Arts-4304-001 Advanced Sculpture
Spring 2014
T-Tr 3:30-6:20, CA 116
Professor Jack Gron
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office: CA 105A
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. Anyone not following the safety protocol will be asked to either leave or change into proper attire, shoes included!
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.
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 4 critiques in the semester with finished work only to be reviewed.

**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**

There are 4 finished pieces required of this course. Since this is advanced sculpture you are responsible for the concepts for your works. My job is to assure your success and to assist in your successful execution of these concepts. You may choose materials or processes: welding, casting, woodworking, plastics, etc. These assignments are intended to begin your thinking processes but will require you to conduct independent research. Specific project sheets will be distributed prior to each assignment.

1. **2-D to 3-D** - design a work that utilizes both the wall and the floor in your composition. Must employ two or more materials and painted on solid color. (minimum 6' overall)
2. **Kinetic** - design a freestanding work that uses the element of movement in the composition. (minimum of 6'h.)
3. **Sculpture in the landscape** - find an interesting site outdoors and design a work to be installed to enhance a specific site.
4. **Personal Shelters** - design a structure to protect yourself from the impending Zombie Apocalypse. Can be installed indoors or out.

**Suggested Reading** - *The Sculptural Idea* by James J. Kelly
*Sculpture Magazine, Art in America, Art Forum*

**Provisional Course Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Introduction, syllabus distribution and discussion, first assignment circulated</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>wood and metal shop orientations</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>demonstration and discussion, review concept drawings</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>continue studio work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>finishing stages of first assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>First Critique - distribution of next assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>demonstration-safety lecture- practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>begin studio work</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>continue with studio practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>demonstration/lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>studio practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>continue studio practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Critique of 2nd project, distribute next assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>review concept drawings</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>finish projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10-14</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>resume studio work</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>studio practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Critique of 3rd Project, distribute next assignment</td>
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March 27  review concept drawings
April 1  continue working
April 3  studio practice
April 8  finishing of pieces
April 10  Critique of 4th project, discussion of final project
April 15  studio practices
April 17  continue studio practices
April 22  continue studio practices
April 24  continue studio practices
April 29  begin finishing of project
May 1  continue finishing
May 6  project wrap-up
May 8  Critique of final 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.
**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.

*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 CCH (Corpus Christi Hall) 116, 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 APPEALS PROCESS*: Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.