

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Art 149-01: Topics in Jewelry and Small Sculpture, Lost Wax Casting
Fall Semester 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Yvonne Escalante
Office Location:	Virtual office hour will be held on Zoom. A link will be provided on the Canvas course page
Email:	Yvonne.escalante@sjsu.edu
Office Hour:	Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday / Thursday 12:00 – 2:50 pm
Classroom:	http://sjsu.instructure.com

Course Description

Technical and aesthetic aspects of metal casting for small-scale sculpture and jewelry. Pattern materials, gating techniques, burnout procedure, vacuum casting, centrifugal casting, and finishing. Repeatable for 12 units of credit when topic changes.

Topic: Lost Wax Casting

Course Format

(Activity)

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This course is designed as a hybrid studio course and an online studio course. Asynchronous class lectures and demonstrations will be prerecorded and available on Canvas or YouTube. Synchronous lectures, demonstrations, and office hours will be held on Zoom. Occasional in-person meetings will be scheduled with small cohorts and will meet in the Art building, Room 210 or at the [SJSU Foundry](#) located at 1036 South Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112. For students who are able, opportunities to participate in in-person campus activities will be scheduled as safety and health guidelines allow. For students not able to attend in-person activities, alternative online content will be available to fulfill the requirements of each project.

Students participating in on-campus activities must comply with [SJSU's health and safety protocol](https://www.sjsu.edu/healthadvisories/health-safety-protocols/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/healthadvisories/health-safety-protocols/index.php>) Students must review these policies prior to participation.

Students will need internet connectivity to access the Canvas course page, watch demonstration videos and lectures, and participate in discussion groups. A camera that allows for digital documentation will be required to document and upload images of in-progress and finished work for submission to Canvas. This does not need to be a professional camera; a cell phone camera will suffice.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

All course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> and Canvas to learn of any updates.

[A guide to getting started in canvas](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18574-getting-started-with-canvas-as-a-student) can be found at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-18574-getting-started-with-canvas-as-a-student>

Course Goals

This course is designed to introduce correct and safe use of basic tools, equipment, and techniques used in the creation of jewelry and small-scale sculpture as it pertains to casting using the lost wax casting method. As the semester progresses, students will build a toolkit of skills that will provide a strong foundation for further exploration in metal casting. Discussions, readings, one-on-one meetings, and practice will aid in developing and identifying expectations of craft, successful design development, and independent problem solving. This knowledge will be applied to complete three exercises and one project.

Students in this course will:

Gain confidence and proficiency in the use of tools and equipment associated with casting in non-ferrous metals. In addition, students will understand and apply the vocabulary and terminology used in jewelry and small metals to create, discuss, and critically review works. Upon completion of this course students will have a clear understanding of all shop safety protocol and industry best practices.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO1: Identify and safely use tools and equipment
- CLO2: Employ casting techniques including wax working, gating, investing, casting, soldering, and patination to create three process samples.
- CLO3: Complete one casting project as outlined in class assignments.
- CLO4: Participate and contribute to the critical evaluation of finished work through instructor-led class critiques.
- CLO5: Apply the content described in course readings and individual research to the lost-wax casting projects completed in the class.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook (purchase not required)

- Required readings will be provided on Canvas in form of a pdf.

Basic Wax Modeling: An Adventure in Creativity

By Hiroshi Tsuyuki

ISBN4-905588-28-6

Available through [OttoFrei.com](http://www.ottofrei.com)

<https://www.ottofrei.com/Basic-Wax-Modeling-An-Adventure-In-Creativity-By-Hiroshi-Tsuyuki>

Other requirements

Tool Kits

To support your online studio experience, you are required to purchase a tool kit. I will provide a list of tools and item numbers. Otto Frei, a local jewelry retailer, has agreed to carry these kits and make them available for a discounted rate for SJSU students enrolled in a JSM course. Kits can be found at [OttoFrei.com](http://www.ottofrei.com). A specific link will be provided once kits are available. Students should expect to pay around \$100- \$160 depending on what you already have available to you.

A limited number of tool kits are available, through the lab, for checkout for the semester and will be distributed to local students who are unable to acquire kits online. These kits will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Please email me at yvonne.escalante@sjsu.edu to request a kit. Students who check out kits are required to return tools in good working order upon the completion of the course.

