ARTS 4540: Advanced Sculpture
proposed
4 credit hours / 8 studio hours

Email: xxxxx@auburn.edu (Responses can be expected within 12-48 hours, depending on the professor’s schedule and the date and time of your email.)

Required Reading

Recommended Reading
Alex Potts. The Sculptural Imagination: Figurative, Modernist, Minimalist.
Thomas McEvilley. Sculpture in the Age of Doubt.
Periodicals: Sculpture, Art Papers, Art in America, Art Forum

Course Description from the Bulletin
Advanced investigation of the history, theory and methods of sculptural practice. Individual instruction and supervision of research and reading. Regular individual and group critiques. May be repeated for a maximum of eight credits.

Pre-requisites
ARTS3520 and ARTS3530; or Departmental Approval.

Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will successfully:
• Independently select and develop ideas for their projects, submit visual and written proposals for discussion, and structure the processes necessary for the work’s fabrication.
• Exhibit a high degree of rigor in their solutions to formal, technical, and conceptual problems and demonstrate an extensive development process for their ideas and working methods.
• Articulate, in both oral and written form, the conceptual, technical, and formal characteristics of their own work and the work of their fellow students in critique.
• Explore and utilize both traditional and extended sculptural media as appropriate to their proposed research.
• Recognize, explore, and understand the relationship of three-dimensional forms to their environment and cultural context.
• Use power tools skillfully and safely.

Course Content & Schedule
This course will encourage the advanced sculpture student to begin developing a personal vision for their work. The semester will begin with one or two assignments but will quickly shift to a student-directed curriculum with the instructor assisting in the development of goals and deadlines, and providing technical support, critical perspectives, and research guidance. Many of the conceptual and aesthetic issues, techniques, and materials explored in ARTS3520 and ARTS3530 will continue to be addressed. Before fabricating their work, students will present formal visual and written proposals of their projects to the instructor. In addition, students will continue to read and discuss criticism that addresses important conceptual issues in the field. Students will also research and present the work of a contemporary sculptor to the class.
Tentative Schedule

- **Week 1:** Introduction & Syllabus
  - Assignment 1
- **Week 2:** Sketches due
  - Artists due
- **Week 3:** Work
- **Week 4:** Exercise 1 due
- **Week 5:** Critique
  - Introduction Assignment 2
- **Week 6:** Sketches due
- **Week 7:** Work
- **Week 8:** Mid-semester cleanup
- **Week 9:** Critique
  - Introduction Assignment 3
- **Week 10:** Work
- **Week 11:** Sketches due
- **Week 12:** Work
- **Week 13:** Work
- **Week 14:** Work
- **Week 15:** Critique
  - Final cleanup

No final examination is given because this is a studio course.

Course Requirements/Evaluation

Assignments will be judged on the basis of the following criteria.

- **Design:** the visual or formal aspects of the piece. Designs will be graded based on the quality of and effort directed toward the visual development of the particular assignment.

- **Concept:** the ideas or thoughts driving the design. In sculpture, ideas are expressed through the manipulation of materials, formal elements, and space. Consider the term, “ideas,” in a broad manner, including, for example, life experiences, emotional states, political viewpoints, identity issues, etc. Concepts will be evaluated based on the quality, clarity, and development of the work’s meanings.

- **Execution:** how the piece is physically crafted and/or presented. The execution of a project will be judged according to the quality and appropriateness of construction, materials, and techniques used, attention to detail and finish, and improvement over previous work.

- **Risk/Development:** the willingness of the student to explore, research, and develop aspects of their work, whether visual, conceptual, or technical, that are unfamiliar or difficult. This experimentation will necessarily include the extensive exploration of a variety of possible solutions and directions for the assignment. In addition to brainstorming multiple solutions to each assignment, you are also expected to edit and develop your work and its context to include only the “information” that is necessary to the piece’s meaning.

Participation & Critiques. Attendance at and participation in critiques is mandatory. You will be graded on your level of involvement in class discussion. Please note: if you fail to finish an assignment on time, you are still expected to attend critique. All projects must be installed for critique before the start of class.

Overall Criteria considered in the final grade will include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assignments / Quizzes: Assignments, Sketchbooks &amp; Drawings</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Participation A. Critiques</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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B. Discussions  
C. Note taking during lectures and demonstrations  
Total Points 255 points

3. Attendance. Only a negative grading factor if unexcused absences exceed limit permitted. See below.
4. Removal of materials. All materials and artwork must be removed from the building at the conclusion of the semester. Students who fail to comply with this requirement will receive a grade of "incomplete (IN)" until their materials have removed.
5. Students are responsible for keeping track of their own progress in the class. If you wish to learn your grade in the class, you must ask the instructor.
6. This work for this course is composed of applied studio practice. There are no written examinations.

