Spr. 2014-Professor Jack Gron
Arts-5318.001 MFA Studio Art- Sculpture
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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.
Provisional Course Outline

January 23  Introduction, syllabus distribution and discussion,
            first assignment circulated
January 28  wood and metal shop orientations
January 30  demonstration and discussion, review concept drawings
January 26  continue studio work,
January 31  finishing stages of first assignment
February 4  First Critique - distribution of next assignment
February 6  demonstration-safety lecture-practice
February 11 begin studio work
February 13  continue with studio practice
February 18  demonstration/lecture
February 20  studio practices
February 25  continue studio practices
February 28  Critique of 2nd project, distribute next assignment
March 4    review concept drawings
March 6    finish projects
March 10-14 Spring Break
March 18  resume studio work
March 20  studio practices
March 25  Critique of 3rd Project, distribute next assignment
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.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.