Syllabus

Art 088
Beginning Sculpture
Robert Ortbal, Assistant Professor
Phone: 916-278-7514 ASL 110A *
Monday - Wednesday: 8:00 to 10:50am
Phone: 916-278-6471 ASL Studio
Art Sculpture Lab – Room 110 - Office: ASL 110A
Office Hrs: Mon-Wed 7:30am to 8:00am + Mon-Wed 12:00pm to 1:00pm & by appointment
3 units - General Education Course in Area C-4

Description:
This is a beginning studio course that introduces the ideas, materials and techniques of sculpture. The projects serve as the framework to the organizing principles of structure and form while giving practical instruction to successfully create finished sculptural works. We will explore theoretical and conceptual ideas to deepen our awareness of the surrounding environment and the historical developments within the field, while drawing upon each individual’s creativity to effectively communicate with visual form.

Methods of Instruction:
This course will be taught using in class lectures and demonstrations, group and individual critiques, readings, slide lectures and course projects. Projects will have either an individual or a group critique on the scheduled days listed in the Class Schedule (see separate handout).
Note: The Class Schedule is approximate and may change during the term.

Goals – Student Learning Outcomes:
I. To demonstrate an understanding of the three-dimensional/sculpture fundamentals introduced with each project. II. To participate in critical discussion and dialogue related to the sculptural and theoretical concerns presented in this course with awareness to the vital and diverse communities represented by the entire student body. III. To demonstrate the ability to realize an idea from a notebook drawing to a completed work. IV. To demonstrate a competent understanding of how to fabricate sculptural forms using a wide range of techniques and processes.

Projects and Grading:
Projects 40%
Exhibition/Lecture Reviews 15%
Visual Journal/Notebook 15%
Homework – Class Participation 10%
Attendance - Studio practices 20%

Projects are graded on craftsmanship, active participation in the critiques (both individual and group), your ability to demonstrate a visual understanding of the concepts, theories and vocabulary introduced with each assignment, creative exploration and individual growth.
100-90 = A, 90-80 = B, 80-70 = C, 70-60 = D, 60–50 = F

Assigned projects are to be completed by the time of the scheduled critique or review by the instructor. Projects that are turned in late will be dropped one letter grade for each class period they are late unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Attending and participating in the project critiques are essential. If you miss the scheduled project critique you will receive an “F” for that project unless you have made prior arrangements with me or can verify, in writing, extraordinary circumstances beyond your control.

Attendance and Studio Practices:
Active participation and attendance are critical to successfully complete this course and help you get the best grade possible. It accounts for 20 percent of your grade.
Arriving late or leaving early more than three times will be counted as an absence.

Missed classes – Grade Attendance Points

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<th>Missed Classes</th>
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Seven or more unexcused absences will result in failing the course.

An absence only becomes an excused absence with a note from a doctor, court and/or the university. For a family crisis please communicate with me as soon as possible (email or call my office) and provide a letter upon return, stating the situation. If you are absent it is your responsibility to inform yourself of the homework missed by talking with a classmate to complete it in time for the next class. Make a friend, exchange emails.

Each student is responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

Cell Phones are to be used responsibly. If not, this privilege will be taken away.

Required course materials:
1. There are no required textbooks for this class. An additional recommended reading list will be provided. Listed below are two good textbooks you can consider buying to help deepen your understanding of the medium and serve as a great reference text.  
2. Notebook/Visual Journal (refer to separate handout for guidelines)  
3. Additional tools and supplies will need to be purchased during the term to successfully complete the projects. I will give a separate handout listing what will be needed.

Text Books:

Zelanski, Paul and Fisher, Mary Pat. **Shaping Space 2nd Edition:** Wadsworth – Thomson Learning 1995


Homework:

Homework is to be completed by the beginning of the class. You can plan on spending around six hours working on your projects outside of class each week.

Disability Services:

If you have a disability and require accommodation, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916-278-6955). Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

Add/Drop Policy and Deadlines:

Refer to the 2008-09 Registration & Advising Handbook, or go to:  
http://www.csus.edu/schedule/Fall2008Spring2009/change.stm#adds
Excellent Work (A)  
(90 - 100%)
Regarding Class Work: student demonstrates outstanding skill, discernment and understanding of visual principles in accomplishing his or her work. The quality of work is excellent, and it is integrated with exceptional creativity.
Regarding Participation: student demonstrates through discussion, critique, and studio interaction outstanding ability to discuss and assess work, communicating how visual elements and strategies are used. The student demonstrates extensive use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline.
Regarding Homework: In the case of studio assigned homework (activity) the student completes the assignment in all aspects and creatively exploits possibilities within open-ended assignments. The work demonstrates skill, good judgment, and application of principles. For written assignments, oral presentations, and research, the work/presentation/document, presents sound research and is well written and well presented.