Materials

A dedicated sketchbook for notes and design sketches and a small toolbox or tackle box is strongly recommended. Students are required to purchase silver and any materials or supplies that exceed the class allotment such as additional saw blades, sandpaper, and metal as needed for the completion of projects. Cost will vary from student to student depending on individual needs and current market prices. Students will be given fair warning when outside materials are needed as projects are assigned.

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: (408) 808-2094

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

4th Floor Administration Offices

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, [408-924-4320](tel:408-924-4320), art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction,

preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Assignment Outline

“Start Here” module

Introduction to the course and practice activities concluding with a practice Zoom session.

- Zoom session: August, 27, 1point participation
- Introduction activities: Due September 1 at 9:00 am, 4 points participation
- Safety test #1: 15 points

20 points participation

Module 1: High-Domed Ring

Introduction to tool making, carving wax and centrifugal casting.

- Designs due 9/8, 5 points
- Pattern due 9/15, 10 points
- self-assessment due 9/15, 5 points
- Zoom group discussion 9/15, 5 participation points
- Final casting due 10/22, 10 points
- Final discussion: 10/22, 5 participation points

40 points

Module 2: Introduction to Soft Wax

Introduction to patternmaking with soft wax to capture textures and organic forms, advanced spruing, and casting multiples.

- Safety test #2, due 9/24, 15 points
- Patterns due 10/6, 10 points
- Self-assessment due 10/6, 5 points each
- Zoom discussion 10/6, 5 points participation
- Final castings due 11/10, 10 points
- Final discussion 11/10, 5 points participation

50 points

Module 3: Introduction to metal finishing at home

Introduction to setting up a safe metal working studio at home and finishing techniques.

- Safety test #3, due 10/15, 15 points

15 points

Module 4: Final Project

Based on casting techniques covered in modules 1-3, you will combine soft and carving wax with individual research to create an amulet, or object of protection.

- Written proposal due 10/27, 10 points
- Zoom discussion 10/27, 5 points participation
- Final designs due 10/29, 10 points
- Pattern due 11/12, 5 points
- Patina samples due, 11/19, 5 points
- Discussion due, 11/19, 5 points participation

- Final due 12/10, 10 points
- Final critique 12/10, 10 points participation

60 points

Visiting Artist Lecture

9/21, Visiting Artist Lecture: Sondra Sherman

5:00 – 6:00 pm, Synchronous Zoom lecture (will not be recorded)

- Lecture, 5 points participation
- Questionnaire, due 9/17, 10 points

15 points

Final Examination or Evaluation

Final critique – The final critique will be held on the final day of instruction during the regularly scheduled time. All students are expected to participate in the critical discussion of the final project for participation points. This is the final day that late and extra credit work will be accepted for credit.

Grading Information

Assignment Format and Submission:

This course requires students to complete an introduction module and four project-based modules. To ensure a safe and fruitful learning environment, students are required to complete and pass all safety tests and review equipment demonstrations before handling equipment. Students should be prepared to actively participate in all the course content including lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and critiques. Students are expected to budget time to work outside of class time to complete projects and exercises. Research, discussions, writing assignments, and final documentation will be submitted electronically to Canvas for evaluation. Grades and comments will be posted on Canvas along with a rubric detailing the point value earned. A final critique will be held on the scheduled final exam day.

Pick-up and drop-off of waxes and castings:

Wax patterns will be required to be dropped off for investing and picked up once the casting is complete for finishing in your home studio. Scheduled cohorts will actively participate in at least one casting cycle per semester if desired. Students not able to drop off wax patterns will be required to produce a second wax for digital submission in lieu of a finished metal piece.

Determination of Grades

- **Making up missed work** – It is your responsibility to make arrangements to make up missed demos, acquire notes from missed lectures, and to contact me with special circumstances regarding attendance and late work.
- **Contact your peers** to keep up to date on any information you may have missed due to an absence.

If you missed a synchronous activity:

- Recordings of all Zoom discussions will be available on Canvas. Please allow at least 24 hours for content to be posted.
- If the synchronous activities cannot be recorded it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes from a peer and contact me to make arrangements to make up participation points.

