

# ART 2701 Sculpture: Shaping Space and Form

University of Florida, Spring 2017  
Credit Hours: 3  
TR: Periods 2-4 (8:30 am - 11:30 am)  
FAC B001

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an in-depth investigation into the fundamental sculptural elements of shape, form, and space. Students will build a solid understanding of three-dimensional concepts by learning basic sculptural concepts, strategies, vocabulary, and techniques, applying these skills within a sculptural context while relating them to contemporary sculpture issues. The philosophy of this course includes the notion that “less is more” in terms of technology and emphasizes quality over quantity and size. Students will utilize basic, rudimentary materials and processes at the outset of the course and gradually build a mastery of those materials and techniques. Concurrent with studio projects, students will be reading, researching, discussing, and responding to historical and current issues in sculpture.

## **COURSE GOALS**

Students will leave this course with a solid knowledge of spatial concepts, formal issues, and sculptural strategies.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

Attendance and active participation is essential to all studio class meetings, discussions, critiques, and therefore will be a significant part of the course grade. Students will be graded on the quality and consistency of their participation. Please be on time for class, as announcements, lectures, demos, and presentations will take place at the beginning of class.

Critiques are an essential part of the practice of art. They are necessary and beneficial not only for getting feedback on one’s own work, but just as importantly for learning how to look, discuss, and articulate ideas relating to the art work of your peers. Engage, converse, give critical feedback. **Critiques are mandatory**, but keep in mind even if your are physically present but do not engage and participate in the critique it will affect your participation grade heavily.

Be prepared to work on projects during class time. Working at home is not considered attendance. Students must come prepared to every class with proper attire (work shirt, pants, and closed-toed shoes). Also, each student must bring to every class all necessary materials and tools. **Failure to bring supplies necessary to work will result in an**

**absence for the day and a lowering of participation grade.**

## **PROJECTS**

Four projects will cover the following topics:

Project 1: line

Project 2: plane

Project 3: cube

Project 4: 2x4

Each project will begin with a visual presentation and readings followed by discussion. Each project sheet will include a timeline, due dates, and specific requirements for readings, exercises, statements, and projects.

## **CRITIQUE DATES**

**Tuesday January 31**

**Thursday February 23**

**Tuesday March 28**

**Tuesday May 16**

**\*\*\*Cleaning day Tuesday May 18th: all projects and materials left will be thrown in the trash and will result in grade deduction.**

## **Response Papers:**

For every assigned reading, you should annotate the text. These annotations will help you complete the response paper that you are expected to write for every article given in class. These short responses (**double-spaced and 2-3 pages in length**) must be **typed and brought to class on the due date specified in course calendar** (unless otherwise stated). These response papers, while informal pieces of writing, should still be grammatically and syntactically correct; I expect you to use language precisely, to support your response with specifics from the text using cited quotations, to write with style, focus, and, yes, correct spelling. **No late responses will be accepted for any reason** (you may submit them early if you anticipate an absence). **No email submissions are accepted.**

## **Response Papers Dos and Don'ts:**

A response paper should be fairly formal and should genuinely attempt to shed light on one or more aspects of the work. Overall, I am looking for interesting and original insights concerning the reading assignment.

An ideal response will be about 2-3 pages in length and typed (or could be longer). Your paper will explore a problem or point of interest created by the author/writer. (In most cases we will be reading an article on a specific artists and you will be responding to his/her art, beliefs about art, content, visuals, etc. Your ideas and insights will be based on information from the pages in the text we have read so far, calling upon specific

examples to illustrate the idea or issue you are exploring. Your grade will be based on the quality and depth of your insights, and on the use of specific textual evidence as support. (Avoid the obvious! Take risks! Make it interesting!)

Possible starting places for your response include an author's life, politics, the social context of the work, philosophical musings, how and why the work evokes a particular feeling in you, cultural relevance, or the components of the text such as the significance of form, setting, narrative voice, imagery, or symbolism. Or, perhaps you will apply a critical approach to the text. Or, you may wish to explore the relationship between elements of the text. As we move on into the later weeks of the course, you may even wish to direct your responses toward identifying patterns between the specific texts given, and asking what the significance of these patterns might be.

