

ARTS 2381: Introduction to Sculpture, Fall 2014

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Class Hours/Location Thursday 4:00pm-6:45 pm, AS 1.110 Sculpture Studio (bottom floor of Art Barn)

Office Hours By appointment, Mondays and Thursdays

Course Pre-requisites No Pre-requisites

Course Description

Students will be introduced to a variety of sculptural materials (including paper, clay, plaster, rubber, wood, fabric and found objects) and techniques (including folding, sewing, carving, mold-making, casting, assemblage and beginning woodworking). Throughout the course we will explore the physical nature and the associated meanings of the material world around us. By way of traditional and inventive methods students will create stand-alone objects and in-situ works. This course will focus on developing and materializing ideas through matter—using it and the knowledge of your hands as a mode of thought. In each project you will consider materials and meaning, form, context, process and presentation. The course will provide definitions and demonstrations of a variety of basic sculpture techniques as well as a forum within which to discuss and explore a variety of contemporary sculptural practices.

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, materials used and their associated meanings, and the ways in which sculpture interacts with the viewer and space
- Gain an understanding of the basic elements of 3D design: mass, space, movement, texture, line, plane, volume and scale
- Gain an understanding of the basic principles of 3D design: harmony, variety, rhythm, emphasis, continuity and balance
- Accrue a list of your ‘creative kin’: a network of artists that inspire and inform your own art making pursuits
- Acquire the skills and techniques needed to construct found-object assemblage, plaster molds/casts, wood constructions, soft sculptures and site-specific installations (time permitting).
- Learn, understand and abide by safe studio and shop practices

Attendance

Although attendance is not required at UTD, your presence in my class is essential. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class period. Success in a studio art class is dependent upon your participation in studio activities and your interaction with other students. This cannot occur if you miss class. 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. First, check eLearning for project updates and information. Second, contact a classmate for missed content. Lastly, contact me. Absences related to health, family or weather related emergencies will be taken into consideration when grading.

Lateness

Please arrive on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late or if you leave class more than 15 minutes early, it counts as a tardy. Three tardies equals an absence.

Critiques

At the completion of each project, there will be a group discussion about completed works. Critique sessions are intended to provide helpful, analytical feedback. They are meant to assist you in your creative development by providing an opportunity for you to articulate your process of ideation, your creative intentions, methods of construction, issues of craftsmanship and presentation related to your work and to the work of your peers. Critiques provide a forum in which 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. **Missed critiques cannot be made up.**

eLearning

All course content and online discussion will be communicated through eLearning. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the functionality of eLearning to ensure that you are able to meet the requirements and deadlines for this course.

Project Documentation

Today, art work documentation is an important aspect of art making and will be a requirement in this class. Each student will need access to a digital camera to document process and final product. Specific requirements will accompany the introduction of each project.

Grading and Evaluation

Grades are based on class participation, the timely fulfillment of assignments (reading, writing, critiques, sculpture and eLearning), creative application and aptitude, effort towards objective and level of attention and care. Lack of respect for studio rules and cleanliness will adversely affect your grade. Improper or careless use of shop property and power tools will negatively affect your grade.

eLearning Content: 20% (reading/writing/research assignments)

Sculpture Projects 1-4: 60% (completion, creativity, craft)

Participation: 20% (determined by attendance record and critiques)

Supplies

At the beginning of each project, I will post a list of materials necessary for the completion of that project on eLearning. Some supplies will be specific and mandatory; others will be open to your creative preference. Supplies will include art materials, tools and safety equipment which can be found at local art, craft or hardware stores.

Textbooks

The Sculpting Techniques Bible: an Essential Illustrated Reference for Both Beginner and Experienced Sculptors

ISBN-10: 0785821422

This reference can be found for less than \$10 on Half.com or Amazon.com

other readings will be posted on eLearning

Electronic Devices

Smartphones are allowed in class, but are not to be used for phone calls or texting while class is in session. Phones can be used with headphones to listen to music during studio time; camera phones will be helpful for photo documentation.

Policies

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.

INTRODUCTION: Terminology and Safety

Week 1

In class: course overview, introductions, syllabus, eLearning, elements and principles powerpoint

Homework: Review and study 3Dterms/ Elements and Principles of Design, review power point images, digital

documentation of elements in the world, read *Artist Beware* chapters 1 and 6, +written response, buy safety supplies and tools, order textbook.

PAPER: Understanding the Elements and Principles

Week 2

In class: Shop safety and power tool demonstration with SP, E and P quickie project with paper/cardboard, tape, staples, string, twine.

pin up collected images, discuss cardboard constructions based on elements and principles.

Homework: read pdfs The Shape of Content, Ben Shahn + written response, buy materials for project 1, review power point images for project 1.

Week 3

In class: review constructions, introduce project 1 + sewing and fabric construction techniques demonstration

Homework: buy/collect supplies, read soft sculpture pdf, research a related artist

FABRIC: Found Materials and New Meanings

Week 4

P1: Soft Monochromes

In class: P1 workday, individual consultations

Homework: continue P1, document process.

Week 5

In class: P1 workday

Homework: finish Project 1 and document.

Week 6

In class: **P1 critique** + Introduce P2

Homework: Buy/collect P2 supplies + reading: plaster/clay

PLASTER and CLAY: Investigating mass and volume

Week 7

P2: Making a Mini-City

In class: P2 demonstrations and workday (plaster mixing and casting + carving, filing, sanding techniques)

Homework: Project 2 continued (subtractive form)

Week 8

In class: P2 workday (subtractive form) + demo additive forms using clay molds, individual consults

Homework: P2 continued (finish subtractive and continue additive)

Week 9

In class: P2 workday (complete subtractive and additive forms), individual consults

Homework: critique prep + reading TBD

Week 10

In class: **P2 Critique** + Introduce Project 3

Homework: Buy/collect P3 supplies + reading wood working, TBD

WOOD: Investigating shape and surface

Week 11

In class: Introduce **P3: Materializing shadows**

slide review, materials list, demonstrations, safety

Homework: buy supplies, Project 3 research and planning.

Week 12

In class: P3 workday, individual consults

Homework: Project 3 continued

Week 13

In class: P3 workday, individual consults

Homework: P3 continued

Week 14: P3 workday, final consults

Homework: P3 completed, prep for critique

Week 15:

In class: **P3 Critique** + final 'exam' prep

Homework: exam prep, reading: contemporary practices

Week 16:

FINAL: Course review, contemporary practices discussion, shop clean up

SUPPLIES

Dickblick.com

Utrechtart.com

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

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