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1-2014

ARTZ 108A.01: Visual Language - 3-D Foundations

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Recommended Citation

Ames, Crista Ann, "ARTZ 108A.01: Visual Language - 3-D Foundations" (2014). *Syllabi*. 1155.

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The University of Montana, School of Art
ARTZ 108A, section 01, Visual Language- 3-D Foundations 3 credits
Prerequisite for all 200-level ARTZ courses
Meeting time: T/R 11:10am - 1:00pm, Art Annex 123

Instructor Information

Crista Ann Ames

Office, Ceramics Graduate Studios-Art Annex

Office Hours Tuesday 1:10am - 2:00pm or by appointment

[*crista.ames@umontana.edu*](mailto:crista.ames@umontana.edu)

Exam Time: Monday, May 12 from 8:00-10:00am

Required Materials and Suggested Text

*A sketchbook and pencil are required for this class. Most materials are provided for you however any additional materials you need for the completion of your assigned projects are your responsibility to find and/or purchase. The suggested text for this course is *Launching the Imagination* by Mary Stewart.*

Course Description

Offered in Autumn and Spring. Basic three-dimensional course for both general education and beginning art students. Prerequisite to beginning sculpture and beginning ceramics. Emphasis placed on conceptualization and formal development of the 3-D object in the areas of form, mass, scale, texture, space and color.

Course Objectives

To introduce students to the formal elements of three dimensional design and the application of these skills

To introduce students to sculptural materials, techniques, and processes

To develop a sense of self expression through the use traditional and experimental techniques

To learn proficiency in visual communication of concepts through three dimensional design

To participate in critical assessment

Coursework

As per N.A.S.A.D guidelines, students are expected to spend a minimum of 5 hours per week outside of class working on assignments. Students are also expected to keep a sketchbook throughout the semester and work on it outside of class.

Sketchbook

I require a 100 page minimum sketchbook to be devoted solely to this class and must be brought with you to each class session. Responses to reading handouts are to be written in your sketchbook. I would also like to see sketches of ideas for your assigned projects in your sketchbook. Let me see that you are thinking about what you want to make! You are expected to write or draw in your sketchbook for every class session with each page dated at the top so I know your working in it consistently. Your sketchbook will be checked periodically throughout the semester and turned in for review at mid-term and at the end of the semester.

Critiques

As a part of this class students will develop language that will improve their ability to speak critically about artwork. Individual and group critiques will coincide with the completion of each assignment. Critiques allow us to speak about our own work and others' work in an artistic language. Critiques also promote the ability to discuss art in general and develop constructive feedback while learning to accept criticism given by others. Participation in critiques is required and will affect your final grade.

Course Requirements and Grading

60% Completion of all assigned projects.

20% Class participation including critiques, clean up, etc. Be prepared, attentive and engaged in class. Help others to succeed while staying healthy by cleaning up after yourself.

20% Sketchbook and reading assignments. Students are to keep sketchbook as stated above. Course reading will be from the required text and supplemental handouts.

Note: I will notify you of your grade at midterm. At any point in the semester you can check with me to see where your grade stands. You must receive a C or above to get credit for this class.

Grading is based on the use of concepts presented and execution of the assigned projects

A = on time, original concepts with an excellent command of materials

B = good ideas and concept with an above average command of materials

C = meeting the basic requirements for the project with satisfactory progress

D = not meeting the requirements of the project with marginal progress

F = failure to meet project requirements

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. If you consistently come late to class, leave early, and/or are absent from class your grade will be affected. Three late arrivals equal one absence. After three unexcused absences each following absence will drop you grade one letter or 10%. If you are absent six class sessions you will fail this course. If you do miss class you are responsible for recovering missed materials

Note: If special circumstances arise that will impact your attendance contact me as soon as possible.

Special Needs/ Disabilities

If you have access concerns, special needs, and/or learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of disability service for students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and speak with me as soon as possible.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Note: All students should have a positive attitude in class and conduct themselves with regards to the other students. Inappropriate behavior and language will not be tolerated.

Building Access

The use of the studio space requires enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used to purchase supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave. To use the sculpture facilities a workstudy student or instructor must be present. I will post hours of open studio time when a workstudy student will be present.

Note: Please be respectful of other classes and do not use the studio while another class is in session.

