ART 109: Introduction to Sculpture
Spring 2018
Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Professor: Rebecca Murtaugh
Email & Phone: rmurtaug@hamilton.edu 315.859.4250
Office: KTSA 110
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:15-10:15am, + special hours & by appointment
Studio: KTSA 116

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Making art is a creative process that is accomplished through experiential learning in the studio. This course will expose and engage students in the language of materials, techniques, tools, and aesthetics of sculpture while addressing ideas and formal elements/concepts. The student will have the opportunity to expand their expressive, technical, and conceptual skills as they relate to sculpture through a historical and contemporary approach. Students are encouraged to reflect upon personal experience, current events, history, contemporary visual culture, intuition and/or process in the creation of new original works.

Class Structure
• Work time in the studio.
• Presentation, lecture, demonstration, discussion and critique. Students will be shown images of artwork, magazines, books, and videos to support ideas discussed in class.
• Wrap up, clean up and preparation for the following week.

Students should anticipate spending a considerable amount of time in the studio working on projects in addition to class time. This time may include but not be limited to skill practice, required reading, written assignments, journaling, collecting and purchasing materials, attending visiting artists lectures on campus, watching videos, and participation or attendance of community art functions and/or field trips.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
This course will provide students a means for communication and expression utilizing mixed media sculpture. Each student will grow significantly in their ability to develop their own voice of original ideas (creativity) with a focused and rigorous disciplinary practice. A developed visual and conceptual vocabulary will accompany the students' technical proficiency with the tools and techniques demonstrated and utilized in the studio. Intellectual curiosity and flexibility will provide students with the opportunity to ask thoughtful and insightful questions in the making of art while working outside of their comfort zone. Students’ problem-solving skills will develop as they are challenged to find the best possible solution to a multitude of problems and projects presented in class. Students will practice aesthetic discernment through individual discussion and group critique in the evaluation of the quality of artworks and ideas.

GRADES
Will be determined by:
• Quality and originality of work
• Quality of presentation, participation/responsiveness to critique
• Effort, growth, improvement in skill, investment in work
• Studio citizenry
• Willingness to experiment
• Thoughtful, inquisitive, reflective journaling

A+, A, A- EXCELLENT Exceptional achievement. Fully engaged in the process of learning, each assignment demonstrates excellent commitment and effort, and a willingness to push your self to do the very best work consistently. Exceptional growth.
B+, B, B- GOOD Strong effort, good participation, good growth, good quality of work. Work shows room for improvement.
C+, C, C- AVERAGE Average performance, work and attitude that meet the minimum course requirements, effort, and quality of work.
D+, D, D- POOR Lack of projects or poor quality, poor participation, skill, effort, class work
F, FF, XF FAILING Lack of projects, missing critique, unacceptable performance, honor code violation.
Critique: Critique will serve as a venue for students to communicate their knowledge of technical skills, problem solving, critical thinking ability, a genuine desire to learn, and insight. You will receive an F for your project grade if you miss critique without an excused absence. Failure to present complete artwork at critique will result in a grade of D or less for the project. Late work will not be accepted.

Lateness: Demonstrations, discussions, assignments, and review occur at the beginning of class. Lateness will affect your ability to succeed in this course and will negatively affect your grade as will leaving class early.

Attendance: Attendance is required, you are expected to arrive on time and stay until class is over, we will have a short break during our 3-hour class. More than one absence will lower your grade for the course. The Dean of Students in the form of a letter, email or phone call should provide documentation for excused absences.

Respect for the Studio: Your grade will be lowered (after one warning) if you are not properly maintaining a clean work area, this applies to in and out of class time in the studio. Please put your phone away during the class with a silenced ringer. While we may listen to music in some classes on speakers, students may not wear earbuds during class time, the professor will often give instruction and we will have art conversations regularly in class during work time.

Academic Warnings: If you feel this class is not for you, you may drop without penalty March 9, 2018. Under normal circumstances I will speak with students individually if performance falls to a C+.

Academic Progress: A mid-semester grade report will be distributed to each student. This grade is only an estimate of your final grade. These grades are intended to help determine where improvement may be necessary.

Services for Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation because of a learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological or physical needs, please make an appointment to see me in the first week of the semester during office hours. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should first contact Allen Harrison in the Dean of Students Office (ext. 4021) who coordinates services and verifies eligibility for students with disabilities.

