

## **ARTS 2381: Introduction to Sculpture, Spring 2013**

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**Class Hours/Location** Thursday 4:00pm-6:45 pm, AS 1.110 Sculpture Studio

**Office Hours** By appointment

**Course Pre-requisites** No Pre-requisites

### **Course Description**

The student will be introduced to various materials (wood, foam core, cardboard, clay, plaster, plastic, fabrics, etc.) and techniques used to manipulate those materials. They will be encouraged to experiment and explore the vast possibilities of art in real space through assignments that allow individual interpretation. This course will focus on idea development, using both traditional and nontraditional materials. It will emphasize conceptual reasoning and consideration of material choice, craft, form, space, site, presentation, and context. It will provide a forum for the discussion and exploration of sculptural practices, and the possibilities made available by such an expansive field.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Develop and encourage individual creative interests and conceptual skills
- Discuss and explore the traditional definition of “sculpture” and the many forms it takes in contemporary art practices
- Discuss an artwork’s content and context, how materials contain meaning, and the ways in which sculpture interacts with the viewer and space
- Gain an understanding of the basic elements of sculpture: mass, space, movement, texture, line, plane, volume and scale.
- Gain an understanding of conceptual art, time-based art, and installation art
- Acquire skills in a wide range of techniques and materials including found-object manipulation, mold making and casting, assemblage, wood construction, site-specific installation and fabric sculptures.
- Understand and abide by safe studio and shop practices

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Success in a studio art class is dependent upon your participation in the studio activities and interaction with other students. Skill and knowledge is acquired as much by doing and participating as it is by reading and responding. This cannot occur if you are not in class. Therefore, three or more absences will result in the lowering of your grade by one full letter (i.e. an A drops to a B, a B to a C, etc.). If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and what you need to prepare for the next class. If you have missed a class, first check the class blog for project updates and information. Secondly, contact a classmate and/or myself to find out what you missed in class and

how to prepare for the upcoming class. Emergency absences including health, family, weather and/or transportation difficulties may be discussed with me.

### **Lateness**

If you are more than 10 minutes late to arrive or 10 minutes early to depart, you are considered tardy. If you are tardy for class three times, you will be assigned an absence (six times late equals 2 absences, etc.). If you arrive 30 minutes or more late to class or depart 30 minutes before class ends, you will receive a partial absence at my discretion.

### **Critiques**

At the completion of a project, we will have a group discussion about the work. Despite the title, critique sessions are not intended to be forums for demeaning analysis or unhelpful feedback. They are meant to assist you in your creative development by providing focused opportunities for you to talk about concept, process and intention behind your work, and for your fellow classmates (and myself) to share our opinions, insights and assistance. Additionally, critiques provide the opportunity to practice bridging the gap between verbal language and visual language. This is an acquired skill. A successful critique is a participatory experience, not a solo enterprise. Attendance is critical; missed critiques cannot be made up.

### **Class Blog**

The class blog will be your main source for all class-related content and requirements including written descriptions of class assignments as well as information, images and links to the works of artists that relate to your sculptural undertakings. I hope this will be a source of creative inspiration and a catalyst for your own research. The blog also provides an accessible forum for students to ask questions about classwork and/or share links to sculptors and installation artists that you are interested in. I will create and manage the content; it is your responsibility to visit the blog regularly.

### **Personal Blog**

Please create a blog for this class using the Blogger platform. This is a fairly straightforward process. Accept the invitation to the class blog and look for instructions as to how to start your own. This will be the site for turning in written assignments, digital documentation of your projects and related research in the form of links and images.

### **Notebook/sketchbook**

You will be expected to conduct research during the planning phase of each project. This research should be housed in your sketchbooks and can include written ideas, thought-provoking quotes, sketches, collage and the like. Think of your sketchbook as a depository for all of your sculpture/art-related idea generation this term.

### **Project Documentation**

Documentation is an important aspect of art making and will be a crucial component to this class. Most often, a viewer will not be able to travel to see an artist's work in person in a gallery or museum, but will instead see an image of it in a book or on the Internet. A work of art can also be time-based, which means that it is impermanent in nature. Because of this, it is important for work to be well documented, in order for it to exist beyond the limits of a specific place and time. You will be required to document each assignment in a digital format that is appropriate for your project. Different types of documentation options will be reviewed in class, such as written text,

images or video. You will need to post your project documentation to the class blog before the following class. I will discuss this in greater detail before the critique process begins.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Grades will be based on completed projects (effort towards objective, level of attention and care, creative application and aptitude), your personal sketchbook or blog, and class participation (enthusiasm, investment, presence) including your involvement in class critiques. Lack of respect for studio rules and cleanliness will adversely affect your grade.

