

ART 240: Introduction to Sculpture

Josephine Durkin
Associate Professor of Art

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 – 1:50 p.m.
Sculpture Lab

Office Location: A116 in the main Art Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. by appointment.

Please Note: I am happy to meet with you to discuss your project ideas and/or class progress during my office hours. If you would like to meet with me, please email me to make an appointment during my office hours. You are more than welcome to stop by my office, but I suggest making an appointment because I may be assisting students with video equipment, sculpture equipment or doing graduate studio visits during these hours.

Email Address: Josephine.Durkin@tamuc.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

Students will learn about a variety of materials and methods by researching and working with materials while using specific processes to create sculptural works. Students will also learn about a variety of contemporary artists through research, presentations and discussion and improve their ability to talk about art through regular, thoughtful and constructive participation in critiques. Students will gain professional practices as they relate to time and studio management, critique and show communication, planning, installation and de-installation, show advertising and the documentation of work.

Hello! Welcome to Introduction to Sculpture

The majority of class time will be studio-based. Demonstrations with specific materials will be given and progress will be accessed through group and individual meetings. Although studio time allows you to challenge yourself while attempting to make interesting and thoughtful work, students will need to work on projects consistently outside of class (a minimum of 6+ hours a week outside of class time) in order to pass this course.

Calendar, Critique Dates and Other Due Dates: There will be four assignments given throughout the semester. Additional assignments and readings may be incorporated into the class. Deadlines for these assignments TBA. Project descriptions for each assignment are given one-at-a-time.

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. Materials for demonstration purposes will be provided. ***Please see the end of this syllabus for the complete basic supply list.**

Note on Sketchbooks: You need to have one and use it! Make sure to bring it with you to every class. I encourage you to draw and make notes every day. This will help you to problem-solve with your sculptural projects.

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) gives you the opportunity 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. At the end of the course, you will need to give those images to me as high quality JPEGs on a CD.

Note on Grading: This is how it breaks down:

First Project	20%
Second Project	20%
Third Project	20%
Fourth Project (Documentation)	20%
Class Participation and short-term assignments	20%

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 clean-up/sculpture lab improvement times.

Critiques will provide you with valuable feedback from your peers and myself. 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 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 is expected. 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. Plagiarism will result in a grade penalty or failing grade in this course.

Important: Part of your grade includes cleaning up after yourself. This means throwing away trash, storing projects properly, sweeping floors, organizing the Sculpture Lab, cleaning the tables, and working with others to maintain and improve the cleanliness of the facility. No one may leave the class until the entire work space has been cleaned up. I reserve the right to hold a clean-up time or hour during class time if the studio space is in need of upkeep. This will take away from your studio time. To avoid this, you must work together to keep the space clean on a regular basis.

Attendance Policy:

Students may not miss more than three classes. Coming to class without materials to work during class counts as an absence. A fourth absence results in a failing grade. I reserve the right to drop a student who has four or more absences. Each student may not miss a critique. Missing a critique results in a failing grade for the semester. Do not be late to class. Tardiness will negatively affect your grade. Three tardies equals an absence. I do not differentiate between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Missing a critique or not having a project for the critique results in a failing (F) grade for the semester.

Shop Hours:

You will need to plan and use your time wisely both in and out of class. In addition to classtime, you will have to work on your projects outside of class on a regular basis to complete the projects. Some of the work can be completed outside of the Sculpture Lab (drawing, researching, writing, purchasing and gathering materials, etc.) and some of the work depends on machine use in the shop. Shop hours will be posted during the first week of the semester.

Statement on Student Behavior:

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

University Specific Procedures:

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.

Statement on Accommodations for ADA eligible students:

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 me, and

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835
Fax 903-468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Supply Lists for 3-D Design, Shop Safety and Sculpture Students:

Introduction to Shop Safety Basic Supply List:

safety goggles
pencils and pens
large sketchbook with blank pages
wood glue
scissors
flathead and Phillips screwdrivers
ruler
tape measure
square
masking tape
materials (MDF, birch plywood, etc.) as needed for assignments
Labeled Rubbermaid container for your materials, tools and projects

3-D Design Basic Supply List:

All tools and materials needed for the *Introduction to Shop Safety Basic Supply List PLUS:*

X-acto knife
cutting mat
utility knife
pliers
white school glue
glue gun
glue sticks
Scotch tape
extension cord

Basic Supply List for all *Sculpture* classes:

All tools and materials needed for *Introduction to Shop Safety Basic Supply List, All tools and materials needed for 3-D Design Basic Supply List PLUS:*

drill

Note: You do not need to spend a lot of money on a drill. You also do not need a cordless drill. You can get a good used drill on www.craigslist.org or you can get one of the inexpensive drills from Walmart or Home Depot.

basic drill bit set
woodglue and sandpaper as needed

*** All students in 3-D, Shop Safety and Sculpture must wear closed-toe shoes and goggles when working with power tools. For safety purposes, do not use the power tools until you have received proper class instruction. Wear appropriate and comfortable clothing that you are able to work in during class.**