**
- **blue tape**
- **Collage materials**

You will be responsible for bringing in the materials you want to collage with. Start collecting cool things you see. Fabric scraps, magazines, newspaper, paper bags, wrapping paper, old kids books, old text books, but creative.

Great (CHEAP) places to buy collage materials:

[Spare Parts](#)

13491 Wetmore Road
San Antonio, Texas 78247
Open Fri, Sat, Sun

[The Book Cellar](#)

Central Library
600 Soledad Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Open Thurs, Fri, Sat

Goodwill, Salvation Army and other upcycle stores

Half-Priced Books

COURSE POLICIES

EMAIL

When contacting me through email make sure that you provide all the necessary information. Provide me with your name and class, and the specific about name of the assignment or material that you have questions about so that I can accurately answer your questions.

ATTENDANCE

I TAKE ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY DURING THE FIRST 5 MINUTES OF CLASS.

- You will be able to accrue 3 absences without penalty in this class. These absences will not alter due dates. Please talk with your classmates about missed work, or check on blackboard to keep up with any missed content.
- The 4th absence will lower your course grade one full letter grade. Each additional absence will also lower your course grade by one full letter grade.
- Students who accumulate 7 or more absences are strongly advised to drop this course.
- Arriving late 3 times or leaving class early 3 times counts as an absence. If you are late, check in with me to make sure your attendance is recorded.
- Arriving to class unprepared is considered as absent.
- Working on other class materials or not actively participating is considered an absence.
- Attendance is calculated for each day of class meetings. Students enrolling after the first class day are counted absent for the days missed prior to enrollment.

LATE WORK POLICY

Assignments will be **due at the start of class** on their specified date. Every class day it is late is an additional -10 points. If its due on Tuesday, and you turn it in on Thursday, the highest grade you can receive is a 90, if you turn it in the next Tuesday it is a 80, etc.

In extreme cases or under extenuating circumstance I may— at my discretion— offer an extension on an assignment. You will only be granted an extension if you contact me **before its due date**. Be sure to contact me as soon as possible when situations arise that affect your coursework. Early and transparent communication is always valued.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Students are expected refrain from disruptive behavior. This encompasses a number of things including: Making / taking phone calls during Lectures, Demos, Critiques and Group Work
- Texting during Lectures, Demos, Critiques and Group Work
- Insulting or threatening others in face-to-face or remote discussions, lectures, small group work or during open studio time
- Studying for another class during Lectures, Demos, Critiques and Group Work
- Acting erratic, under the influence, and not staying focused on class work during Lectures, Demos, Critiques and Group Work
- Not participating in class activities
- Listening to music without headphones during open studio time

If a student is exhibiting disruptive behavior the instructor will:

- Give the student a warning: Asking the student to stop the disruptive behavior.
- If the disruptive behavior continues the student will be asked to leave the class.
- If the student refuses to leave the classroom the instructor may call campus police to help resolve the issue.

STUDIO CLEAN UP

You are responsible for cleaning up messes you make and required to participate in all-class clean up sessions. Put away tools and materials, clean your area and sweep the floor. We will start clean-up 20 minutes before class ends. Points will be deducted from your projects for leaving messes.

BLACKBOARD

I will use Blackboard to provide you with copies of the syllabus, calendar, and other course materials. This will also be where the most up-to-date grading information will be shared with you. Make sure you regularly check Blackboard for updates.

If you require technical support with your Blackboard account please contact Academic Technologies. Resources for Blackboard help can be found online at: http://www.tamusa.edu/its/student_resources/BlackboardStudentHelp/BbStudentHelp.html

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and

updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs:

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Course Calendar | FALL 2025 (Course Calendar is subject to change)

Week 1 | 8/25: Project 1

Tuesday:

- Syllabus Introduction;
- Project 1: Line Collage Intro
- Using the Printer

Thursday:

- Line Collage Workday

Week 2 | 9/1: Project 2

Tuesday:

- No Class (Use this day to finish your collages and buy collage materials)

Thursday:

- Photographing your work demo
- Project 2: Surrealist Collage Intro and Work Day

Week 3 | 9/8: Project 2 & 3

Tuesday:

- Surrealist Collage Workday

Thursday

- Cubist Collage Intro
- Papermaking Demo

Week 4 | 9/15: Project 3

Tuesday:

- Papermaking and Cubist Collage Workday

Thursday:

- CRITIQUE #1: Line Collage, Surrealist Collage, Cubist Collage

Week 5 | 9/22: Project 4

Tuesday:

- Project 4: Digital Collage Into
- Open Source Materials
- Photoshop Demo

Thursday:

- Digital Collage Workday

Week 6 | 9/29: Project 4 & 5

Tuesday:

- Digital Collage Workday

Thursday:

- Project 5: Collages Zines Intro

Week 7 | 10/6: Project 5

Tuesday:

- Visit the Library's Zine Collection

Thursday:

- Zine Workday

Week 8 | 10/13: Project 6

Tuesday:

- CRITIQUE #2

Thursday:

- Project 6: Story quilt Intro
- Printing Demo

Week 9 | 10/20: Project 6

Tuesday:

- Story Quilt workday
- Sketches and Ideas

Thursday:

- Story Quilt workday
- Demo Fusable Interfacing

Week 10 | 10/27: Project 6

Tuesday:

- Story Quilt workday
- Demo Embroidery Techniques

Thursday:

- Story Quilt workday

Week 10 | 11/3: Project 6

Tuesday:

- Story Quilt Workday

Thursday:

- Story Quilt Workday

Week 11 | 11/10: Project 7

Tuesday:

- CRITIQUE #3

Thursday:

- Project 7: Intro to Collage Expanded

- Sketching Ideas

Week 12 | 11/17: Project 7

Tuesday:

- Collage Expanded Workday

Thursday:

- Collage Expanded Workday

Week 13 | 11/24: Project 7

Tuesday:

- Collage Expanded Workday

Thursday:

- Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 | 12/1: Project 7

Tuesday:

- Collage Expanded Workday

Thursday:

- Collage Expanded Workday

Week 15 | 12/9: FINAL EXAM: CRITIQUE #4

Week 15 | 12/11: LAST DAY TO TURN IN LATE WORK