### **The Dos and Don'ts of Response Papers:**

DO NOT: Only summarize plot

DO: Analyze the significance of the history and or context

DO NOT: Say you didn't like the artist

DO: Explain *how* the artist was unlikable, how that effects the reading experience, and *why* that may or may not have been the author's intent

DO NOT: Generalize and provide vague reasons behind your Text Analysis

DO: Use specific examples from the text(including quotes, if significant).

DO NOT: Make superficial, obvious insights (poor thesis: *The Bluest Eye* is about the struggles of growing up.)

DO: Think deeply, and look closely into the work. Notice things that a casual reader would not.

DO NOT: Simply repeat ideas mentioned in class by the instructor or by other students.

DO: Build off ideas mentioned in class, adding your own thoughts and insights to the discussion.

**\*\*Remember:** Response papers must be turned in on time or early. They will be evaluated on the basis of focus, development, use of evidence, creativity, and level of insight. These response papers are 15% of your grade.

**\*\*\*Again, I will not accept late grades on these papers.**

### **SKETCHBOOKS: COLLECTION/RESEARCH/METHODOLOGY**

Each student is required to keep a sketchbook that is dedicated to this class and used daily for in-class exercises, as well as independent research, ideation, sketching, writing, recording, note-taking, and the collection of other information and resources. Sketchbooks will be checked throughout the course of the semester, specifically when you present your proposals for each project. The sketchbooks will be graded on effort, investment, clarity, drawings, etc. You need to have a clear plan and idea of how your project will be constructed. Students are required to bring their sketchbooks to every class period. Minimum size for a sketchbook is 8.5x11 inches.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

No textbook is required for this course.  
 Electronic copies of readings will be provided.  
 One sketchbook specific to this class measuring no less than 8.5x11 inches is required.

**EVALUATION**

You will be evaluated by the evolution of your work during the course of the semester in terms of craftsmanship, conceptual development, planning (sketches, writing, discussion), fulfillment of the assignments, attendance and overall participation. The successful completion of a project will conclude with a critique—your participation in critiques is essential for your own development and that of the other students in this class. Any work turned in late may not receive full credit, and in the case of the presentations will result in a zero.

Grades for each project will be based on the following criteria:

- Evolution from proposal to finished work
- Craftsmanship/ Skills development/Innovation
- Aesthetic Concerns
- Conceptual Rigor
- Inventiveness/Risk-taking
- Personal Investment
- Adherence to Assignments
- Experimentation within the parameters of the project guidelines

Projects (4 projects at 15% each)	60%
Research Response Papers	15%
Participation/ Preparedness/Critiques/Discussions	15%
Sketch book/Written Proposals/Research	10%
	100%

**GRADING FORMAT**

Excellent	A	Superlative work exceeding all requirements and expectations.
Above Average	B	Fine work meeting all requirements and expectations
Average	C	Meets most requirements and expectations
Poor	D	Meets minimal requirements and expectations
Unacceptable	F	Unacceptable work and effort

## **GRADING SCALE**

A 95-100, A- 94-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-74, C- 73-70, D+ 69-67, D 66-64, D- 63-60, E 59-0

(Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements)

UF Grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences during the semester. For this FALL course, it is beneficial to not miss ANYTHING.

Late arrivals will be marked tardy (that means even 1 minute). Leaving early will also be noted as tardy.

Three late arrivals or early departures = 1 absence

If you are more than 15 minutes late or leave class more than 15 minutes early, you will be counted as absent.

If you are absent it is your responsibility to consult with a classmate to cover material covered in class that day.

Critique days are important elements of class. You should only be absent on a critique day in cases of emergency. If you are absent though, your project will be marked down a letter grade.

Do not show up late on critique days. Tardiness on a critique day will count as two tardies.

