

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
ART 68, Beginning Sculpture: Object and Concept, Section 1, Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Nathan Cox |
| Office Location: | ART 119 |
| Telephone: | 408-924-4335 |
| Email: | nmittchellcox@gmail.com |
| Office Hours: | Mondays, 10:15 – 11:00 AM (at ART 119) Wednesdays, 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM (at SJSU Foundry) By Appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | Mondays/Wednesdays, 12:00 – 2:50 PM |
| Classroom: | Art Department Foundry (1036 S. 5 th Street) |
| Department Office: | ART 116 |
| Department Contact: | Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu |

Course Description

This course serves as a broad introduction to the creation and discussion of contemporary sculpture. Over the course of the semester we will provide an introduction to core sculptural media, including: woodworking, metal fabrication, mold-making, metal-casting, working with found objects and installation/presentation. In addition to our work in the studio, a series of written exercises and in-class presentations will support the discussion of the relationship between fabrication and content, placing the practice of sculpture within the creative community and culture as a whole.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1 Develop and refine a set of sculpture techniques (including wood-working, mold-making, metal casting and basic metal fabrication), and use those and other techniques to express ideas.

CLO 2 Develop an understanding of the relationship between learned skills and content in works of art, and demonstrate this understanding in a studio and classroom setting.

CLO 3 Identify and explore different methods for installing and presenting artwork.

CLO 4 Develop and utilize vocabulary specific to the discussion of art.

CLO 5 Examine personal and public concerns, and integrate them into created works.

CLO 6 Practice critical/analytical thinking about art in written and verbal formats.

Course Web Page

Course materials (such as Green Sheet, handouts, notes, assignment instructions and grades) can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. To access Canvas, visit the aforementioned address and log in using your SJSUOne information. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas site, as well as e-mail and our course Green Sheet, to remain informed.

Required Texts/Readings

Required readings will be made available to students through Canvas as needed throughout the course of the semester.

Recommended Readings and Resources

Kendall Buster and Paula Crawford, *The Critique Handbook: the Art Student's Sourcebook and Survival Guide*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010.

David Carrier, *Writing About Visual Art*. New York: Allworth Press, 2003.

Current Art Periodicals (*Art Forum*, *Sculpture* magazine, *Art in America*, etc)

Visual Resource Library (website ID and password TBA in class) <http://arth.sjsu.edu/vrl>

The Creators Project <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheCreatorsProject>

PBS Idea Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/pbsideachannel>

Other equipment / material requirements

During the semester, we will be working with a wide variety of materials. While many of those necessary for introductory studio exercises will be provided to you, you will be responsible for acquiring additional materials and supplies to be used in projects later on in the semester (recommendations for vendors will be discussed in class as needed).

The majority of the tools and equipment you will need to complete your assignments will be available at the foundry, and all relevant demonstrations will be given during class as needed (see calendar). Though all of the required protective clothing (face and ear protection, heat-resistant garments, etc) is available at the Foundry, many students have found it useful in the past to purchase basic items for themselves (faculty, staff and volunteers are able to provide recommendations for local vendors, if needed). Though it is not required for this course, the department's central shop (located in the Art building on campus) is available to all students enrolled in Art or Design courses (pending successful completion of the Shop Safety Test). Central shop policy will be discussed in class for anyone interested.

Personal lockers are available for material and equipment storage (policies to be discussed during shop orientation).

Library Liaison

Our library Liaison is Rebecca Kohn. She can be reached via email at Rebecca.Kohn@sjsu.edu and by phone at [\(408\) 808-2061](tel:4088082061). Her office is located on the 4th floor of the King Library and she welcomes students to

contact her with research questions. Art and Art History Library Resources are available online at: libguides.sjsu.edu/art. All of the University Library Resources can be accessed at: libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Assignments are meant to expose you to a variety of art-making strategies, while encouraging analytical thought and building effective communication skills in several formats. All assignments will be introduced with an in-class presentation, with relevant documents and information (instructions, etc) available through Canvas. Due dates, along with demonstrations and other relevant events, are outlined in the course calendar.