Grading Scale
- A (90-100%) (255-230 points) — The student who consistently produces work with fully developed concepts, quality designs, and strong technical execution and/or progress in learning techniques. The student will also be actively involved in the class discussions and critiques, and demonstrate a clear understanding of topics covered in the course.
- B (80-89%) (204-229 points) — The student who does very good and occasionally outstanding work on assignments. Projects must be well executed and completed on time. Class involvement must be strong.
- C (70-79%) (178-203 points) — The student whose assignments and class participation are adequate but do not represent strong effort or improvement. Projects must be completed on time.
- D (60-69%) (157-177 points) — The student who does not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the material covered in the course and/or shows insufficient effort in the conceptual, formal, and technical development of assignments.
- F (• 59%) (less than 151 points) — The student who shows little effort on assignments, demonstrates little progress over the course of the semester, misses class often, and/or turns assignments in late.

Withdrawals: A student who withdraws from a course prior to the 15th class day during a semester (or the fifth class day of summer term) will have no grade assignment; however, from the 15th class day during a semester (or the fifth class day of summer term) through mid-semester (mid-term) a W (Withdrawn Passing) grade will be recorded for the course.

Disability Accommodations
Students who need special accommodations in class, as provided for by the American Disabilities Act, should arrange a confidential meeting with the instructor during office hours the first week of classes — or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. You must bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have these forms but need accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844.2096 (V/TT) or email: haynemd@auburn.edu.

Course Policies & Procedures
- Classroom behavior. Students are expected to comply with Auburn University’s Policy on Classroom Behavior. Disruptive behavior in the classroom that impedes teaching and learning will be subject to sanctions as defined by this policy. Note that examples of improper behavior may include repeatedly arriving late to class, persistent speaking out of turn, distractive talking, and cell phone usage. Any phone that rings in class will be confiscated.
- All work must be original. Copying or using the work or ideas of other students or artists is considered plagiarism. This rule applies both to the design and the execution of all work. You may have others assist with aspects of your project in certain cases, but the execution of your work...
must be primarily your own. Please ask if you are unsure about specific circumstances. All violators will be taken to the Academic Honesty Committee in accordance with the policy stated in the Tiger Cub.

- **Attendance is required.** Material will be presented in a systematic matter during scheduled class times only. Demonstrations and lectures will not be repeated for unexcused students. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get missed notes, assignments, and deadlines from your classmates. All university-approved absences, as defined by the Tiger Cub, must be documented in writing within 7 days of the absence. Athletes must provide written excuses from the Athletic Department. After three unexcused absences, your grade will automatically decrease one-half of a letter grade (5%) for each additional absence.

- **Punctuality/Late Submission of Work.**
  - You must be on time. Any student arriving ten minutes late will be given half of an absence. Any student arriving 30 minutes late will be given a full absence. If you are late, you must see me during class to ask to be put on roll.
  - You are expected to come to class prepared with the appropriate materials. Class time is not shopping time. If you come to class unprepared to work, you will be considered absent.
  - All readings and assignments must be completed on time. Incomplete assignments will not be discussed in critique. Late assignments, whether written or sculptural, will lose one-half of a letter grade for each class period that they are late unless you provide a university-approved excuse.
  - Extensions for assignments that are late due to excused absences may be arranged with the instructor within 7 days of an absence.
  - The makeup of missing in-class work and online quizzes may be arranged with the instructor within 7 days of an absence provided you have a university-approved excuse.

- **Email:** On occasion, you will be contacted by email at your AU email address. In an effort to save paper and copying costs, assignments and handouts are posted on Blackboard (www.auburn.edu/students). It is your responsibility to check the site and your email regularly.

### Studio Access

The 3D building will be open for registered student use 24 hours a day. Registered students will gain access after hours with their student ID cards. Please note that only registered students have permission to access the building. All students must sign the After-Hours Access Policy before they will have access to the building. The woodworking and metal fabrication studios will only be open when either the instructor or the 3D technician is in the building. Regular supervised hours are posted on the technician’s office window. Additional tool room hours are available 2-3 nights each week and are supervised by advanced student employees. You will need to schedule your use of the power machinery accordingly.

