



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

ART 489.02E, 24253, Independent Study: Sculpture

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Joseph Daun
Office Location: ASL 116
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Phone: 903.413.1825 (text before calling)
Office Fax: 903.886.5987
University Email Address: joseph.daun@etamu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

The Independent Class is designed for motivated students seeking to elevate their artistic practice. This course offers a unique opportunity to work closely with a professional artist in a studio environment. Fostering a space for creative exploration, technical skill development and personal artistic growth.

This course is an enhanced tutorial course, meaning that students will work independently, and the professor will develop lectures, demonstrations, and critiques that will enhance the students' individual research goals.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

- 3 Lecture, 3 Lab
- To gain technical and problem-solving skills as they apply to creating objects, installations, and textures.
- To advance visual, physical, and conceptual problem-solving abilities.
- 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.

Requirements:

Completion of all projects is required for a passing grade, as is regular attendance. The course will utilize readings periodically to focus and generate discussion, as well as to inspire. Participation/preparation in these discussions is mandatory. Sketchbook: A book (blank, unlined, is

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ideal) for this class is a requirement. To be used both for artistic ideas and for retaining technical information. When individual meetings occur, it is important to have this available.

Safety:

Come to class prepared to work! With a myriad of different production techniques, there are equally numerous ways of causing unintentional injury to yourself and others around you. The following should always be followed:

- Wear work clothes.
- Have closed-toed shoes.
- No loose hair.
- No loose jewelry.
- Wear gloves when appropriate.
- Wear eye protection when appropriate.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Lift heavy objects carefully and with assistance.
- No firearms or weapons are allowed in sculpture facility because of the inherent danger of possessing weapons around dangerous equipment.

If you're not sure about a procedure or equipment, ask someone. (Course Instructor, TA, Woodshop Monitor)

Note on Tools:

Before using any machinery, make sure your hair is tied back. Always wear safety glasses when operating equipment. Be gentle with the tools. I will give tool demonstrations. If you ever have a question regarding tool use and safety, ask me for help. Do not use a tool by yourself unless you have participated in a demonstration and are experienced with using that tool safely.

Note on Documentation:

It's extremely important to document your work and to do it well. You will have invested a lot of thought, time, and energy into everything that you make. Documentation (through still images, video, or both) allows you to apply for shows, grants, graduate programs, and art-related jobs. You are required to document each of your projects by taking quality images with a digital camera.

Requirements:

Mid-term and Final Critique: 80 %

Effort and engagement: 20%

The course will utilize readings periodically to focus and generate discussion as well as to inspire. Participation/preparation in these discussions is mandatory.

- Sketchbook: A book (blank, unlined, is ideal) for this class is a requirement. To be used both for artistic ideas and for retaining technical information. When individual meetings occur it is important to have this available.
- Tape measure.

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Note on Materials:

Each student is responsible for purchasing his or her own materials. Materials will vary from person to person depending on what he or she is making. Art making can be inexpensive or costly depending on the materials used. It is the instructor's goal that the course materials cost less than \$250.00. If we are forced to move this course to completely online instruction, then the costs for the course could increase to 450.00. Materials for demonstration purposes will be provided.

MATERIALS

Materials will be based upon the desired area of research of the student, and the purchase of said materials will solely be their responsibility. Please design your research plan accordingly.

Handbook & Safety

While the online manual covers specific issues related to the Department of Art, Texas A&M University-Commerce policies must also be followed. All users of the Department of Art (DOA) classrooms and facilities are required to follow the health and safety guidelines outlined in this manual at all times. Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor(s), Teaching Laboratory Specialist, or to the DOA Health and Safety Liaison.

Each course instructor will discuss their area's inherent risks, procedures and policies to provide the student with informed consent. These will be reviewed verbally at the start of each semester. A link to the online Handbook: <http://sites.tamuc.edu/art/resources/healthandsafety/>

Students who meet in face-to-face Department of Art courses must complete the online form for each course they attend. A link to the online form: <http://dms.tamuc.edu/Forms/ArtLabPolicy>

*This must be completed on-campus while using the University wifi or Ethernet connections.

