Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to the basic tenets and techniques of sculpture. The works completed in this class will demonstrate understanding of three-dimensional form and a knowledge of various sculptural materials. Students will engage in making artworks using a variety of media and construction techniques. Students will explore how the formal elements of sculpture influence meaning through the discussion of their artworks and the artworks of others during critique. This class will also allow the development of students’ individual interests by allowing choices regarding the subject matter of each project.

Course Goals and Objectives

After taking this course, students will:

• Become familiar with the physical nature of each material and its possibilities
• Develop competency regarding construction methods and techniques
• Develop artwork around their own individual interests through choosing the subject matter of each project
• Learn how formal elements of sculpture work to create meaning and produce affective states
• Have a greater appreciation for the larger world of art

Class Components:

Studio Exercises The surest (and only) way to learn to make is by making. This course will focus heavily on the physical production of sculptural objects to develop technical and perceptual skills. Each class period is an extremely important time for each student. It is crucial that every person be present and on time in order to receive instructions for the class. Classroom exercises are invaluable learning opportunities for students to receive one-on-one instructions from myself as well as engaging and consulting with classmates. This will also involve guided, hands-on tutorials for each new method of construction.

Studio Projects There will be four projects throughout the duration of the course. Each project will introduce students to a different sculptural material. Projects will take a couple weeks to complete and will require check-in times during each class session. These will result in a finished sculpture that showcases the student’s skill and effectiveness in communicating through each media using three-dimensional form. These projects will require extensive periods of time, including time outside of class meetings throughout several weeks.

Critique Once projects are finished, a critique day is scheduled. Critiques are class sessions where each student presents his or her finished sculptures to the class. The student will explain the process
of creating the work and talk about the choices they made along the way. This part of class is one of the most important aspects of this course since this is where students begin to learn how to interpret art and how meaning is made through the work of art. Group participation and engagement is essential.

Research Project

In order to provide a context for each student to begin to view their own sculptural practice, and to become more aware of the various approaches to art making in the field of sculpture, a research project will be completed to introduce students to artwork and artists within the realm of modern and contemporary sculpture. This will take the form of an oral presentation with slides presented on a screen.

TBA Projects

Other projects may be assigned based on the evolution of the individual interests of the class, or in the case of changes in class format due to COVID-19.

Attendance

Attendance is very important in art studio classes. Each week we meet to check up on each other’s work and make progress on the current project. Therefore, class attendance is required. Each student is allowed two absences throughout the duration of the semester. Absences exceeding two will result in a 2% final grade reduction per day missed. These absences should be reserved for unforeseen emergencies or illnesses. Absences may be excused due to prolonged illness either related to COVID-19 or other, religious holidays, or other extreme or unusual circumstances defined by the university. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in these cases.

Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. A student arriving to class more than 10 minutes late will receive half an absence for the class period. Similarly, leaving the studio before I have dismissed the class will be recorded as half an absence. Any student who misses information, directions, or assignments due to tardiness or absence will be responsible for attaining this information by contacting either myself or consulting with classmates. If you become unable to attend class due to COVID-19 related issues, you will be provided with the adequate information, time, and materials required to complete all missed content.

I understand that this attendance policy will need to be flexible in the event that either a student (or students) or myself become ill due to COVID-19. We will assess these as they come. I will provide ample time and space for any make-up work a student requires if they become too sick to attend class.

Important Dates:

Aug. 19 - First day of class
Sept 8 - Wire project Due/Critique (Tuesday)
Oct. 1 - Plaster Project Due/Critique (Thursday)
Oct. 6 - Midterm
Oct. 22 - Clay Project Due/Critique (Thursday)
Oct. 27-29 - Research Project Presentations
Nov. 24 - Final Project Due/Critique (Tuesday)
Grading

Factors that will influence the final grade:

- Proper execution of sculptural techniques
- Full completion of all assignments
- Effective use and handling of materials
- Overall work habits, attitude and preparedness
- Participation in critiques and discussions

**Like all art classes, grading will seem somewhat subjective, however the class will be working on specific techniques and measurable results. Grading will be determined by how well one demonstrates understanding and progress in the use of the techniques involved. Not everyone will be at the same level, therefore a significant amount of each grade will be based on marked improvement and apparent effort.

Standards for letter grades

A = Excellent. Outstanding work; significant progress shown; strong work ethic, strong compositional and technical skills; active and consistent participation in all discussions and critiques

B = Above Average. Strong work; extra effort demonstrated; moderate improvement; good work ethic; consistent participation in all discussions and critiques

C = Average. Fulfilled requirements of the assignments with no remarkable distinction in studio work; some progress; passable work ethic; limited participation in discussions and critiques

D = Inadequate: Requirements not appropriately met; no progress; poor work ethic; no participation in discussions and critiques

F= Grossly Inadequate: Multiple inadequacies.

A: 93-100  B: 83-86  C: 73-76  F: below 60
A-: 90-92  B-: 80-82  C-: 70-72
B+: 87-89  C+: 77-79  D: 60-69

* If you are unhappy with your grade on an assignment, you will be given the opportunity to rework it to achieve a higher grade. Late assignments will receive an "F" unless authorized in advance by consultation.

Grading Percentages

85% - Completed Studio Projects (This is comprised of four equally weighted projects)
10% - Participation (attitude, work ethic, punctuality)
5% - Completed Research Presentation

Materials

The materials listed here will be provided for each student through Dick Blick. Supplies are included in the studio fee for this class: $130.

** Subject to Change: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Due to COVID-19 deviations may be necessary and adequate notification of any changes will be provided in a timely manner.

Look up these artists' sculptures!  Alberto Giacometti, Frank Stella, Alexander Calder, Alina Szapowcznikow, Eva Hesse, Claus Oldenburg, Aaron Curry, Pablo Picasso, Thornton Dial, Lonny Holley, Toby Ziegler, Doug Jeck, Berlinde de