

Fine Arts Department

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

AR 1101 (A3): 2D Fundamentals- 5 (2.5-0-2.5) 75 Hours for 15 Weeks

Monday and Friday from 11:30 AM to 1:50 PM

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are situated on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land, and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:

J.Garbe

OFFICE: C414

PHONE: N/A

E-MAIL:

JGarbe@nwpolytech.ca

OFFICE HOURS:

M F 10:20 to 11:20

or by

appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: A studio and lecture-based course with emphasis on the foundational principles and elements of 2D composition and design, including an introduction to colour theory. Students will be guided through the exploration of a variety

of 2D mediums, materials, and processes, including safe handling protocols.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: A detailed material list will be provided and discussed in class.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus: Lecture and Studio

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and apply the basic elements of 2D design: line, shape, value, texture, colour, and composition.
- Identify and apply the principles of design: emphasis, repetition, movement, contrast, rhythm, pattern, variety, unity, proportion, and balance.
- Apply foundational colour theory in their work.
- Demonstrate basic skills using a range of 2D art materials and media.
- Show focus, discipline, and professionalism through the timely completion of projects.
- Think creatively and use problem-solving strategies grounded in design elements and principles.
- Follow health and safety protocols when working with 2D materials.
- Contribute constructively to critiques and discussions, demonstrating an understanding of community in the visual arts.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Course Grading Weights

Pencil: Project 1: Line / Emphasis 15%

Pen: Project 2: Line/ Tone/ Repetition/ Pattern 15%

Ink: Project 3: Line/ Shape/ Rhythm/ 10%

Charcoal: Project 4: Line/ Balance/ Movement 15%

Lino: Project 5: Composition/ Reduction / Unity/ Proportion/ Balance 20%

Paint: Project 6: Composition/ Colour/ Texture 25%



GRADING CRITERIA: Will be based on:

1. The level of creativity and craftsmanship demonstrated in all assignments, including sketches and research.
2. The degree of knowledge and understanding of the elements and principles.
3. Your level of enthusiasm, commitment, involvement and flexibility in both studio work and individual/collective critiques establishes participation grade. Detailed guidelines, with mark breakdowns and evaluation criteria, will be reviewed during each project introduction.

Grading Overview

1. Attendance & Participation – 15%

- Arrive on time, be prepared, take notes, and work during class.
- Engage in lectures, discussions, critiques, and group projects.
- Share ideas, explore concepts, and contribute constructively to class activities.
- Attendance at the **Visitor in the Arts speaker series is strongly encouraged.**

2. Sketchbooks & Research – 15% (per assignment, if required)

- Maintain consistent, high-quality sketches, notes, and experimentation.
- Include visual and textual research: thumbnail sketches, preparatory drawings, material studies, readings, and notes.
- Show that final work is derived from sketchbook ideas.
- Demonstrate thoughtful selection of concepts and materials.
- Incorporate research to situate projects in historical and contemporary art contexts.
- Advance knowledge and practice through experimentation and reflection.

3. Assignments – 85%

- Complete 6 assignments (some with multiple sections).
- Include sketches and research unless otherwise specified.
- Present artwork and sketchbooks for **in-class critique**; setup must be done before class begins.
- **Late submissions:** –5% per day, up to 15% maximum.
- **No mid-term or final exams.**

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage. The minimum passing grade is 50%.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: A detailed Course Schedule and Assignment timeline will be given during class.

COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Late Work:** -5% per day (MyClass timestamp).
- **Critiques:** Work must be hung at **56" to center** before class.
- **Attendance:** -5% for unexcused absences; -5% for leaving early without prior arrangement.
- **Participation:** Deductions for quality of engagement, phone use, not taking notes, or disengagement during demos/discussions.
- **Demos:** Questions at the end only, please; demos are **not repeated**—students must catch up through classmate notes/photos.
- **Plagiarism:** Serious misconduct; referred to the Student Misconduct Office.
- **Notes & Visual Journals:** Must include project briefs, demo notes, reference images, image diary, and critique notes.

Student Responsibilities

- Arrive prepared and set up before class; be ready for lectures and demos.
- If late, catch up with classmates; if absent, email the instructor within 24-48 hours.
- Maintain clean, respectful use of studio space, materials, and shared areas.

- Consult the technician if unsure about safety when the instructor is absent.
- Complete **minimum 3 hours of outside work per week**.
- Headphones allowed during work time, but you must hear instructions; **no videos** during class.
- **No AI use** unless permitted in project guidelines.
- Check **email and MyClass** regularly for course updates.

Professionalism

- Communicate respectfully and professionally with peers, instructor, and support staff in all course-related interactions.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: All Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.