Better Than Average Work (B)  
(80 - 89%)
Regarding Class Work: student demonstrates moderate skill, discernment and understanding of visual principles in accomplishing his or her work. The quality of work is good, and it is integrated with some creativity.
Regarding Participation: student demonstrates through discussion, critique, and studio interaction a solid ability to discuss and assess work; communicating how visual elements and strategies are used. The student demonstrates competent use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline.
Regarding Homework: In the case of studio assigned homework (activity) the student completes the assignment and fulfills more than minimal requirements. The work demonstrates some skill, judgment, and application of principles. In the case of written assignments, oral presentations, and research, the work/presentation/document, presents research and is reasonably well written and suitably presented.

Average Work (C)  
(70 - 79%)
Regarding Class Work: Student demonstrates average skill, discernment and understanding of visual principles in accomplishing his or her work. The quality of work is modest, and it is moderately integrated.
Regarding Participation: student demonstrates through discussion, critique, and studio interaction an average ability to discuss and assess work, communicating how visual elements and strategies are used. Though the discussion and assessment of work is substantially complete, the communication of some visual elements and strategies is incomplete or missing. The student demonstrates a superficial rather than thorough understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline.
Regarding Homework: In the case of studio assigned homework (activity) the student completes most of the assignment and fulfills the minimum requirements. The work demonstrates modest skill, some judgment, and in parts, application of principles. In the case of written assignments, oral presentations, and research, the student makes a modest effort as evidenced by a satisfactory presentation/document. Research may be incomplete, or lacking in organization.

Below Average (D)  
(60 – 69%)
Regarding Class Work: Student demonstrates lack of skill, discernment and understanding of visual principles in accomplishing his or her work. The quality of work submitted is less than acceptable, and it is poorly integrated.
Regarding Participation: student demonstrates through discussion, critique, and studio interaction a limited ability to discuss and assess work, while communicating at a minimal or perfunctory level how the visual elements and strategies are used. Poor effort is made to relate an understanding of the art concepts and terminology used in the discipline.

Regarding Homework: In the case of studio assigned homework (activity) the student does not complete the assignment and fulfills only minimal requirements or submits work late. The work demonstrates lack of skill, weak judgment, and little application of principles. In the case of written assignments, oral presentations, and research, the work/presentation/document, presents faulty or negligible research and is not well written and/or presented.

Failing (F) (40 – 59%)
Regarding Class Work: Student fails to demonstrate skill or understanding of the issues involved. Quality of work submitted is insufficient, and poorly integrated.
Regarding Participation: In discussion, critique, and studio interaction, the student states an opinion vaguely or does not assess the work and shows little to no evidence of an understanding of how visual elements and strategies are used. No effort is made to relate an understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline.
Regarding Homework: In the case of studio assigned homework (activity) the student does not complete the assignment and does not fulfill requirements. In the case of written assignments, oral presentations, and research, the work/presentation/document, presents faulty or negligible research and is not well written and/or presented.

Incomplete (I)

Incomplete: Student does not complete work and discusses this with the instructor. The department has a petition that must be signed by both the student and the instructor if an “I” grade is to be awarded. A grade of incomplete will be granted in instances such as medical emergencies where there is evidence the student understands the material and remaining assignments but has been prevented by outside forces from completing the work. The period allowed for completion is described in the petition for the incomplete and must be determined by the faculty member granting the grade (the University maximum is one year). In effect, the petition is a contract between student and faculty.

Withdrawal Unauthorized (WU)
The WU grade is assigned by the instructor if student withdraws from the class without notification, or fails to attend after University assigned deadlines. It is treated like an F in GPA calculations but, under some circumstances, can be removed by petition.

Authorized Withdrawal (W)
The “W” grade is assigned by the University if a student formally withdraws from a course after the University’s census date, but within the deadlines (a “W” cannot be assigned by instructor).