Art 104: 3-Dimensional Studio Basics

Block 5, Spring 2018

Professor: Susannah Biondo-Gemmell

Office Location and Hours: McWethy 118—please make appointment with professor prior to meeting

Instructor Email: Sbiondogemmell@cornellcollege.edu

Instructor Phone: 319-895-4827

Class Times: Monday-Friday 9-11am and 1-3pm

McWethy Hall, 313 A

# Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles of three-dimensional composition in art emphasizing formal elements and the language of design. Basic visual and conceptual methods of defining space are examined through a series of compositional exercises/projects. Basic art materials will be used, including wire, cardboard, plaster, foam, and found/purchased objects, in order to explore visual elements such as line, shape, mass, texture, and volume. Students will be asked to consider design principles such as balance, emphasis, rhythm, harmony, contrast, repetition, proportion, scale, and unity while developing projects. Students will be encouraged to think creatively, while both challenging themselves and experimenting within the confines of each assignment. Students will work both formally and conceptually while developing an individual creative voice. Art historical influences and movements will be discussed alongside studio projects and through student presentations.

# Prerequisite:

No prereq—This course fulfills a Fine Arts requirement.

# Course Learning Objectives:

Students will:

* Independently produce projects as a response to given assignments that successfully and thoughtfully incorporate the basic concepts of 3-D art, including the application of visual elements and principles of design. *(Knowledge, Inquiry)*
* Demonstrate and articulate an understanding of 3-dimensional thinking as separate and distinct from 2-dimensional thinking. *(Inquiry, Communication)*
* Skillfully use a variety of 3-D materials, techniques, and tools. *(Knowledge, Reasoning)*
* Demonstrate additive and subtractive methods of production for 3-D forms. *(Knowledge)*
* Research and orally present art historical research as it is appropriate to studio projects produced in this course. *(Communication)*
* Consider and integrate various cultural and historical processes and ideas into their studio work. *(Intercultural Literacy)*
* Thoughtfully and thoroughly reflect upon their artistic process through written form using a daily sketchbook. *(Inquiry, Communication)*
* Describe and evaluate through written form professional artistic work after having viewed it in person and researched it formally, historically, and conceptually. *(Inquiry, Communication)*
* Discuss, critique, and evaluate their 3-D work as well as their peers’ work. *(Communication, Reasoning)*
* Create and submit a 3-D art portfolio. *(Vocation)*

**This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on knowledge, inquiry, communication, reasoning, intercultural literacy, and vocation.**

# Method of Instruction:

The majority of this course will be spent in the studio working. Objectives for the day will be presented at the beginning of each class. Each project will be introduced formally allowing time to collect ideas prior to studio work. Instruction will include hands-on demonstrations, PowerPoint lectures including pertinent historical and contemporary images, one-on-one discussions about student work with the professor, and planned group critiques of student work. Students should be prepared to discuss individual progress with the instructor frequently. Throughout the block, students will experiment with both traditional and alternative sculptural techniques and materials. Students will prepare and orally present an artist presentation to the class, which will discuss technical and conceptual investigations of a historical or contemporary sculptor. We will also travel to a local museum or gallery to experience sculptural work first-hand.

# Method of Evaluation:

Each student will be evaluated on four finished 3-D projects, an individual sketchbook, one written response to a museum visit of the instructor’s choice (tentative), a class presentation on a historical/contemporary sculptor including a bibliography citing sources, and class participation.

In-progress and formal class critiques will be scheduled at regular intervals. Students will be reminded of projects/materials to be submitted at that time. Critiques are a vital part of both evaluating you own work and developing you skills in evaluating others. Don’t miss critiques—remember these are a large part of your class participation grade for this course. **Yes, your grade will reflect your involvement in critiques.** Sketchbook assignments are created to facilitate your studio work. Sketchbooks will be collected on the Monday of week 4.

