Arts-5318-001 MFA Studio Art-Sculpture.  
2014 Summer Session 1  
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MTWR 12-3:45 pm  

This course is designed to assist the Masters of Art student to create a cohesive body of work that ultimately will be the foundation for his/her thesis exhibition. At this graduate level of sculpture, the individual direction of each person is emphasized. 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 through out 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.

You must be present to load and unload the kiln and to cast your work (no exceptions!)

There will be 2 critiques in this Summer 2 Semester. The first critique will be an “in progress” session and the final will be with finished work only to be reviewed. Minimum requirement- 3 finished pieces.

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 above and beyond the undergraduate. Your finished work must have addressed a direction that reflects a thorough proficiency of the media and traditions of modern sculpture.

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 articulate your decisions. 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 last class period.

Any thing left past this time will be discarded.

*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.

**Course Outline**

**June 2**
- Introduction, syllabus distribution and discussion,
- wood and metal shop orientations
- demonstration and discussion, review concept drawings
- discussion of final drawings, and studio practices
- continue studio practices
- continue studio practices
- continue studio practices
- studio practices

**June 23**
- **Progress crit**
- studio demonstration and practice-
- continue studio practices
- lecture and review of concept drawings
- continue with studio practice
- continue studio practices
- continue studio practices
- continue studio practices
- begin wrap up
- Finish all work

**July 3**
- **Final Critique**

*Although Fridays are not class days, you are permitted and encouraged to spend time working in the sculpture studios.*

**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.**
**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 Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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 Appeals***

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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 Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Suggested reading- The Sculptural Idea-James J Kelly