Unexcused absences in excess of three, will affect your participation grade. After your fourth absence 33% will be deducted from your participation grade. 66% after your fifth unexcused absence. After the 6th absence, you will fail the course.

## **LATE WORK POLICY**

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time. Due dates are stated on project sheets and will be announced in class. A missed class does not constitute an extension of an assignment.

Work should be finished and installed by the start of class on critique days.

Late projects will result in a drop of 1 letter grade per class period late.

## **MATERIALS**

The materials and tools needed during the course of the semester will vary from project to project. Required materials and tools will be discussed at the beginning of each project. Project-specific materials and costs will largely be left up to students to determine and manage.

There are many cost-effective resources available for students and these will be discussed in class. In addition to project-specific materials and tools, students will be responsible for buying a toolbox in which to keep the items from the list that follows. These items

will not only prepare you for this course, but are designed to be functional beyond it. Students should have their toolboxes in order by the third class, and they should be available at the start of each class thereafter.

**SUPPLY LIST:**

Sketchbook (At least 8.8" x 11") **REQUIRED**

Toolbox (inexpensive at Lowe's or Home Depot)

**Tools:**

Work shirt/apron-**keep in locker**

Closed-toe shoes-**keep in locker REQUIRED**

Needle-nose pliers with wire cutters **REQUIRED**

Pencils **REQUIRED**

Masking tape

Scotch tape

3 inexpensive disposable brushes of different sizes

Glue stick

Scissors

Hammer

Standard pliers **REQUIRED**

Phillips head screwdriver

Flat head screwdriver

Matte knife/Utility knife/Craft Knife w/ extra blades **REQUIRED**

Tape measure

Straight edge (metal ruler)

Safety goggles (if you don't want to wear the ones available in the shop)

Dust Mask

Rubber or latex gloves

Lock for your locker **REQUIRED**

**Optional:**

Cordless drill and bits

Quality extension cord

Work gloves

**Academic Honesty:**

All students are required to abide by the academic honesty guidelines, which have been accepted by the University of Florida. Cheating and illegal use of copyrighted material are not tolerated.

**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 document to the instructor. The instructor will make appropriate accommodations for any student with a disability. The Dean of Students Office can be contacted at:

352-392-1261. Information is also available on their website, at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp>.

Please speak with the instructor about any concerns.

**Health and Safety Policy:**

This course will adhere to the School of Art and Art History's Health and Safety Policy that will be reviewed in class. Attached to this syllabus is Appendix F, the Health and Safety Area Specific Information for Sculpture. All students are required to sign and submit to the office (FAC 103) the SAAH Health and Safety Student Signature page. The handbook and signature page can be found at- <http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/handbook.html>.

**Other Guidelines:**

The instructor, the School of Art and Art History, and the Sculpture Department are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms. Projects and materials are not to be stored in the wood or metal shops without consulting Brad Smith. Each student is responsible for ensuring that his/her projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project. As a rule students will plan to install projects for critique after 6pm the night before and remove projects from critique space the same day as critique, as directed by the instructor. Since three other sculpture classes, graduate students, and many other students use the critique room, it is important that students install and remove work in the time allotted for each critique and repair any damage promptly, including nail and pin holes. **Work that is not removed from the space in a timely manner and/or repairs not made will result in the lowering of the project grade.** Do not use cell phones during class time.

Students must check their school email accounts regularly. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their UF webmail accounts. Students should check with another student about assignments when they miss a class. Students should bring a doctor's note for any class for which they expect to be excused.

**SA+AH CONTAINER POLICY**

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.

#### **Appendix F:**

#### **Health and Safety Area Specific Information: Sculpture**

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

#### **4. Area Rules**

- Follow all SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines
- 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
- 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/plastic must be used to protect table/floor surfaces from paint, glue, 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 drinks 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.
- All users must follow the SA+AH Container Policy (see below)
- Failure to comply with any of these rules will equal expulsion from the shop