- Email me at yvonne.escalante@sjsu.edu to set up an appointment during office hours or to request an appointment outside of office hours. If you cannot make office hours, please **include three times** you are available to meet.
- You may come to my office hours for drop-in visits; however, this is first-come first-served and is limited to the time posted

Evaluations will be based on:

- Student’s level of participation in discussions and critiques associated with each assignment.
- Student’s ability to successfully apply skills learned through demonstrations and practice to a finished work of their own design.
- Evidence of thoughtful project development through sketches, models, and research.

A grading rubric will be included with each assignment.

Determination of Grades

- Numeric grades will be determined by the total points earned for all assignments including class participation. Letter grades will be given based on percentage equivalents.
- **Extra Credit** – Extra credit is welcome and encouraged in order for you to further explore any of the techniques covered. I may also offer extra credit in class as unforeseen opportunities arise. You may submit one extra credit piece worth up to 5% of your grade. Extra credit is given a point value based on complexity of the piece and quality of the end product. 5% is not guaranteed and can range from 1-5%.
- **Late projects** – Late projects will be accepted; however, 5% will be deducted from late work for each class meeting it is late and 10% for every week it is late. All late work must be submitted by the final critique for credit.
- **Missed participation** – Missed participation activities such as peer reviews and group discussions will not be accepted as late work. Students must request an alternative assignment to makeup participation points or take a zero for that activity. ***Please note: in-person activities do not count as participation credit. These are activities scheduled to help facilitate completion of a project. If you are unable to attend in-person activities it will not negatively impact your grade if you follow the online project requirements.**
- **Class participation** – Participation is assessed as follows:
 1. Active participation in the critical evaluation of projects through class critiques.
 2. Active participation in class discussions.
 3. Active participation in group and peer reviews.

Relative weight of course requirements:

1) Start Here module	10%
2) Module 1	20%
3) Module 2	25%
4) Module 3	7.5%
5) Module 4	30%
6) Visiting artist research and questionnaire	7.5%

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	200 +	100% or more
<i>A</i>	185 -199	93 to 99%
<i>A minus</i>	179 - 184	90 to 92%
<i>B plus</i>	171 - 178	86 to 89 %
<i>B</i>	165 - 170	83 to 85%
<i>B minus</i>	159 - 164	80 to 82%
<i>C plus</i>	151 - 158	76 to 79%
<i>C</i>	145 - 150	73 to 75%
<i>C minus</i>	139 - 144	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	131 - 138	66 to 69%
<i>D</i>	125 - 130	63 to 65%
<i>D minus</i>	120 - 124	60 to 62%

Classroom Protocol

Zoom discussions

Zoom discussions will be scheduled throughout the semester. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared to discuss the day's topic. Students will remain on mute unless presenting and will use the "raise hand" feature to ask questions or comment. In addition, students may use the chat feature to comment and ask questions. Students are not required to join with video turned on, but must be able to participate in the discussions as required by the topic.

If you miss a synchronous session or need to review content of a discussion, synchronous discussions will be recorded and archived on Canvas. All chats will also be archived and available to view by all.

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission. Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12--7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Students are expected to present themselves in a professional manner and treat all participants with respect.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute your microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be mindful of background noise and distractions:** Find a quiet place to "attend" class, to the greatest extent possible.
 - Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
 - Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position your camera properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.

- **Limit your distractions/avoid multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
- **Use appropriate virtual backgrounds:** If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

Submitting images

All images submitted must be documented on a solid neutral background with the object or subject matter in clear focus. Images may not be altered using editing software to improve the finish, form, or in any way falsely represent the object being submitted. Images must be saved as a .jpg before uploading to Canvas. Images must be of your original work and be supported by process documentation such as sketches and in-progress video or images. Formatting will be covered on Canvas.

In-person activities

Students are required to **Review SJSU's Health and Safety Protocol** [here](https://www.sjsu.edu/healthadvisories/health-safety-protocols/index.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/healthadvisories/health-safety-protocols/index.php>) and must self-assess health prior to visiting campus. Students are required to wear appropriate face coverings at all times and maintain 6 feet of distance, and wash hands before and after using equipment, tools, and restrooms. Students must also abide by the facility health and safety protocol at all times while using the shop. Students failing to follow any of the above protocol will be asked to leave immediately.