CLASS PARTICIPATION & PROFESSIONALISM:

Participation is very important in studio and seminar classes. You are expected to participate fully, actively, and professionally in class. This means that you work efficiently and effectively both individually and within small groups. You are also encouraged to speak up and to share your thoughts in discussion and critique.

Professional and respectful conduct is expected from everyone at all times. The use (even silent use) of cell phones is absolutely prohibited during class. Please turn these items off, and do not take them out during class.

GROUP CRITIQUES & DISCUSSIONS:

Discussions and critiques will provide a forum in which you will have the opportunity to articulate your ideas, to collaborate with your colleagues, to appreciate multiple points of view, to understand and explore complex concepts, and to learn from one another.

When your fellow students present their work, you will be asked to comment in a thoughtful (which does mean kind), articulate, and professional manner. The major assignments in class will provide the occasion for critique and discussion of presentations and artworks.

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Your participation grade is based on how regularly and professionally you participate in class and critiques. I expect each student to make a positive contribution during class discussions, critiques, and cleanup/sculpture lab improvement times.

Critiques will provide you with valuable feedback from your peers and me. I encourage you to take notes of the comments being made during your critique so you have a record of the discussion. The following is a general guideline to help you understand your final grade:

A - Excellent: You should possess an exceptional attitude, which is reflected in your critique participation, response to criticism, and professional conduct. Your work must manifest remarkable achievement both in quantity and quality. Your ability to communicate ideas should exhibit noteworthy achievement.

B - Good: You should have a positive attitude, which is reflected in your critique participation, response to criticism, and professional conduct. Your work must manifest high-quality achievement. You should possess sound, above-average ability to communicate your ideas.

C - Satisfactory: A positive attitude, which is reflected in your critique participation, response to criticism, and professional conduct, is expected. Your work must manifest acceptable achievement both in quality and quantity. You should possess satisfactory ability to communicate your ideas.

D - Poor: Exhibiting a below-standard or indifferent attitude, which is reflected in your critique participation, response to criticism, and professional conduct, could also result in this grade. A grade of D indicates your work is less than acceptable in quality and/or quantity. This grade could indicate your inability to satisfactorily communicate ideas.

F - Failure: If you possess an unacceptable attitude, which is reflected in your lack of critique participation, response to criticism, and professional conduct, and/or your work shows a pattern of low productivity and/or unacceptable quality, you could receive a failing grade.

Note: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class.

Texas A&M University–Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource materials. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

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>

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>

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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>

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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring 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,

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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 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

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Independent Study Class Proposal Form

Name:

Student ID:

Email:

Major:

Project Descriptions (Undergraduate Students must propose a minimum of two projects) Please add additional projects as needed.

Project.7: [Project.Title]

Description:

Briefly describe the project and its conceptual framework.

Influential Artist:

Name of artist: [Artist's Name]

Description of influence: Explain how this artist has influenced your project.

Objective:

Clearly state the objective of this project (e.g., mastering a particular technique, exploring a specific theme).

Timeline:

Date: Research and conceptual development

Date: Initial sketches and material preparation

Date: Execution of the main components

Date: Finalization and presentation

Project.8: [Project.Title]

Description:

Briefly describe the project and its conceptual framework.

Influential Artist:

Name of artist: [Artist's Name]

Description of influence: Explain how this artist has influenced your project.

Objective:

Clearly state the objective of this project (e.g., mastering a particular technique, exploring a specific theme).

Timeline:

Date: Research and conceptual development

Date: Initial sketches and material preparation

Date: Execution of the main components

Date: Finalization and presentation

Materials List and Budget

Project 7

Materials List:

[Material 1]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

[Material 2]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

[Material 3]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

Budget:

Total estimated cost: \$[Total Cost]

Sources of Materials:

Project 8

Materials List:

[Material 1]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

[Material 2]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

[Material 3]: [Quantity] - [Cost]

Budget:

Total estimated cost: \$[Total Cost]

Sources of Materials:

Student Agreement

I, _____ agree to adhere to the proposed timeline, procure all necessary materials in advance, and actively participate in all scheduled feedback sessions. I understand that my evaluation will be based on the criteria outlined in this proposal.

Signature:

Date:

Instructor Approval

Instructor Name:

Signature:

Date:

Please submit this completed proposal form to Professor Joseph Daun. For any questions or assistance, please phone or text 903.413.1825