

jARTS 2381: Introduction to Sculpture, Fall 2016

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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, molding, sewing, carving, casting, mold-making, and assemblage). 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 wall hung reliefs, 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 their associated meanings, form, context, process and presentation. The course will consider traditional modernist form as well as what Rosalind Krauss called 'sculpture in the expanded field'. This course will provide demonstrations of a variety of basic sculpture-making techniques, time for hands on practice and a forum in which to discuss the project outcomes.

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, volume, line, plane, texture, shape and color
- Gain an understanding of the basic principles of 3D design: harmony, variety, rhythm, emphasis, continuity, balance and repetition
- Acquire the skills and techniques needed to construct found-object assemblage, silicone molds and plaster casts, wood constructions, soft sculptures and site-specific installations (time permitting).
- Learn, understand and abide by safe studio and shop practices

Attendance

Your presence 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. 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.

Lateness

Please arrive on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late or leave 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 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

Each student will need access to a digital camera to document your work.

Grading and Evaluation

Grades are based on class participation, the timely fulfillment of assignments, 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: 15% (reading/writing/research)

Sculpture Projects 1-4: 65% (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 (optional)

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

A Sculpture Reader: Contemporary Sculpture Since 1980

From University of Washington Press and the International Sculpture Center, publisher of *Sculpture* magazine

Electronic Devices

Smartphones will be helpful for some class projects including research and documentation. Please silence phones during class hours and use them respectfully.

Policies

www.go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies

CLASS STRUCTURE

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

Week 1 INTRODUCTION, Terminology, Safety, Elements and Principles and additive

constructions

Week 1

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

Homework: Review 3Dterms worksheet with emphasis on the Elements and Principles of Design, review prezi and take notes. Watch John Cleese video and take notes in sketchbook. Purchase basic materials: new/sharp scissors, masking tape (1" and 2"), 1 box cutter, particle masks, disposable gloves (5-10 pairs), solo (or plastic) cups (10 or more), plastic spoons (for mixing), graphite pencils, 1 sharpie, a sketchbook (approximately 9x12"). Collect studio clothing: an apron or button down shirt, sturdy shoes, hair ties, pants.

Project 1: IDENTITY SHIFT

To prepare for our first project, please purchase or collect 5-6 commercial containers or everyday objects. These will be used (and possibly abused in the project so don't expect to get them back-you're donating them to Art). Think of everyday consumer containers or packaging. Things like gallon milk jugs, old phone cases, water bottles, take out food containers, peanut butter jars (plastic), liter drink containers, makeup cases, old appliances, etc. Get industrious! It is important that you find/buy/collect objects that are varied in size/shape/mass. Do this this week.

Step 2: Make a pencil or pen drawing of each object from at least two perspectives in your sketchbook. Use one page per object. Don't worry about how well you can draw. Just study the objects one at a time and do your best to make a line drawing that describes its shape, contour and form. You can draw labels onto your drawings or leave them off. This process should take no less than 30 mins per object (but possibly more). Put your name on the back of each drawing and bring them and your objects into our next class. They can be left in your sketchbook.

Week 2 Elements and Principles/Sculpture terminology + group work: repetition, mass and line

In class: Review E and P and powerpoint. Small group project: repetition, mass and line. Due next week.

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 Introduction to Soft Sculpture Project

In class: review group constructions, introduce project 1 + sewing and fabric construction techniques and demonstrations, read, research, draw, plan.

Homework: buy/collect supplies (asap), research a related artist and begin

Week 4 Soft Sculpture II

In class: studio workday, individual consultations and trouble shooting

Homework: continue P1, document as you go.

Week 5 Soft Sculpture III

In class: P1 workday

Homework: finish Project 1 and document.

Week 6 Soft Sculpture Critique

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

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

Week 7 Project 2: Making a Mini-City I

subtractive PLASTER carving: small carved works that reference public sculpture and architecture.

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

Homework: Project 2 continued (subtractive forms)

Week 8 Project 2: Making a Mini-City II

In class: P2 workday (subtractive forms) + individual consultations

Homework: P2 continued (aim to complete subtractive forms)

Week 9 Project 2: Making a Mini-City III

In class: P2 workday (begin additive forms) additive technique demonstration and work time.

Homework: continue additive forms

Week 10 Project 2: Making a Mini-City IV

In class: work day. complete additive forms, discuss color, texture, pattern and surface additions, slide

review: color, texture, pattern

Homework: Buy/collect supplies for additive color and alter works

Week 11 Project 2: Making a Mini-City V Color/texture/pattern

In class: complete additive color and surface additions, quick clay casts

Homework: complete additive forms and demold plaster casts

Week 12 Project 2 Critique

In class: critique and intro Project 3

Homework: collect supplies, review artists, research and planning

Week 13 Project 3 Wood construction and assemblage

In class: P3 shop safety, power tool demos and tests, workday and individual consults

Homework: P3 continued

Week 14: Project 3 Wood construction and assemblage II

In class: workday

Homework: continue P3

Week 15: Project 3 Wood construction and assemblage III

In class: workday

Homework: complete P3 and prepare for final critique

Week 16: FINAL CRITIQUE: discussion and 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