Clothing for in-person activities

- Always wear close-toed shoes during class even if you are not operating equipment.
- Keep long hair securely pulled back and remove any dangling jewelry or accessories (such as earbuds) before operating equipment.
- Remove any loose clothing that could get caught up in equipment prior to operation.
- Always wear safety glasses when operating equipment.
- When casting, you are required to have fire-resistant clothing on. Avoid synthetic fabrics such as polyester that can flash at low temperatures, resulting in severe burns. Long cotton or canvas pants such as jeans are required on casting days.
- Failure to comply with the shop clothing protocol will result in loss of lab privileges for the day or until student is appropriately clothed.

Timeframe for in-person activities

In order to properly follow all cleaning guidelines and allow time for setting up temporary working stations, in-person activities will start 20 minutes after the scheduled class time. Activities will be required to stop and clean up 30 minutes prior to the end of class. These time limits are non-negotiable. Students who show up late, or are unprepared for the day's activities, will find it difficult to finish the scheduled activities in the time allowed. This can impact the success of the project.

Lab access outside of class

There will be no lab access outside of scheduled activities. Please contact me directly to discuss concerns regarding this policy.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent

for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Notice of all changes will be made available through Canvas announcements and on the home page of the Canvas course page.

On-Campus Activities: Due to the rapidly changing health and safety guidelines and other factors beyond our control, scheduled activities could be cancelled on short notice. Please check Canvas prior to each scheduled event to confirm details have not changed.

Course Schedule

Module	Date	Topics and Activities	Deadlines *all assignments are due before the start of class.	On Campus activity *Subject to change
Start Here	8/20	Introduction to the course	Schedule kit pickup/ order tools	
	8/25	First week: Hands-on practice		
	8/27	Zoom practice activity: Meet, Greet, and Q & A		
Module 1	9/1	Introduction to wax carving	First week activities due	Scheduled facility tours and kit pick-up
	9/3	Tool making	Kits and tools required by 9/3 to continue	Scheduled facility tours and kit pick-up
	9/8	Carving a high-domed ring	Designs due	
	9/10	Finishing techniques for wax		
	9/15	Zoom group discussion: peer review	Pattern and self-assessment due	
	9/17	Introduction to spruing	Visiting artist research due	
	9/21	Visiting Artist Lecture: Sondra Sherman	5:00 – 6:00 pm Synchronous Zoom lecture (will not be recorded)	
Module 2	9/22	Introduction to soft wax	(Ex 1) Mounted pattern due	(Ex. 1) Scheduled pattern drop-off/ Investing
	9/24	Designing for casting	Safety Test #2 due	

Module	Date	Topics and Activities	Deadlines *all assignments are due before the start of class.	On Campus activity *Subject to change
	9/29	Work on wax samples		
	10/1	Introduction to advanced spruing		(Ex. 1) Scheduled casting pickup/Casting
	10/6	Zoom group discussions: peer review	Pattern and self-assessment due	
Module 3	10/8	Introduction to metal finishing at home	(Ex. 2) Mounted pattern due	(Ex. 2) Scheduled pattern drop-off/ Investing
	10/13	Metal finishing at home continued		
	10/15	(Ex. 1) Finish castings	Safety test #3 due	(Ex. 2) Scheduled casting pickup/ Casting
	10/20	Introduction to written proposal		
	10/22	Work on written proposal	Discussion post: <i>Finished High-Domed Ring</i> due	(Ex. 2) Scheduled casting pickup/ Casting
Module 4	10/27	Zoom group discussion: peer review	Written proposal due	
	10/29	Work on design	Final designs due	
	11/3	Technical considerations for post casting assembly		
	11/5	Work on pattern		
	11/10	Advanced sprue systems	Discussion: (Ex. 2) finished castings due	
	11/12	Patina at home	Pattern due	(Final Project) Scheduled pattern drop-off/ Investing
	11/17	Finish Project 1		
	11/19	Introduction to fabrication/ casting	Discussion: (Ex. 2) patina experiments due	(Final Project) Scheduled casting pickup/ Casting
	11/24	Introduction to fabrication/ casting	Safety test #3 due	(Final Project) Scheduled casting pickup/ Casting
	11/26	Thanksgiving holiday – no class		
	12/1	Finish casting		
	12/3	Final assembly		

Module	Date	Topics and Activities	Deadlines *all assignments are due before the start of class.	On Campus activity *Subject to change
Final Exam	12/10	9:45 am – 12:00 pm	Zoom final critique, final project due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All work including late and extra credit due 	