Statement from the Library
“Ask a librarian for help with your research in this class. Research Librarians are available in person at the Burke Info Desk, online via chat, and by appointment.”

READINGS and MATERIALS

Blackboard Readings
There is no required text for this course, but there are assigned readings that will be distributed via Blackboard and handouts. Students are expected to print articles from Blackboard and keep them in their journal along with sketches, demonstration and research notes. There are also a variety of web links you may want to visit to enhance your art experience.

Material Purchases
You will need to order a Sculpture Kit from [www.commercialartsupply.com](http://www.commercialartsupply.com). The cost is approximately $ 55.00. You will need to pay with a charge/debit card/paypal.

Delivery is Free, click on “shipping-domestic” you will NOT be charged for delivery. Your kit must be purchased online by Friday, January 19, 2018. I will distribute kits during the first day of class and our individual meetings, please bring your confirmation email with you (this can be on your phone or printout).

You will need to purchase the following materials by the Wednesday, January 24th class meeting.
- 1 inch three ring loose-leaf binder (with lined and unlined paper).
- Materials to begin Project #1, these will be different for each student and determined in individual meetings.

You will need to purchase the remaining materials when we begin the plaster project on February 28th, 2018.
- package of small white kitchen garbage bags, 4 gallon is ideal, they sell these at Hannaford for a few dollars.
- a small hand towel
- found containers and materials, will be discussed in class.
- additional materials will be necessary as the semester progresses.
All students will be given a red personal locker; you may wish to purchase an optional lock to secure your kit and other materials.

The Jitney is available for students without their own transportation. Coming to class without your materials is equivalent to an absence. The studio will provide many additional materials for each student such as plaster, plastic sheeting, adhesives, and release agents. Students will need to purchase other materials as necessary.

A New Material Report form must accompany any new materials that are brought into the studio, material(s) should be discussed with the professor and the form should be returned to the Professor and Studio Arts Operation Manager - John Powell. His office is in the Woodshop, KTSA 118, jdpowell@hamilton.edu.

SCULPTURE STUDIO ETIQUETTE

Study the “Intro to Sculpture Guidelines” handout and “EH&S HANDBOOK” both posted on blackboard. Every student is required to fill out the last page of the Handout and return to the Professor by the 2nd day of class.

Access

Students have varying degrees of access to KTSA 116, 116C, 117, and 118 from 8:00am-midnight during the semester and will require the buddy system. The studio is not open on college holidays.

Buddy System

Many situations can compromise an individual’s personal safety. For that reason, anyone working in the 3D studios is required to work with a “buddy” when the Professor, Studio Art Operations Manager, or Studio Monitor is not present. This is someone else in the class, Art 106, 307 or 502 with whom you will be in constant contact through sight or sound. When you need a “Buddy” hours will be posted on the outer door placard.

It is important to take safety very seriously in the studios. The proper use of tools and equipment will be demonstrated in the Sculpture Studio Safety Seminar. The Studio Arts Operation Manager conducts this seminar outside of class-time. All students must complete this seminar in the first week of classes. If you have any questions regarding the safe utilization of tools please do not hesitate to contact the Professor or John Powell. Do not operate a tool if you are unsure of how to use it safely. Open toed shoes are not permitted in the studio. Food is not permitted in the studio. A sign up sheet for the Sculpture Studio Safety Seminar will be available on the first day of class. If you are unable to make your scheduled time slot, please contact John Powell and reschedule into another session.

Statement Regarding KTSA Facilities

"Hamilton custodial staff is excluded from handling student projects, work and related materials. This means staff cannot clean up after students and it is the responsibility of students to clean up after themselves."

Cleanup and Studio Citizenry

Students are responsible for cleaning up all areas used; a dirty studio will not be tolerated. For health reasons, the studio is best cleaned with a wet sponge or the shop vacuum. If using a broom and dustpan please try to keep dust to a minimum by utilizing green-sweep and turn on ventilation where appropriate. If the studio becomes intolerably dirty it will be closed outside of business hours. Please respect the studio and your classmates. Lack of keeping the studio clean will negatively impact your grade for the course. Your art, materials, and your kit must be removed from the studio by the last day of finals. Items left in the studio will be discarded and your grade will be lowered for lack of cleaning up your belongings.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 3 studio projects, one exercise, and a journal containing artist research and reading responses. There will be 3 formal critiques. You are also required to attend at least one Visiting Artist Event outside of class.