### Lockers

Storage lockers are available in the sculpture area for all registered students. You are strongly encouraged to sign out a locker with the 3D Technician to ensure that you have all your materials available for class. Any locks that have not been registered will be cut. All lockers must be cleaned out at the end of the semester. Any unclaimed locks and materials will be disposed of.

### Materials

You are **required** to have the following the following general supplies. Never come to class without them.

- Safety glasses (ANSI certification Z87.1)
- Tape measure (10 foot minimum)
- Set of drill bits (1/16”-1/4” in 1/32” increments)
- Roll of masking tape
- Several old rags
- Sketchbook (8-1/2" x 11" or larger) dedicated to this class only for note taking and design process
- Binder/folder for handouts
- Drawing tools: pencils, 18" metal ruler, compass, right-angle square
- Padlock

With the exception of certain supplies (e.g. plaster, yellow glue, welding rod, etc.), students will be responsible for finding and purchasing their own materials (wood, steel, hardware, paint, finishing materials, etc.). Most of these materials can be obtained from any hardware store. We will discuss the process of purchasing lumber and steel in class. Be sure to manage your budget accordingly. All materials required for assignments will be announced at least one class period in advance.

**Possible Suppliers**

Scientific Supply Store, 211 Science, 2nd floor, 844.4307, Hours: 8-4:30
Lowes, 1701 Frederick Rd, Opelika, 705.4995
Home Depot, 2190 Tigertown Parkway, Opelika, 334.737.0136
Builders First Source, 1866 E Glenn Ave, Auburn, 821.7417
Russell Building Supply, 252 Bragg Street, Auburn, 887.7071
Hardwoods, Inc. of Alabama, 180 Airview Ln, Alabaster, AL, 800.467.4160;
[http://www.hardwoodweb.com](http://www.hardwoodweb.com)
Wood Products Center, 506 Manchester Expressway, Suite C-7, Columbus, GA 31904, 800.994.2972
H & E Steel, 1201 First Avenue, Opelika, 745.2001
Opelika Scrap, 2000 Steel, Opelika, 745.2622

**General Safety and Sculpture Facility Policies**

- The most important safety practice is good housekeeping: keep the studio clean and neat. A clean studio is a safe studio. Before leaving the studio, you must put away all tools, brush down surfaces and machines, and sweep your work areas. Do not leave anything on classroom tables. Repeat offenders will be sanctioned or barred from the studio.
- Students are required to attend all appropriate safety demonstrations and sign relevant safety agreements before using tools and equipment.
- There is no such thing as a stupid question. If you are unsure how to use a machine or perform a technique, please ask. Always make safety your first priority.
- Sculpting can be dirty work, exposing you to plaster, rust, metal dust, sparks, etc. A set of coveralls and a baseball hat is recommended to protect your clothing and hair.
- Open-toed shoes or sandals are not allowed in the studio. If you wear sandals to class you will not be allowed to work. Repeat offenders will be considered absent.
- Appropriate eye, ear, hand and respiratory protection are mandatory. If you fail to wear appropriate protection on a regular basis, you may be barred from using the facility.
- Use of alcohol or drugs before or while using shop machinery is strictly prohibited. All offenders will be immediately expelled from using the studio. Please notify the instructor if you are taking any prescription medication that may impair your abilities to operate power tools safely.
- Kraft paper must be placed under all work areas where liquid paints, inks, or finishes are used. Kraft paper is available for free in the spray booth. Use it generously.
- Keep all flammable substances in the yellow metal cabinet. Clearly mark all containers with your name and the date. Dispose of all oily rags and brushes in the red waste cans. Do NOT dispose of rags and brushes in the regular trash cans. Such items can spontaneously combust.
- No toxic materials or solvent use is allowed in the classrooms. Any materials labeled with the instruction to “use in a well ventilated area”
must be used in the spray booth. Projects should be left in the booth until dry/cured.

- No liquid wastes should be disposed in sinks. A liquid waste container is located in the spray booth.
- All sanding, grinding, and metal cutting must be done in the shed area, not in the classroom.
- No eating or drinking in studio.
- Boom boxes and stereos are not allowed in the facility. This is a communal work area: not all of your peers will find your music inspiring. If you wish to work to music, please wear a personal music player with headphones. Headphones cannot be worn while using machinery or power tools.
- All work must be removed from the studio at the end of the semester. We are not here to clean up after you. If you fail to remove your work, you will be given an incomplete.