

ADVANCED SCULPTURE
ART 4710C, Section 29C, (6 credits)
SPRING 2016

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MW Per. 2-4 (8:30-11:30AM), F Per. 2-7 (8:30AM-2:45PM)
FAC B008
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"Contemporary Sculptors try to make sense of the world around them by identifying paths to follow, or threads to pull, amid the glut of information, the profusion of visual images and the excess of physical objects. They recognize patterns in the chaos. They identify fragments as being part of a larger whole. They realize that entropy is an inevitable part of a natural cycle that indicates growth and life as much as it signals decay. In their negotiations with so much cultural, historical, and empirical information, the artist takes on such roles as archivist, historian, designer, engineer, scientist and translator, and while they find affinities, draw comparisons, point out differences and reconstruct events – in other words distill the whirlwind into something to be contemplated..."

- Anne Ellegood

"I am enthusiastic over humanity's extraordinary and sometimes very timely ingenuity. If you are in a shipwreck and all the boats are gone, a piano top buoyant enough to keep you afloat that comes along makes a fortuitous life preserver. But this is not to say that the best way to design a life preserver is in the form of a piano top. I think that we are clinging to a great many piano tops in accepting yesterday's fortuitous contrivings as constituting the only means for solving a given problem."

-Buckminster Fuller

SYLLABUS AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Sculpture explores advanced problems in sculptural form with development of processes and techniques. Advanced Sculpture offers a course of study for students to develop a sophisticated body of work, an individualized area of research, and a directed, productive approach to studio practice. The course will challenge students to set personal goals in terms of research and art production. In addition, students will develop greater strength and abilities in articulating and investigating the significance of their own work and the work of other artists. Finally the course will introduce and discuss professional practices in contemporary art in order to prepare students for careers in the arts, exhibitions and/or graduate study, professional practices, self-promotion, and various creative opportunities.

READINGS AND TEXTS

Our primary text this semester will be: *Seven Days in the Art World* by Sarah Thorton. Additional readings will be pulled from: *On Longing* by Susan Stewart, *Foul Perfection* by Mike Kelley, *Sculpture* magazine, *Frieze* magazine, *Artforum* magazine, and numerous other sources. Each student will be required to contribute one reading on a topic related to their research for reading and discussion by the class.

EXPECTATIONS

The following tasks must be accomplished in order to successfully complete Advanced Sculpture:

1. Setting Goals and Getting Started: Write a Statement of Intent

Please write your goals for the Spring semester and outline your concerns related to research and production of your next body of work. Relate how your goals and plans will result in a successful final show and final body of work. Last semester Advanced Sculpture students wrote an artist statement. Please include this “as is” with your statement of intent. In your statement of intent please discuss what changes might occur to your existing art statement as a result of your new goals and plans (and why). In your discussion please also address the following issues:

- Unifying elements in your previous works
- Where you want your work to “go” this semester and what you want to accomplish
- Long term ideas about the direction of your work (and livelihood)
- Your artistic sensibility and personal aesthetic
- Artists, theorists, and writers that are significant to your practice
- A reading goal for this semester
- Social, political, generational, and mass culture events and/or phenomena that influence your approach.
- Issues of identity, biography, and personal narrative and how those ideas enter your work
- Any other issues you wish to address.

2. Research

Our first major class reading will be *Seven Days in the Art World* and additional class readings and video research will also be assigned. All class readings will be discussed in class as a group. In addition, we will start a blog and/or FB page to quickly share articles, links, projects, and photos that relate to our current research.

In addition, students will create their own reading list and set their own reading goals. When artists research a period in history, a group of artists, or a specific writer or theorist it is an important a decision. Possibly a more important decision than the tools or materials they utilize to create their work. Research decisions say a lot about the artist’s creativity, commitment, curiosity, and personal style. On the basis of your own research and interests you will be responsible for submitting one reading and leading a discussion related to the topic.

3. Methodology

Students will document their ideation, reflections, and personal research for Advanced Sculpture in a notebook. This should be a work of art in and of itself. It should function as a generative force, an archive, and a dynamic reflection of your aesthetic sensibility, personal style, worldview, and a clear record of the evolution of ideas.

4. Practice

Based on personal research and goals each student will generate five sculptures this semester. The sculptures will be due every three weeks. One

difference this semester is that one of the five sculptural projects needs to be presented as a series of multiples. There will be examples and discussion presented in class.

5. Professional Practices

Throughout the semester we will explore your vision for your art practice after UF. The course will cover various professional opportunities in terms of grants, residencies, and exhibitions. We will discuss professional materials such as press releases, art statements, and different types of exhibition spaces, strategies, and venues. In addition, we will discuss networking, and promoting your work.

As part of the professional practice part of the course students will accomplish the following:

- Apply to an exhibition outside of Gainesville.
- Research and present opportunities, grants, and residencies and share results.
- Apply to some additional opportunity (besides an exhibition).
- Submit and updated resume, statement, and Website (due after Spring Break).
- Offer a presentation of your work that covers not only the breadth and depth of your work but also reflects your style, approach, and sensibility (due end of semester).
- Secure a location for your senior exhibition.
- Advertise and document your senior exhibition.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all classes, critiques, and field trips is mandatory. You must work during scheduled studio times or it is considered an absence. Please be here for class time. Three lates equal an absence. Late arrival or early departure will count as an absence. More than three absences a semester will result in a grade reduction by 1/2 of one letter grade per accumulation of three absences. Over 3 absences will drop your grade average by one half-letter grade. This will continue for every additional 3 absences.