**Think of this class as a full-time job. You are expected to work a 40 hour week in the studio including class time, during the evenings, and on the weekends—this time spent in the studio will be apparent in the work.**

# Distribution of Weight:

**Final Portfolio including:**

**Project 1 – “Wire Forms: From 2-D to 3-D” 17.5%**

**Project 2 – “From 3-D CAD to Cardboard” 17.5%**

**Project 3 – “Brancusi Emulation: Plaster /Foam Casting and Carving” 17.5%**

**Project 4 – “Collaborative Modular Unit Installation” 17.5%**

**Artist Presentation including Bibliography 10%**

**Museum/Gallery Visit and 2 Page Response 5%**

**Sketchbook 7.5%**

**Class Participation 7.5%**

**(Including Attendance, All Class Critiques, Individual Readiness, Etc.)**

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**100 % total**

\*Note: Work in this class will be evaluated per student as a whole considering **improvement, craftsmanship, adherence to the project assignment, creativity/conceptual development, sophistication of ideas and process, and work ethic**—therefore individual project grades will not be given. Mid-term meetings will be held during week 3 in which students will be given feedback and progress will be discussed with the professor. A grade will not be given during these meetings. This should leave time for student improvement before turning in projects 3 and 4. Final grades will be determined at the end of the course. **Feel free to ask for an approximate evaluation and feedback at any point!**

\*\*Note: Since students enter this class at various skill levels, grades will be based on personal improvement, skill development, quality of execution, craftsmanship, and overall involvement.

\*\*\*Note: You are not entitled to a good grade because this is an art class. Art class does not equal easy. You must **earn** a good or excellent grade in this class.

A—Turned in all assignments on-time and achieved excellence in all of the above listed criteria on all of the assignments

B— Turned in all assignments on-time and demonstrated above average work in all/most of the above listed criteria on all of the assignments

C— Turned in all assignments on-time and demonstrated average work in all/most of the above listed criteria on all of the assignments

D— Turned in most of the assignments on-time and demonstrated mediocre/below average in all/most of the above listed criteria on all of the assignments

F— Missing some/many assignments and performed poorly in all of the above listed criteria on all of the assignments

**Late Work:** Grades will drop one letter (A to A-, etc.) from **the earned grade** during each day an assignment is late. Presentations will not be rescheduled.

**This information is not meant to scare you—it is simply meant to be transparent about my grading process.**

All students will be required to leave his/her final portfolio on the last day of the course in order to be graded by the professor. **The projects will need to be picked up by Friday following the last day of class—latest.** Any student who fails to collect his/her projects from the studio will be deducted participation points.

**I WILL NOT DISCUSS GRADES OVER EMAIL. You will need to make an appointment to meet with me in person to discuss your grade during or after the course.**

# Academic Honesty:

**From the Cornell College catalogue:**

*Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College’s requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Compass, our student handbook, under the heading “Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work.”*

Though the idea of “cheating” may seem unlikely in a studio art class, I expect that you are making your own work and contributing to class discussions/critiques. You should be in the studio working on projects during class time as well as in the evenings and weekends.

# Outside Assignments:

Projects will be started during class time, but students will need to continue work on and finish projects outside of class. Do not assume the amount of work expected of you by the end of this course can easily be completed unless you are in the studio working EVERYDAY and working outside of class. You need to come in each day with purpose and work with vigor. STAY ON TASK—both conceptually and technically! McWethy hours are listed below. **You will need an after hours pass and student id to be in McWethy after hours.** It is expected that students will be working either in the art building or on site on projects outside of class hours. Additionally, students will be required to keep a block-long sketchbook to be completed during and outside of class time. Finally, students will be required to attend one sculpture exhibition of the instructor’s choice and respond to this show.

# McWethy Hours:

Sunday-Thursday 5:30am-11pm

Friday-Saturday 5:30am-8pm

You will need to have an after-hours pass and student ID to be in McWethy after the listed times.

