Arts-4304-001 Advanced Sculpture
Spring 2012-
MW 6:30-9:20, CA 116
Professor Jack Gron
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phone: 825-3473 - hours-by appointment

Course Description

At this advanced level of sculpture, the individual direction of each person is emphasized. A strong body of work preparing the students for graduate school or other professional arenas as an artist and educator is the objective. In this area, the professional aspects of the sculptural experience, quality of the work, concept, content and consistency from piece to piece is important. Also of utmost importance is the completion of work. Finishing pieces allows the artist the ability to reflect upon decision-making processes in the building of sculptural form. Unfinished work does a tremendous disservice in the growth and learning experience. The method by which I deal with students is a one on one individualized problem solving style, so I expect a continuous dialogue over the semester. Remember that you will be expected to maintain a high level of productivity and quality of work. Ideas and the ability to articulate them verbally are crucial in the understanding of self-expression. I expect all students to participate actively during critiques in a lively and intelligent fashion.

Student Learning Outcomes

In successfully completing this course, students through their finished work will;

- demonstrate an understanding of advanced principles of three dimensional compositions and the ability to apply these to a specific aesthetic intent.

- confirm a comprehension of the formal language of three dimensional design and composition in defense of their work.

- demonstrate an advanced expertise in the processes of sculpture.

These competencies will be measured and evaluated over the course of the semester through regular formal critiques and culminating in the final critique at the end of the term.
Policy

1. You are responsible for furnishing your own materials. Wax, plaster, sand, foundry resin and some aluminum will be provided.
2. You need your own basic tool kit, respirator, safety glasses, boots, and work clothes. Making a commitment to these items also signals that you are serious in your training as a sculptor. Anyone not following the safety protocol will be asked to either leave or change into proper attire.
3. Mark all of your tools and materials with your name.
4. Clean up after you are finished working. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of the final grade.
5. Return all tools and remove all pieces in progress from tables and blocking the work areas. Failure to comply in this area will result in me throwing your stuff out the door.
6. **Sketchbooks are required** for everyone in the class. I will ask to see sketches of your ideas routinely so be prepared. Carry your book with you at all times and use it!

*Drawing is highly important in making art and I expect everyone to draw constantly.*

Course Expectations

You are expected to arrive at your own imagery and conceptual direction. I am here to help you solve problems and to direct you, so please take advantage of my expertise.

All finished work must be removed from the studio promptly after each critique. All materials and work must be removed from the studio after the final critique at the end of the semester. All lockers must be emptied of their contents before the end of finals week. Any thing left past this time will be thrown away.

- Safety policies and procedures will be routinely discussed and distributed throughout the semester.
- You must be present for all safety orientations, demonstrations, or workshops.
- **You must be present to load and unload the kiln and to cast your work (no exceptions!)**
- *You must clean-up and return all tools to their proper locations prior to leaving class.*
- There will be **3 critiques** in the semester with **finished work only** to be reviewed. **4 pieces** from each student is the requirement for a semester’s effort.
Grades

80% of the final grades will be determined by the quality of work that is produced and presented, complete and on time. The remaining 20% will be determined thusly, 10% by, class participation and 10% attendance. For every class period that work is turned in late a drop of one letter grade will result for that piece.

Arrive on time!! The beginning of each class will be reserved for lectures, demonstrations and discussion of ideas and the solving of problems. You are free afterwards to work on your sculpture. Leaving class to secure materials is a loss of valuable working time, so make suitable plans and be prepared to devote the entire class to making sculpture.

I am here for everybody's benefit. I am pro-student and will do everything within my power to help you succeed, but I expect everyone to do their part.

Communication is the key, so if there are any problems regarding anything talk to me.

Assignments

1. Opposing Forces- Mixed media Assignment- -focus upon fasteners and three separate materials

2. Object reassembly-sheet metal fabrication

3. Obsessive-Compulsive- explore the use of multiples in this composition open materials

4. Kinetics-explore movement in 3-D form
Detailed assignment sheets will be distributed prior to beginning onto the next project.

5. Open Assignment-construct a freestanding sculpture of your design and approach
Suggested Reading- The Sculptural Idea by James J. Kelly
Sculpture Magazine, Art in America, Art Forum

Have a great semester and GET TO WORK!!!
January 31  finishing stages of first assignment
February 2  First Critique- distribution of next assignment
February 7  welding demonstration-safety lecture- practice
February 9  begin studio work
February 14  continue with studio practice
February 16  Critique of 2nd project. distribute next assignment
February 21  demonstration/lecture
February 23  studio practices
February 28  continue studio practices
March 1    continue studio practices
March 6    finish projects
March 8    Critique of 3rd project
March 12-16 Spring Break
March 20  lecture-demonstration on 4th assignment
March 22  studio practices
March 29  continue studio practices
April 3    continue working
April 5    finishing projects
April 10  Critique of 4th project
April 12  lecture-demonstration of final project
April 17  studio practices
April 19  continue studio practices
April 24  continue studio practices
April 26  continue studio practices
May 1  begin finishing of project
May 3    project wrap-up
May 8    Critique of 5th project

*Because Art Studios use materials and tools that could be dangerous, safe and cooperative behavior by students is absolutely necessary. The instructor will be the ultimate judge of cooperative as well as safe and unsafe behavior. The instructor will caution individuals engaging in uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior one time. If a second occasion of this behavior occurs, that student will be un-enrolled from the course and given a “WD” with no refund of tuition and fees.
Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 1, 2011 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

*** Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Suggested reading- The Sculptural Idea-James J Kelly
Sculpture Magazine
Art in America
Art News
Art Forum