Personal Blog and Sketchbook: 20%

Projects 1-4: 60%

Participation and Attendance: 20%

### **Supplies**

At the beginning of each project, I will post a list of materials necessary for the completion of that project on the blog. Some supplies will be specific and mandatory; others will be open to your interpretation and preference. Supplies will include art materials, tools and safety equipment.

### **Textbooks**

No required texts. Required readings will be posted on eLearning and linked to the blog.

### **Electronic Devices**

Smartphones are allowed in class, but are not to be used for phone calls and texts except for emergency purposes. If you need to step out of class to for a personal call, let me know. Camera phones will be helpful (but are not necessary) for photodocumentation of source material and completed projects. On project work days, you can use earphones to listen to music while you work as long as it does not disrupt the class or inhibit you from participating fully.

### **Policies**

[www.go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies](http://www.go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies)

### **CLASS STRUCTURE**

\*A detailed schedule and homework assignments will be discussed in class on a weekly basis. This schedule may change according to class needs.

#### **Week 1 1.17.13**

*In class:* course overview, introductions, syllabus, about the blog, course expectations

*Homework:* accept blog invite, check blog daily, read (see eLearning for two pdfs: Form, and Soft Sculpture 1&2) +written blog response, collect Project 1 supplies.

#### **Week 2 1.24.13**

*In class:* **Introduce Project 1: Soft Monochromes: Reconstructing form** + slide review, demonstration, work day

*Homework:* Progress on Project 1, deconstruction/reconstruction, document process through photographs and/or writing or drawing. Check blog for applicable posts.

#### **Week 3 1.31.13**

*In class:* Project 1 continued, work day, individual consultations

*Homework:* complete Project 1: deconstruction/reconstruction and object collection, document process. Check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 4** 2.7.13

*In class:* **Project 1 DUE, beginning of class. Critique 1 + documentation.**

*Homework:* post documentation of Project 1 to blog. Project 2 prep: reading + blog post.

**Week 5** 2.14.13

*In class:* **Introduce Project 2, Towers and Reservoirs: Making a Mini-City**

*Homework:* Buy/collect supplies + Project 2 progress: research, test, make, document

**Week 6** 2.21.13

*In class:* Project 2 workday

*Homework:* Project 2 continued. Check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 7** 2.28.13

*In class:* Project 2 workday, individual consults

*Homework:* Project 2 continued. Check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 8** 3.7.13

*In class:* **Project 2 DUE, beginning of class. Critique 2 + documentation**

*Homework:* post documentation of Project 2 to blog. Project 3 prep: reading + blog post.

**SPRING BREAK** 3.10-3.16

*Watch:* *Between the Folds and Rivers and Tides*

**Week 9** 3.21.13

*In class:* **Introduce Project 3: Object Identity, Investigating Surface** + slide review, materials list, demonstration

*Homework:* buy supplies, Project 3 progress: research and documentation. Check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 10** 3.28.13

*In class:* Project 3 workday, individual consults

*Homework:* Project 3 continued, research, make, document, check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 11** 4.4.13

*In class:* **Project 3 - DUE, beginning of class. Critique 3 and documentation**

*Homework:* post Project 3 documentation to blog, Project 4 prep: reading and blog post

**Week 12** 4.11.13

*In class:* **Introduce Project 4: Sites of Tension-Exploring Installation and site specificity** + slide review; materials list, demonstration, work period

*Homework:* buy supplies, Project 4 progress, research and documentation. Check blog for applicable posts.

**Week 13** 4.18.13

*In class:* Project 4 work period

*Homework:* Project 4 progress

**Week 14** 4.25.13

*In class:* Project 4 work period, individual consults

*Homework:* Project 4 completion

**Week 15** 5.2.13

*In class:* Project 4 work period, individual consults

*Homework:* Project 4 completion

**Week 16 FINAL EXAM Thursday 5.9, 5-7:45pm**

*In class:* **Project 4 – DUE, beginning of class. Critique 4 and documentation**

*Homework:* Post documentation to blog, studio clean up

**ART related LINKS**

<http://sculpture-center.org/>

<http://www.glasstire.com>

<http://www.pbs.org/art21/index.html>

<http://www.artruby.com>

<http://www.contemporaryartdaily.com>

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/arts/>

<http://brooklynrail.org/>

<http://www.dallasmuseumofart.org/index.htm>

<http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/>

<http://www.artinamericamagazine.com/>

<http://dailyserving.com/>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/arts/>

**SUPPLIES**

*Art supplies online:*

[Dickblick.com](http://Dickblick.com)

[Pearlpaint.com](http://Pearlpaint.com)

[Utrechtart.com](http://Utrechtart.com)

*Local Art stores:* [Asel Art Supply](#), Michaels, Hobby Lobby

*Misc tools, supplies:* Joanns Fabrics, Home Depot, Lowes, Elliots Hardware