Studio Projects

Skills-Based Projects

Woodworking (CLO 1, 3, 4, 6)

Metal Fabrication (CLO 1, 3, 4, 6)

Mold Making and Metal Casting (CLO 1, 3, 4-6)

Content-Driven Projects

Experiments in Installation, Presentation and Concept Development (CLO 1-6)

Written Exercises and Presentations

Autobiographical Object Presentation (CLO 2, 4-6)

Reading Response and Discussion (CLO 2, 4, 6)

Art Response (CLO 2, 4-6)

Artist Genealogy Presentation (CLO 2, 4, 6)

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Studio Projects

Studio Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- application of the concepts/principles outlined in each prompt
- technical proficiency and aesthetics
- inventiveness of conception and/or execution
- demonstrated effort

Written Exercises and Presentations

Written exercises and presentations will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- understanding and application of the concepts/principles outlined in each prompt
- clarity of thought
- quality of writing and/or presentation

Participation

Participation includes: discussion of work (both yours and that of your colleagues) during class critiques, presence at demonstrations and presentations, input during discussions, maintenance of work spaces (cleaning equipment after use, returning tools, etc), along with other evidence of active engagement in the course. You will be expected to be present, prepared and engaged for each class meeting, as the aforementioned behaviors provide valuable evidence of your progress.

Late Work

Each assignment is due on the day and time indicated by the course calendar (the day of the critique, for studio projects). Unless explicit arrangements are made with me in advance (due to extenuating circumstances), any work submitted late will be marked down a full letter grade per class period after the due date. No late work will be accepted after the final regular class meeting.

Grade Availability

Numerical grades for individual assignments will be posted to Canvas, soon after the due date. As our time during critiques will be limited, students are free to contact the instructor to obtain a full explanation of grades given on any particular assignment. **It is the student's responsibility to check grades as they become available, report any potential errors and seek additional information as needed.**

Grade Breakdown and Scale

All assignments must be completed and submitted according to ascribed deadlines and instructions. These assignments will contribute to your final grade in the following manner:

- Skills-Based Projects: 45% (three projects, 15% each)
- Content-Driven Projects: 20% (one project, 20%)
- Written Exercises and Presentations: 20% (four exercises, 5% each)
- Participation: 15%

The following table indicates how final grades will be calculated (based on the percentages supplied above):

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| A+ = 100-97% | A = 96.99-93% | A- = 92.99-90% |
| B+ = 89.99-87% | B = 86.99-83% | B- = 82.99-80% |
| C+ = 79.99-77% | C = 76.99-73% | C- = 72.99-70% |
| D+ = 69.99-67% | D = 66.99-63% | D- = 62.99-60% |
| F = 59.99-0% Unsatisfactory | | |

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

General

Along with submitted work, active participation is a vital tool for me to evaluate your progress, so it is necessary that you be present and engaged for the duration of every class period. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me and make arrangements for any activities and/or work that you might miss. As you will be working in a shared space, you must be mindful of your surroundings and considerate toward your colleagues. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited in all work spaces and working on laptops will, for the most part, not be necessary (you will be informed ahead of time on any such occasion). Though we will devote as much time as possible to working on your projects, you should expect to spend at least three to five hours each week working outside of class.

Shop Conduct

It is essential that department and university safety requirements are followed at all times, both during and outside of class. Demonstrations for specific tools and equipment will be given in class before their use will be allowed. If you miss a demonstration, or are unclear about any details, please contact the instructor or technician to schedule a make-up demonstration. **Do not use a piece of equipment unless you have seen the relevant demonstration.**

Proper work attire includes closed-toe shoes, long pants, removal of loose clothing or dangling jewelry, and securing of long hair. As your safety is our primary concern, be prepared to comply with any instructions given by myself or the shop staff.

The Shop Safety Test

Students who use the foundry facilities will be required to take the Foundry Safety Test. This test (designed to give a basic overview of the safety and operational requirements of the foundry facilities) will be given free of charge during class-time, and will be preceded by a facilities tour and safety walk-through given by the technician and instructor. Though it is not required for the course, students enrolled in any Art or Design Course are entitled to use the Central Shop facilities on campus pending successful completion of the (separate) orientation and safety test. Procedures and requirements will be discussed in class for those interested.