# Sketchbook (Required):

Each student will be required to keep a sketchbook. **You should create at least one entry per day in your sketchbook, including weekends. This means you will have 21 entries by the beginning of week 4, when I collect the sketchbooks. These entries can be a combination of written and sketched responses to the week’s lessons, your artwork, your influences, your life, etc. Be sure to include entries that pertain to this course or art-making.** You may also choose to collect images, objects, etc. and glue them into your sketchbook. Some sketchbook entries may be assigned in conjunction with a certain assignment. Your sketchbook will also be used to take notes in class, so be sure to bring it to each class period. Be sure to separate class notes from you sketchbook entries. **Each sketchbook entry must be clearly labeled with the entry # (for example Entry #18).**  Sketchbooks will be collected at the beginning of week 4, so be sure to **consistently complete at least 1 entry per week. Don’t wait until the end to complete all of the entries—it will be obvious! A sketchbook is an invaluable tool for any artist and should facilitate your creative process.** See supplementary sketchbook handout for additional information.

# Supplies and Materials:

Each student will need to gather materials from various locations:

**Campus Bookstore: One sketchbook** (or elsewhere)

**Student: Materials, varied** (these will need to be purchased, acquired, collected by the student)

**Materials Fee:**

**$35** – This fee will cover wire, glue sticks, plaster, foam, sandpaper, and other disposable materials used during the block. This fee needs to be paid to the instructor asap either as cash or a check make out to Cornell College. If I do not receive this fee by the end of the course, a grade will not be given.

Assume you will need to purchase some materials throughout the block also such as modular units for the final project, additional wire if needed, paint, etc. Again, you will need to be proactive in acquiring these materials.

# Attendance:

Excellent attendance is required in this class—particularly since Cornell works on the block schedule. **Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class—morning and afternoon. The morning is considered a class and the afternoon is considered a class. If you are not there, you will be counted absent. If you are late, you must find me during/after class to change it to a tardy and, if you leave early without consulting with the instructor, you will be counted tardy.** **After one absence, your grade will drop a letter (A to A-) for each additional absence. Two tardies equal an absence.** If you need to leave class early—you should discuss this with the instructor prior to class for it to be excused. It is simply too difficult to make up lost class time effectively. Consistently arriving late or leaving early is disrespectful to the instructor and disruptive for other students. Always speak with the instructor if you foresee an excused absence, but do not assume it will be excused. It is the student’s responsibility to inquire about missed assignments from another student, though, due to the method of instruction for this course, it may be impossible to make up. **Lecture material, technical demonstrations, and project assignments will not be repeated. No cell phones or texting in class. I-pods can be used during studio time with only one ear bud, so the student can hear outside noise.**

**It is your responsibility to be aware of college withdrawal policies.**

# Contacting the Instructor:

You may contact me through my school email: SBiondogemmell@cornellcollege.edu

Speak with the instructor to schedule an appointment. I will be happy to meet with you to discuss your work or progress in the course!

Note: Because I have 18 students working in very different ways, often in different areas of the building, it can be difficult at times to find me for help instantly—particularly on studio days. Let me know at our morning meeting if you need to speak with me first.

# Clean-Up and Storage:

Each student is responsible for thorough clean-up of his/her work space, including wiping down the tables, throwing out excess materials, sweeping the floor around your table, etc. Some projects will be messier than others, so in those cases we will spend some extra time cleaning up our studio. Storage space will be provided in drawers in the studio. Be sure to store your supplies in the correct space. **Consistently leaving a mess will affect your participation grade.**

# Students with Disabilities:

**From the Cornell College catalogue:**

*Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see*

[*cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml*](https://mail1.cornellcollege.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=af46e47c95734d58ac318c86eb4db0e3&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.cornellcollege.edu%2fdisabilities%2fdocumentation%2findex.shtml)

*Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes.*

*At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.*

Any student with a disability should contact the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising in Cole Library. Please ask if you have any questions.