

# ART 2702C Sculpture: Gravity & Buoyancy

University of Florida, Spring 2018

Credit Hours: 3

T-R: Periods 8-10 (3 pm – 6 pm)

FAC B001

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Additional hours available by appointment

“My objects are seen as stimulants for the transformation of the idea of sculpture, or of art in general. They should provoke thoughts about what sculpture can be and how the concept of sculpting can be extended to the invisible materials used by everyone: Thinking Forms: how we mould out thoughts, Spoken Forms: how we shape our thoughts into words, Social Sculpture: how we mould and shape the world in which we live.”

-Joseph Beuys

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION.**

This course is an in-depth investigation into the fundamental sculptural elements of gravity & buoyancy. As we investigate these two forces of nature through the three-dimensional objects we create, we will also be exploring how our sculptural objects communicate the complexities of nature. Instead of a literal reading of gravity and buoyancy, this course strives to examine our understandings of weight, mass, density and how they relate to the presence and conceptual integrity of the objects we create. Students will build a solid understanding of three-dimensional concepts by learning basic sculptural 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 beginning 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**

- Introduce students to the fundamental principles of sculptural concerns of form, material, and construction.
- Develop familiarity with historical and contemporary concepts of three-dimensional art.
- Identify spatial concepts, formal issues, and sculptural strategies.
- Investigate various modes of construction as a vehicle for sculptural development.
- Broaden technical skills of construction and visual language of material and form.
- Develop and demonstrate visual language and formal construction skills from ideation

to proposal to finished object.

- Develop critical thinking and studio research skills
- Begin documentation habits in line with successful professional artists.
- Assess and critique the strengths and weakness of individual works.
- Develop visual ideas and generate personal themes for art-making.

## **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 work of your peers. **Critiques are mandatory.**

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 low participation grade.

## **PROJECTS**

Each project will begin with a visual presentation and readings followed by discussion. A project sheet will be provided at the beginning of each new project. These project sheets will include a detailed description of the project, timeline, due dates, and specific requirements for readings, exercises, and work statements. Each project will require a brief written description in the form of wall text.

## **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. Sketchbook guidelines will be handed out and specific requirements will be discussed periodically in class. Students are required to bring their sketchbooks to every class meeting.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

No textbook is required for this course.

Electronic copies of readings will be provided.

## **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.

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

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

Projects (4 projects at 15% each)	60%
Participation/ Preparedness/ Critiques/ Discussions	15%
Sketch book/ Proposals/ Research	15%
Written Work Statements	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. Late arrivals will be marked tardy. 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. 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, and 100% after a 6<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence. 7 unexcused absences will result in a failure of the course.

### **LATE WORK POLICY**

All projects, proposals, 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 assignments will result in a drop of 1 letter grade per class period late. An assignment more than 3 days late will receive an F. Assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

### **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Cell phones must remain on silent during the class. During critiques, presentations, and discussions cell phones must be put away out of respect to your fellow peers and instructor.

### **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. Due to the open-ended nature of each project materials will differ for each student on each project. Below is a list of minimum supplies that will be required for daily activity in the classroom. There is also a suggested list of supplies that are not mandatory, however they would most likely prepare you for this course and would continue to be functional beyond it as you pursue a degree in the arts.

### **REQUIRED SUPPLY LIST:**

Sketchbook  
Work shirt/ apron- keep in locker  
Closed-toe shoes- keep in locker  
Pens/Pencils  
Masking tape

### **SUGGESTED SUPPLY LIST:**

Toolbox (inexpensive at Lowe's or Home Depot)  
Needle-nose pliers with wire cutters  
Scotch tape

3 inexpensive disposable brushes of different sizes  
Glue stick  
Scissors  
Hammer  
Standard pliers  
Phillips head screwdriver  
Flat head screwdriver  
Matte knife/Utility knife/Craft Knife w/ extra blades  
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  
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. 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