



ART 489 / SECTION 03E / Independent Study (Sculpture)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Josephine Durkin, Associate Professor of Art
Office Location: A116 (Art building) and Sculpture Lab (ASL 119)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment
Office Phone: 903.886.5208 (Main Art Office)
Office Fax: 903.886.5987
University Email Address: Josephine.Durkin@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 1- 3 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

We will meet, typically on Tuesdays or Thursdays, in the Sculpture Lab (ASL 119). Dates and times will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester through email and/or in-person meeting, and may change depending on scheduling and project needs. I will meet with Independent Study students about 2 times a month to briefly touch base about your work and progress. Students will document their project ideas and progress digitally throughout the course. Meeting on occasion through zoom is also possible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students in this advanced course will work with the instructor to create a semester “game plan” of projects, goals and due dates – depending on the number and needs of the projects. This will vary, as it is dependent on each student’s personal vision, interests and goals.

This course focuses on material, technical, practical, conceptual and creative problem solving with attention to material choice, construction, installation, technical ability and advancement. Art history, the relationship, interaction and importance of surface,

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structure, space, movement and color, realism and abstraction, and the power of metaphor will be discussed and explored.

Flexible mold making and casting, with a variety of materials, will be the major technical and material focus throughout this class. Woodshop skills will also be taught and utilized in this course. A range of contemporary works and artists will be incorporated into class discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To gain technical and problem solving skills as they apply to creating objects, installations and textures with one-part molds, two-part molds, mother molds, glove molds and life casting, and possibly other skill sets, materials and constructions. The work is driven by each student, their individual interests, curiosities and creative exploration.
- To advance visual, physical and conceptual problem solving abilities.
- To understand how sculpture, in particular, casting, is utilized in a variety of disciplines.
- To understand the importance of craftsmanship and installation strategies, while learning how formal decisions impact the meaning of the work.
- To understand that art functions as a vehicle for meaning and expression, with the possibility of initiating introspection, conversation, awareness and change.
- To encourage creative and ambitious thought processes and work habits.
- To introduce a variety of contemporary artists whose works relates to the current assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students in this advanced course will work with the instructor to create a semester “game plan” of projects, goals and due dates – depending on the number and needs of the projects. This will vary, as it is dependent on the individual interests and goals of each student.

There are no textbooks required for this course. Any reading materials or video links will be distributed online through D2L, as needed, throughout the semester.

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Course Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes

- Gain technical and problem solving skills as they apply to creating objects, multi-media and multi-format work, as needed, with attention to formal and conceptual decisions.
- Advance visual, physical and conceptual problem solving abilities.
- Understand how sculpture, in particular, sewing, woodworking and casting, is utilized in a variety of disciplines. During this semester, we will focus on a variety of flexible mold making and casting projects.
- Understand the importance of craftsmanship and installation strategies, while learning how formal decisions impact the meaning of the work.
- Understand that art functions as a vehicle for meaning and expression, with the possibility of initiating introspection, conversation, awareness and change.
- Adopt creative and ambitious thought processes and work habits.
- Be familiar with a variety of contemporary artists whose works relates to the current assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must be able to use Word, work and communicate in-person, as well as online through D2L and zoom when needed. In addition to meeting at the scheduled meetings (TBD) each student must be able to dedicate at least six hours a week to creating work independently for this course.

Instructional Methods

If working in the sculpture lab, please come to class wearing closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes or boots) and comfortable clothes (not fancy dress clothes) that you can work in. We can talk about what you are wanting to create at the beginning of the semester, and as your work evolves throughout the course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Work hard, work consistently, document your work along the way, and communicate should you need additional help. Let your curiosity and interests drive your projects! Although we do not meet regularly in a typical, group class - make sure to reach out if you need help problem solving.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Studio Assignments 1 and 2	20%
Studio Assignments 2 and 3	20%
Studio Assignments 3 and 4	20%
Final project (individual artist websites with documentation of each project)	20%
Class participation, including critiques, preparedness, safety, teamwork and class cleanup	20%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

Studio assignments will be graded on craftsmanship, creativity, conceptual strength, presentation, effort, work ethic and consistency of work ethic, attention to detail, problem solving methods, resourcefulness and level of difficulty.

Students are expected to have a positive attitude, communicate regularly and thoughtfully, come prepared with materials, observe lab rules and safety protocol, as well as work diligently and regularly both inside and outside of class. Cell phone use is not prohibited during class. Should you need to be reached in an emergency, please tell family and/or friends to call the art office at 903.886.5208 during your class time.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

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LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal

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Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

I will reach out via email to set up a meeting during the first or second week of the semester.

In the meantime, please come up with an individual, proposed, project-based calendar of what you think you would like to complete in this course. For example - three assignments, five assignments, ten smaller assignments, etc. Information about what the projects are, or what you think they could be is helpful. This initial plan, of course, can (and will most likely) evolve, but essentially, you'll need to start by coming up with your own game plan for how you are going to use this semester to make work. I suggest thinking about a solo show...if you had a solo show of work based on the work that you make in this course, what would, or could that look like? What work do you want to explore? What do you want to accomplish?

Make sure to document your work through photos and writing throughout the semester. This documentation will be part of your coursework, and be factored into your final grade.

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