This course is designed to enable the Master of Fine Arts student to develop superior sculpture proficiency, to demonstrate expertise in sculpture studio practices and to build a body of work that ultimately will be the foundation for his/her thesis exhibition. At this graduate level of sculpture, the individual conceptual direction of each person is demanded. A strong body of work preparing the students for their professional pursuits as an artist and/or 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**

Upon successful completion of this Masters of Fine Arts studio sculpture course students will:
- display a proficiency in processes, materials and techniques related to their specific sculptural idiom.
- demonstrate a level of professional competency and depth of knowledge and achievement through their sculptural work.
- exhibit a mature and individualized direction in the conceptual content in their pre thesis creative research.
These outcomes will be measured and assessed throughout the semester through a series of group critiques.

The ultimate goal is for the graduate level student to develop a personal voice and style based upon exploration and research through their own unique creative efforts. The written thesis and thesis exhibition are the final hurdle toward earning the MFA degree in studio art with the emphasis on sculpture.

Policy

1. You are responsible for furnishing your own materials.

2. You need your own basic tool kit plus, 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

Three (3) unexcused absences will result in a drop of one full letter grade for the course.
Safety policies and procedures will be routinely distributed throughout the semester.

You must be present for all safety orientations, demonstrations, or workshops.
There will be 4 critiques in the semester with finished work only to be reviewed.

Assignments

There are no set assignments for graduate students. You are expected to arrive at your own imagery and conceptual direction based upon a level of competency commensurate with the Masters of Fine Arts. Your finished work must have addressed a direction that reflects a thorough expertise in the media and traditions of modern sculpture as well as building a body of work for the Masters of Fine Arts Thesis exhibition.

Grades

95% of the final grade for this course will be determined by the quality of work that is produced and presented, complete and on time. This encompasses, concept, content and craft of the work presented as well as the ability to fully explain and defend your creative research. Each piece must relate to the previous in order to develop continuity and individualized direction in your body of work. The remaining 5% will be determined by attitude, class participation etc.

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.

I will meet with all students at the beginning of each class. This time is used to discuss ideas, solve problems, and conduct demonstrations. 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.

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

*Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**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
Provisional Course Outline

January 24 Introduction, syllabus distribution and discussion
January 29 wood and metal shop orientations
January 31 demonstration and discussion, review concept drawings
January 26- continue studio work,
January 31 studio work
February 5 continue studio practices
February 12 welding demonstration-safety lecture- practice
February 14 First Critique
February 19 continue with studio practice
February 21 demonstration/lecture
February 26 studio practices
February 28 continue studio practices
March 5 continue studio practices
March 7 finish projects
March 12 Second Critique
March 11-15 Spring Break
March 19 lecture-demonstration
March 21 studio practices
March 26 continue studio practices
March 28 review concept drawings
April 2 continue working
April 4 studio practice
April 9 finishing of pieces
April 11 Third Critique
April 16 studio practices
April 18 continue studio practices
April 23 continue studio practices
April 25 continue studio practices
April 30 begin finishing of project
May 2 continue finishing
May 7 project wrap-up
May 9 Final Critique

This schedule may be subject to change.