Course Description/Objectives

Welcome to Materials and Methods. In this course we will focus on skill and technique building through hands-on demonstrations of sculptural processes and shop demonstrations. We will try to discover your individual creative process and the articulation of your conceptual issues through discussion and critique.

This course is an introduction to the nature of materials, the development of form in real space, and the shops and tools with which to create sculptural forms. Students will be introduced to the proper use and function of the wood shops, as well as a variety of other tools and techniques, including basic casting.

Course Content/ Basic structure

The class will be divided into major projects that will correspond to three main materials which will be studied during the course – Wood, Paper and various casting materials. Each project will be divided into the following stages:

Demonstration - potential uses of the material, traditional and non-traditional techniques.

Assignment – a guideline for thinking about the material while leaving room for innovation, personal interpretation and allowing for an ongoing dialogue with the material. The assignments will be carried out during work sessions or posted on e-learning Canvas and be accompanied by personal meetings during the making process, group discussions and Slide presentations related to the subject.

The assignments, conceptually, are meant to encourage you to explore and experiment in the process of art making and help you to get into the creative process quickly in order to find your own voice and your own way of working. Each student is expected to think about the subject from his own perspective and interests, and to use the assignment in a way that is helpful to your own personal art investigation.

Group Critique – each assignment will culminate with a group critique of the work.
Readings, writings and sketches – throughout the course there will be an expectation to keep a course journal or sketchbook where all the ideas, both written and visual, will accumulate. Readings will also be given out and discussed occasionally.

- **A small ongoing side project:** in the beginning of each class one student will share with the class an article which he or she found interesting. The article can be from any certified printed or online resource that deals with contemporary art. Suggested certified resources: Art in America, Sculpture, Artforum, E-Flux, The Brooklyn Rail, BOMB Magazine, Contemporary Art Daily, Triple Canopy, Flash Art, Sensitive Skin, Frieze. You are expected to upload your article to the course blog at least a day in advance.

**Course Requirements/Procedures:**

As a serious student I expect from you to always be present and be involved in all the activities that happen in this course. This is a small group and as such each one of you has a dramatic influence on the group - your individual generous input of knowledge and opinion is necessary for the effectiveness of the course. We are all obligated to respect each other and it is our group responsibility that our class will be a comfortable place to bring, share and critique the most radical ideas and opinions.

- Make sure to check daily your email and e-learning Canvas and always come prepared with all the materials needed to class. If for some reason you miss class or come late, it is your responsibility to check what you have missed and come ready for next class.

- It is mandatory to adhere to the specified deadlines.

- Proper attire is required for all working classes: no elevated heels or open-toed shoes, no jewelry or rings, long hair should be tied back or tucked into clothing.

- Plan on spending time outside of class to complete assignments.

- In this class be prepared to purchase materials and supplies as they are needed.

- All students are responsible for cleaning their own areas before leaving the classroom.

- Bring a sketchbook, pencil and pen to every class.

- **LIBRARY LINK** [www.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/)

**Late and Absences**

Perfect attendance is expected and is a must. Get to class early in order to be prepared and focused. A class-roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. Absences and lateness will affect your grade.

*A justified absence is only a written document from a UF approved authority indicating a just reason for which you had to miss class. “My car broke down” although understandable does not
qualify as a justified absence (even when accompanied by a letter from your mechanic). For such cases you are granted 2 “unjustified” absences for the semester before your grade will be affected.

USE THEM WISELY! For more info about justified and non-justified absences: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences

*This is a studio class, if you do not come prepared (no tools, no materials) you will be regarded as absent.

*An unjustified absence from critique or reading discussion is inexcusable and will result in an automatic drop of half a letter grade from the final grade.

* For lectures, presentations and class exercises, if you are more than 10 minutes late without written justification please do not bother coming in to class. It is simply too distracting.

* If you come in after attendance has already been taken, it is your job to make sure you are recorded as late, otherwise you might be recorded as absent.

* 3 times late = 1 absence, 3 absences = 1 full letter grade drop.

General tools recommended for the course

Each student enrolled in sculpture studio class should come with all the tools required for working on his project during class. The list below is a list of tools recommended for this course:

- dust mask
- claw hammer
- drill index up to ¼ 
- set of drill bit
- 3/8” variable speed reversible drill (cordless is better)
- 25’ extension cord
- Metal measuring tape (at least 10’)
- screwdrivers (Phillips & standard)
- pliers (square jaw or needle nose)& vise grip
- Mat knife with long extendable “break off” blade
- Pencils and erasers

You will also be required to keep a pretty loose sketchbook for ideas, and notes on critiques and demos. I will look at these with you every few weeks during individual discussions.