*** Required to attend sculpture lectures by Ian McMahon, Feb. 11th, Dave Herman February 18th, Brandon Ballengee March 16th.

EVALUATION

The work from Advanced Sculpture Spring 2015 will be evaluated on the basis of:

- The completion of 5 sculpture projects.
- Completion of readings, writings, and discussions.
- Completion of a revised portfolio, resume, and artist statement. Two slide presentations about your work (one at the beginning and one at the end of the semester).
- Attendance at all assigned field trips and lectures.
- Research – the conceptual tools you employ to inform your practice.
- Technical competence, craft, and inventive use of materials.
- A motivated effort toward excellence.

GRADING

Grading will be based on:

65% Projects

10% Exhibitions, Presentations, and Final Show

20% Participation and being there on time and ready to work, reading, discuss, and take part in class activities.

5% 8.5x11" folder/binder, notes, plans, research, and documentation.

Grading Scale:

A 94-100 **4.0/ A-** 90-93 **3.67/ B+** 87-89 **3.33/ B** 83-86 **3.0/ B-** 80-82 **2.67/ C+** 77-79 **2.33/ C** 73-76 **2.0/ C-** 70-72 **1.67/D+** 67-69 **1.33/ D** 63-66 **1.0/ D-** 60-62 **.67/ E** 0-59

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

Evaluation:

- A** Extremely well-presented, thoughtfully executed, superior work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio and research practice, which includes active independent research, looking up artists recommended by faculty and peers, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in reading assignments and individual studio work. Resulting work completed during the semester demonstrates a high level of understanding of the assignments presented, and the complex questions raised in seminar topics and discussions as well as by one's own studio work. Student demonstrates a high level of critical thinking, craftsmanship, conceptual experimentation, and a desire to learn and grow as an artist is evidenced through exemplary attendance, hard work, curiosity, openness to criticism and willingness to make improvements and share learning and insights with peers.
- B 3.0** Very good work overall. Most criteria of assignments were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Studio and research practice was commendable and there is an obvious effort made to adhere to and address the criteria and purposes of assignments and to relate responses/insights to course topics. Good attendance (maximum of 3 absences), participation in critique, and general conscientious work submitted is characteristic and student generally operates as a thoughtful, engaged citizen of the community. Most of the criteria of A apply, but to a lesser degree.
- C 2.0** Adequate, average, work meeting most of the assignment criteria with areas needing significant improvement. Work demonstrates a fairly good attempt at responding to the problems or topics presented, but the work lacks the engagement, effort and comprehensive understanding characteristic of a B. Poor studio and research practice are exhibited overall.
- D 1.0** Barely meets the criteria of assignments, extremely poor or unfinished work, highlighting unacceptable studio and research practice. Barely contributing to the seminar environment.
- E 0.0** Failure to meet all criteria of assignment accompanied by unacceptable studio/research practice.
Not contributing to the seminar environment.

More information on UF grading policies can be found at:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/hubstudents.html>

HEALTH AND SAFETY

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO VISIT <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety> FOR RULES REGARDING SA+AH HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES AND THE HANDBOOK. PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE WAIVER FORM FROM THE SITE. Each student must complete a waiver form and these forms must be turned in to your professor who will turn them in to the Director of Operations by the second week of class.

UNIVERSITY AND SAAH RESOURCES AND POLICIES

General University Policies and Services - <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

University Counseling Services
352-392-1575 <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> The UF Counseling Center offers counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns.

Student Healthcare Center <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>
For medical emergencies call 911.
352-392-1161 for urgent after-hours care.
352-392-1171 for after-hours mental health assistance.

Safety and Security
In an emergency call 911.
University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1111.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF CAMPUS FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

Please make every effort to maintain the facilities and grounds of the School of Art and Art History, the College of Fine Arts and The University of Florida. Specifically we ask that you follow these guidelines:

1. Do not mark, paint on or deface any interior or exterior of the school or college facilities. Take care to always use protective tarps, drop cloths or masking material when working with paint media or similar materials to protect the floors in public spaces such as hallways and classrooms. That applies also to the sidewalks walls, and grounds.
2. If a special project requires temporary modification to a wall surface or to the grounds you must obtain specific permission from your instructor prior to undertaking the project. The site must be returned to its original condition immediately following the project unless prior written permission has been obtained from the School of Art and Art History.
3. No Art project may interfere with or impede access to, classrooms, hallways or other public spaces.
4. All site-specific art projects must be installed and engineered with the safety of the

general public in mind.

5. Grades will not be issued for the project, or the class, until the project has been completely removed, and the site has been restored to its original condition. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOL & WORKPLACE AND CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

The Sculpture Program is committed to upholding the policies set forth by the University of Florida in regards to drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities. Possession and use of drugs or alcoholic beverages is not allowed in the classroom or outdoor areas. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The course will follow the University's honesty policy found on-line at:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/>.

Work should be your own and must be created specifically for this class. In other words "no double dipping" by submitting projects to more than one studio course.