Health, safety, and clean up

First aid kits, dust masks, gloves, and eye protection are located near the sink area. Food and drink are not allowed in the Art Department facilities when art-making is in progress. Cell phones are only allowed in cases on emergency and should otherwise be turned to silent and put away during class sessions. Creatures and children not currently enrolled in this course are not allowed in the studio during class or open studio time. You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of the semester.

All artwork must be picked up by Friday (May 16) 10am of finals week or it will be discarded.

Campus security is x. 6131 and campus escort service is x. 2777

If there is a life threatening emergency please dial 9 911

GENERAL SCULPTURE STUDIO SAFETY RULES

- *Only students currently enrolled in a university art course are allowed to use the sculpture lab.*
- *Any person outside of sculpture or ceramics must check in with either the sculpture professor or studio technician.*
- *No visitors inside the tool areas*
- *Know the location of the two first aid areas and two fire extinguishers.*
- *No open toed shoes allowed in sculpture area.*
- *While any work is in progress every student must wear approved safety eyewear and if appropriate, hearing protection.*
- *Tools must be returned to the tool room immediately after use.*
- *Condense all hoses and cords used during your session.*
- *No tools leave the sculpture studio or yard, period.*
- *All guards must remain on power tools exactly like they arrive from the factory.*
- *Report any tool deficiencies or malfunctions immediately.*
- *All hazardous or vaporous materials must be handled outdoors.*
- *Each area is ventilated, make sure fans are on even for the smallest job.*
- *Leave floors clean, tables clear, and sinks drained.*
- *Should there be an injury, however small, immediately consult the sculpture professor or studio technician.*
- *Never work when you are tired or if you have had even a drop of alcohol.*
- *Of course, there is absolutely no drinking or smoking in the studio.*

- If you are injured at night during the open shop hours, first tell the work-study student that is on duty, and they will call the sculpture professor.
- The work-study students are here at night for your safety, and they can help you work with tools safely, however, they will not do your project for you.
- Take breaks to ensure overall awareness

Art Student Collective

This is a students led group that sponsors art-related workshops and events. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

UM Art events

Events will be announced in class. Information can also be found at <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/> or by befriending Griz Art on Facebook.

Weekly Outline

Week 1:

January 28 Introduction, studio tour, safety talk, students get lockers, shelves, and tools from bookstore

Sketchbook Assignment #1: Rendering for building 3-D objects: pick three previously fabricated objects and create exact drawings for each that would help in the construction of this object.

January 30 Handout and slide discussion on Project #1: Forming Acrylics

Week 2:

February 4 Paper patterns due for Acrylics project; Demonstration: Workshop tools and safety

February 6 Demonstration: Thermoforming for Acrylics

Week 3:

February 11 *Work Day*
February 13 *Critique Project #1: Forming Acrylics*

Week 4:

February 18 *Finish critique; Introduce Project #2: The Multiple Project; slides and discussion*
Homework: Bring five items to class that have a single parting line
February 20 *Demonstration: preparing a casting and gating for mold making*

Week 5:

February 25 *Demonstration: How to mix plaster and pouring one side of a mold*
February 27 *Demonstration: second plaster pouring*

Week 6:

March 4 *Demonstration: opening and cleaning molds*
March 6 *Demonstration: slip casting; Group assembled project of first castings*

Week 7:

March 11 *Introduce Project #3: Carve object from a piece of soapstone, find an environment to document your object in; Work Day*
March 13 *Project #4: Cubic inch of clay project one hour assignment with same day critique*

Week 8:

March 18 *Work day*
March 20 *Work Day*

Week 9:

March 25 *Castings due as greenware; Load Kiln*
March 27 *Demonstration: cold finish on ceramics*

Week 10: Spring Break

No Class

Week 11:

April 8 *Critique Project #2: The Multiple Project*

April 10 *Finish critique; Work Day*

Week 12:

April 15 *Critique Project #3: Soapstone Carving and Image(s)*

April 17 *Finish Critique, Introduce Project #5: Soft Sculpture, slide presentation and handout*

Week 13:

April 22 *Paper patterns due for soft sculpture; Demonstration: creating an interior wire structure*

April 24 *Demonstration: Hand stitching and using a sewing machine*

Week 14:

April 29 *Work Day*

May 1 *Work Day*

Week 15:

May 6 *Critique Project #5: Soft Sculpture*

May 8 *Finish Critique, Course Evaluations*

Finals Week:

Individual Critiques, Studio Clean-up, and Farewell snack-luck