PROJECT EVALUATIONS:

Your work will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1) Conceptual rigor.
2) Material inventiveness, risk-taking, experimentation

3) Research, Methodology, and Documentation of the Process

4) Physical investment: The sweat factor

5) Participation: sharing your ideas with the group during studio time and discussions and sharing your thoughts during critique

6) Overall aesthetic quality of the work

**Grading Format:**

**Excellent:**  A  Goes beyond all the requirements and expectations.

**Very Good:**  B  Meets all the requirements and expectations.

**Good:**  C  Meets most of the requirements and expectations.

**Poor:**  D  Meets very few of the requirements and expectations.

**Very Poor:**  F  Meets virtually none of the requirements and expectations.

**FINAL SEMESTER GRADES** will be averaged as follows:

- **Assignments** (approximate 4)  
  50.0%

- **Overall participation: Critiques, reading responses, and discussions**  
  25.0%

- **Presence**  
  25.0%

- For more information on current UF grading policies for assigning grades points.  
  [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Safety and Tools**

No-one is to operate any tool unless you are completely familiar with that tool or you have been trained in the particulars of that tool. If you need help with any tool please consult me before use. If you need further help then we will consult Bradley Smith, the Sculpture Lab Specialist.

Wear the correct protective material for the job. Eye and ear protections, etc.

Make sure you have downloaded **AND fully read** the SA+AH Health and Safety policy and handbook. These are available at: [http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/handbook.html](http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/handbook.html)

**Each student must complete an H&S Student Waiver Form (available next to the copier in the SAAH Office) and on-line (see address above). This to be filed in the SA +AH Director of Operation Office, FAC 103 no later than the third course meeting date.**

**Policies:**
• **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Associate Dean of Students and Academic Affairs office. The Dean’s office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this document to the instructor. The instructor will make appropriate accommodations for any student with a disability. Please speak with the instructor.

• **The School of Art and Art History and its faculty and staff assume no responsibility for any materials or projects left in the classrooms.** It is each student’s responsibility to remove all materials and projects from the classrooms after each project is completed and after the course has concluded. If the student needs to make individual arrangements with the instructor to keep any materials after the class has ended, it is the student’s responsibility to make these arrangements, with the instructor’s approval. Any artwork, supplies, or other materials left in the classroom after the semester has concluded will be considered abandoned and disposed of accordingly.

• **University of Florida honesty policy applies to this course.** See your student handbook.

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**SCULPTURE AREA RULES**

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

- Follow all SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found at: www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety)
- Follow the SA+AH Satellite Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted for your media.
- In case of emergency, call campus police at 392-1111
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the SAAH H&S handbook, the SAAH faculty handbook and in the main office.) Turn completed forms into the SAAH Director of Operations within 48 hours of the event.
- Get permission from shop supervisor before beginning work
- Sign in to use the wood shop
- Eye protection must be worn when using any power tools
- Long hair must be tied back
- Hearing protection is available
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit
- Shirt tails must be tucked in and loose sleeves rolled up
- Shoes must cover toes
- No loose jewelry allowed in the shop areas
- Clean up your mess
- Students are prohibited from taking home any SA+AH property
- All painting and sanding must be done in the courtyard when weather permits.
- Newspaper or plastic must be used to protect table and floor surfaces from paint, glue and plaster
- Students are prohibited from storing materials or projects in the wood or metal shops
- Do not use stationary equipment to cut painted, recycled or pressure treated lumber
- Dust off tools, tables and sweep the floor when finished using wood tools
- Scrap material must be disposed of immediately
- Tools and shop equipment must be put away in its proper place
- The table saw, jointer and planer are to be used only under the supervision of Brad Smith and any unauthorized usage will result in expulsion from the shops
- No food or drink in the shops
- Only students enrolled in current SA+AH courses who have attended the orientations may use the shops. No visitors while you work.
- Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.
- First aid kits are found in each studio. Notify your instructor if supplies are low.
- Locate the nearest eyewash unit and familiarize yourself with its functions.
• Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor.
• All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.
• Follow the **SA+AH CONTAINER POLICY** (see policy below)

*There are 2 types of labels used in the SA+AH—yellow and white. Both labels are found at the red MSDS box and are supplied by the SA+AH. Each is used for a different purpose.*

**White:**

All new and or used product in containers (hazardous or what might be perceived as hazardous -i.e. watered down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents, etc…) must be labeled within the SA+AH to identify their contents. Labels can be found at the MSDS box in each studio and work area. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened. All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. **All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice.**

**Yellow:**

**WHEN HAZARDOUS ITEMS ARE DESIGNATED AS WASTE.**

**All containers** must have a yellow label identifying the contents that are designated as trash for weekly EHS pick up.

- Flammable solid containers (red flip top) must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- 5 gallon jugs must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside.
- Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top).
- Each item in the blue bin must have a yellow hazardous waste label.

**Note:** **Hazardous Waste** labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%.

Labels should also include the Bldg and room number of the shop generating the waste along with the Waste Manager for your area, this is located on the SWMA sign posted at the sink or at the Waste Management Area.