Hazardous Materials and Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS)

During the course of the semester, we will occasionally be working with potentially hazardous substances. Safety demonstrations will be given during class for any such substances as they are needed. Please be advised that for any potentially hazardous materials not specifically demonstrated during class, students are required to provide a material safety data sheet (MSDS). These forms, obtained from vendors and detailing important safety information, must be on file for all potentially hazardous materials before they can be used in any of the Art & Design facilities. Submit one copy of the material’s MSDS to the faculty member or technician responsible for the facility where the material will be used.

Operating Hours

During the Spring 2017 semester, it is our intention that the shop will remain open from 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Monday through Friday, to allow students to work outside of class-time. Specific operating hours are subject to course schedules and volunteer availability, and will be made available as soon as they are determined.

Contact Information and Communication

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions concerning an assignment, the course in general, or any other relevant topic. I am always happy to suggest resources and am willing to discuss your class work at any stage (within reason). On that note, it is important that you keep a valid e-mail address on file with the University, as e-mail will represent the bulk of our out-of-class communication. It is also useful to exchange contact information with a few classmates, for organizing out-of-class work time, obtaining materials and supplies or arranging transportation.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

1. "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material."
1. It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.

2. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
1. “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Art 68 / Beginning Sculpture, Spring 2017, Course Schedule

This calendar represents our intended trajectory for the semester. Though we will do our best to follow this schedule, it may be necessary to make revisions due to extenuating circumstances. You will be given ample written warning whenever such a situation occurs.

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|----------|---|
| 1 | 01/30/17 | Course introduction Facilities tour |
| 1 | 02/01/17 | Safety walk-through and Shop Safety Test Introduction for Autobiographical Object presentation |
| 2 | 02/06/17 | Introduction for woodworking project Cutting and shaping demonstrations Begin fabrication for woodworking project |
| 2 | 02/08/17 | Autobiographical Object presentations Continue fabrication for woodworking project |
| 3 | 02/13/17 | Joinery demonstrations Continue fabrication for woodworking project |
| 3 | 02/15/17 | Introduction for Reading Response Sanding demonstrations Continue fabrication for woodworking project |
| 4 | 02/20/17 | Finishing demonstrations (including HazMat) Continue fabrication for woodworking project |
| 4 | 02/22/17 | Continue fabrication for woodworking project (complete for critique) |
| 5 | 02/27/17 | Critique woodworking project |
| 5 | 03/01/17 | Introduction for metal fabrication project Cutting and shaping demonstrations Begin fabrication |
| 6 | 03/06/17 | Reading response due (discuss during class) Continue fabrication |
| 6 | 03/08/17 | Welding demonstrations Continue fabrication |
| 7 | 03/13/17 | Introduction for Art Response Continue fabrication |
| 7 | 03/15/17 | Finishing demonstrations Mid-semester evaluations Continue metal fabrication project |
| 8 | 03/20/17 | Continue metal fabrication project (complete for critique) |
| 8 | 03/22/17 | Critique metal fabrication project |

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| 9 | 03/27/17 | No class (Spring Recess) |
| 9 | 03/29/17 | No class (Spring Recess) |
| 10 | 04/03/17 | Introduction for metal casting project Mold-making discussion (begin brainstorming) |
| 10 | 04/05/17 | Art Response due (discuss during class) Begin molds for metal casting project |
| 11 | 04/10/17 | Introduction for Artist Genealogy presentation Complete molds for metal casting project |
| 11 | 04/12/17 | Pour aluminum pieces |
| 12 | 04/17/17 | Introduction for concept development project Continue fabrication for metal casting project (complete for critique) |
| 12 | 04/19/17 | Critique metal casting project |
| 13 | 04/24/17 | Meet on campus to view graduate ATC exhibitions (time and location TBA) |
| 13 | 04/26/17 | No class (graduate ATC presentations) |
| 14 | 05/01/17 | In-progress discussion for concept development project Continue fabrication for concept development project |
| 14 | 05/03/17 | Artist Genealogy presentations Continue fabrication for concept development project |
| 15 | 05/08/17 | Artist Genealogy presentations (continued) Continue fabrication for concept development project |
| 15 | 05/10/17 | Continue fabrication for concept development project (complete for critique) |
| 16 | 05/15/17 | Critique concept development project |
| Final Exam | 05/23/17 | Final meeting and activities (9:45 AM – 12:00 PM) |