Three Studio Projects:

- Project #1: Fabrication & Construction Modules
- Project #2: Abstraction, Casting, & Carving Polymorph Plaster Project
- Project #3: The Body in Time & Space Extension of the Body
Journal: There are 3 components to the journal.

1. Print out and read all assigned reading. You will write a two-paragraph typed response to the Trojan Horse reading and submit at midterm. I want to read about your interpretation of the article. This should not merely be a summary, ultimately and more importantly I am looking for your position and response to the author’s intention and what you learned from the reading in a thoughtful and critical manner.

2. Artist Research: 4 Artists
   You are required to conduct a minimum of 2-3 hours researching a contemporary sculptor and summarize what you find, or don’t find, intriguing/compelling about the artist and their work in two paragraphs and 1 photograph of the artists’ work and submit at midterm. **Give the work a critique.** I want to know what you think of the work, not someone else’s opinion. Site your sources MLA format. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source. Books and journals are the best sources. Artist websites are helpful but should not be your only source. You may also choose to write about a visiting artist lecture in lieu of an artist on the list provided.

   required: Margarita Cabrera @ the Wellin Museum: Monday, March 5, 2018 @ 4:30pm
   optional: Wendy Ewald & Fazal Sheikh @ Wellin Museum: April 4, 2018 @ 4:30pm

   You should be aware of and utilize the dialogue of art in your writing:
   o **Organizational Principles:** repetition, variety/unity, rhythm, balance/gravity, and proportion.
   o **Elements of Design:** form, volume/mass, space, line, texture, light, color, and time. If you are not familiar with these terms please refer to The Sculptural Idea posted on Blackboard.

3. Class Notes and Sketches
   This includes vocabulary, class and demonstration notes, info on plaster, drawings and sketches.

Midterm Journal due on March 7, 2018 by 5:00 pm:
   - 2 Artist Research Papers.
   - Response to Trojan Horse

Final Journal Due on May 2, 2018 by 5:00 pm:
   - Another 2 Artist Research Papers.

COURSE CALENDAR

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 24</td>
<td>Begin in class work day for Project 1: Modules Have your materials to begin working in class on this day and readings/videos completed.</td>
<td>Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 31</td>
<td>In class work day for Project 1: Modules</td>
<td>Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.</td>
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Wed  Feb 7  Last in class work day for Project 1: Modules
Homework:
   (on Blackboard under Library Resources)
2. Work in the studio on your piece.

Sat  Feb 10  Optional: Opening Reception at the Wellin Museum 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Wed  Feb 14  Critique for Project 1.

Wed  Feb 21  View slides and material demonstration for Project 2: Polymorph.
Homework:
1. Read Nancy Rosenblum: Chinese Scholar's Rock for Feb 28th (on blackboard).
2. Interact/impart actions on your plaster object.

Wed  Feb 28  Begin Project 2: Polymorph Plaster. Have materials by this date,
This is a class day for experimentation.

Mon March 5  Margarita Cabrera @ the Wellin Museum: Monday, March 5, 2018 @ 4:30pm.

Wed  March 7  In class work day on Project 2: Polymorph Plaster. Journals due by 5 pm.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.

Wed  March 14 & 21  Spring Break

Wed  March 28  In class work day on Project 2: Polymorph Plaster.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.

Wed  April 4  In class work day on Project 2: Polymorph Plaster.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.
Optional Artists Talk: Wendy Ewald & Fazal Sheikh @ Wellin Museum 4:30pm

Wed  April 11  Last in class work day on Project 2: Polymorph Plaster ½ work day.
View slides and videos for Project 3.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.

Wed  April 18  Critique for Project 2.

Wed  April 25  Work day for Project 3: Extension of the Body.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.

Wed  May 2  Last in class Work day for Project 3: Extension of the Body. Journals due by 5 pm.
Homework: Work in the studio on your piece.

Thurs May 3  Optional: Senior Thesis Reception @ Wellin Museum 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Sat  May 12  2:00 to 5:00 pm Critique for Project 3: Extension of the Body
Cleaning assignments will be distributed at the end of semester.
Clean up will occur during finals week during posted hours.
Lack of cleaning your locker, personal shelf, and removal of artwork will result in a lowering of your semester grade.

Artwork unclaimed after noon on Sunday, May 13th will be discarded.

If you have any questions about assignments, techniques, or need to discuss something please do not hesitate to ask.
Call, email, or visit my office.