ARTZ 108A.02: Visual Language - 3-D Foundations

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The University of Montana, School of Art

**ARTZ 108A, section 02, Visual Language- 3-D Foundations 3 credits**

Prerequisite for all 200-level ARTZ courses

**Meeting time: T/R 2:10pm - 4:00pm, 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

Exam Time: Tuesday, May 13 from 1:10 - 3:10 pm

**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/ Disabillities
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 in encouraged to participate.

**UM Art events**
Events will be announced in class. Information can also be found at [http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/](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