

San José State University
Department of Art and Art History
Art 135: Topics in Moldmaking for Artists,
The Multiple in the Environment
Spring Semester 2021

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 pm – 2:50 pm
Classroom:	http://sjsu.instructure.com
Prerequisite:	Art 13 or instructor's consent

Course Description

Introduction to moldmaking for upper division/graduate students. Course will include techniques for rubber molds for wax or plastic, molds for pressed clay, slip casting and waste molds. Course is repeatable for a total of 6 units.

Prerequisite: ART 13 or instructor consent.

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 Art building, Room 210, the Art Quad, 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 to participate in discussion groups. A device 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 [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)

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Course Goals

This course is designed to introduce correct and safe use of basic tools, equipment, and techniques used in the creation of small-scale sculpture as it pertains to mold making with rigid and flexible molds. As the semester progresses, students will build a toolkit of skills that will provide a strong foundation for further exploration in mold making and casting in traditional and non-traditional materials. Discussions, readings, one-on-one meetings, and practice will aid in developing and identifying expectations of craft, successful design development, and independent problem solving as well as create meaningful discussion around contemporary art practices. This knowledge will be applied to complete an introductory module and four project modules.

Students in this course will:

Gain confidence and proficiency in the use of tools and equipment associated with mold making processes. In addition, students will understand and apply the vocabulary and terminology used in sculpture and mold making to create, discuss, and critically review works. Upon completion of this course, students will have a clear understanding of all shop safety protocols and will gain confidence in choosing the appropriate materials to create unique sculpture of their own design.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO1: Identify and safely use tools and equipment associated with techniques covered.
- CLO2: Identify when to use the proper mold types for desired results
- CLO3: Utilize a non-traditional art space to install your work.
- CLO4: Identify how your work can interact with an environment, and the cyclical nature of working amongst variables.
- CLO 5: Clearly talk about concepts within your work
- CLO 6: Refine and sharpen the craftsmanship essential to being a practicing artist
- CLO 7: Identify different ways of presenting and installing your work
- CLO 8: Practice critical thinking about artwork on paper and in a group format

Required readings

- All required readings will be provided on Canvas in form of a pdf or web link.

Other equipment / material requirements

To support your online studio experience, you are required to purchase some materials, tools, and consumables. Though most tools are available for checkout, some will be required beyond what I can provide on loan. A dedicated sketchbook for notes and design sketches and a small toolbox or tote to store and transport supplies is strongly recommended.

Mold making materials: I will provide all the mold making materials necessary to meet the minimum requirements of the course with the exception of the first exercise. You may want to produce more than I can supply materials for; in this case, you may need to invest in some of your own materials. A vendor list will be supplied with each project in case you wish to purchase a larger quantity on your own.

Expect to spend \$10 on materials for the first exercise.

Material kits will be packaged and distributed to you at the start of each module. These kits will have all the required mold making and casting materials included but will need to be supplemented by supplies you must acquire on your own, much of which are common household items or can be collected from your recyclables at home.

Consumables: Consumable materials such as butcher paper, disposable gloves, mixing containers, any specialized PPE, etc. cannot be supplied for your home shop. I will provide a materials list, of items you should keep stocked throughout the semester, with the first exercise. These items are readily available online and in hardware stores. **Expect to spend \$50 on basic consumables.**

Tool kits: Basic tools will be checked out throughout the semester as needed. As you work through a process, you may find specialized tools that are helpful. It is optional to supplement any tool kit by purchasing your own tools if desired; I am happy to advise on vendors or tools – just ask!

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, art@sjsu.edu

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>.

“Start Here” module

Introduction to the course and safety protocol for mold making at home.

- Zoom session: 1/28/21, 5 points participation
- Introduction activities: 2/9/21, 6 points participation
- SDS and Safety quiz #1: 15 points

26 points participation

Module 1: Silicone caulk molds

An introduction to creating quick and easy low-relief molds using readily available materials.

- Field survey logs 2/18/21, 6 points
- Mold logs due 2/18/21, 6 points
- Final molds due 2/18/21, 6 points
- Final casts due 2/23/21, 6 points

24 points

Module 2: Alginate molds

Starting with a simple alginate mold, this exercise will explore a variety of ways to manipulate molds to create new forms and meaning. In addition, we will use these molds to experiment with temporary and permanent inclusions used to alter the form of the final cast and to create integrated installation systems.

- Safety quiz #2 due, 3/2/21, 10 points
- Mold logs due 3/09/21, 10 points
- Final piece due 4/6/21, 10 points
- Final discussion 4/6/21, 10 points

40 points

Module 3: Turning plaster

Introduction to using the jeweler’s saw and files to create cutting jigs for forming plaster on a hand-turned lathe. Inspired by field surveys, you will translate a form or sound into an abstract object created on the turning box in plaster.

- Safety quiz #3 due 3/18/21, 10 points
- Field log due 3/16/21, 5 points
- Profiles due 3/23/21, 5 points
- Progress posts due 3/25/21, 10 points
- Turned plaster due 4/6/21, 10 points
- Zoom discussion 4/6/21, 10 points

50 points

Module 4: Silicone molds and rapid set plastic

Introduction to using platinum cure silicone rubber to create highly detailed molds and casts. Introduction to utilizing rapid set plastic for rapid prototyping and mass production of an object. The multiple casts will be installed in an environment and documented for the final critique.

- Safety quiz #4 due 4/13/21, 10 points

- Field log due 4/15/21, 5 points
- Mold box due 4/20/21, 5 points
- Molds and mold log due 4/27/21, 10 points
- Casts due 5/06/21, 10 points
- Final documentation due 5/13/21, 10 points
- Final critique 5/13/21, 10 points

60 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 final day of instruction. Tool drop-off and art pickup will be held on the scheduled final exam day.

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	13%
2) Module 1	12%
3) Module 2	20%
4) Module 3	25%
5) Module 4	30%

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

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

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.

Sign up for in-person activities

Prior to all in-person activities, you will be prompted to sign up on Canvas to attend. You must be signed up by the deadline provided in order to attend any activity.

If you are unable to attend in-person activities

All in-person activities are optional. **If you know you will not be participating in in-person activities for a module, you must request an alternative assignment.** Email me to arrange an alternative assignment.

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.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <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:

- “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.”
 - 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.
 - 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.
- “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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

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 135, Section 1 / Topics in Moldmaking for Artists, Spring 2021

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.

In-Person (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.

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>) Students are required to self-assess health prior to visiting campus for any reason.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments	Deadlines
1	01/28/21	Course introduction, First class Zoom meeting	Order Materials
2	02/02/21	SDS and Safety	
2	02/04/21	Zoom discussion: Intro to Module 1	
3	02/09/21	Field survey	Introductory assignments due
3	02/11/21	Mold making in the field	Materials due
4	02/16/21	Materials pickup, SJSU Art Quad/ Plaster 101	
4	02/18/21	Materials pickup, SJSU Art Quad/ Plaster 101	Molds and Logs due
5	02/23/21	Zoom discussion: Intro to Module 2	Module 1 casts due
5	02/25/21	Alginate mold making	
6	03/02/21	Zoom discussion: franken-mold making	Safety quiz #2 due
6	03/04/21	Work on alginate/plaster	
7	03/09/21	Zoom discussion: Alginate molds/ Intro to Module 3	Module 2 mold logs due
7	03/11/21	Field survey	
8	03/16/21	Creating profiles	Module 3 field log due
8	03/18/21	Material pickup/ work on profiles	Safety quiz #3 due
9	03/23/21	Turning plaster	Profiles due
9	03/25/21	Zoom discussion: Intro to Module 4	Progress posts due
10	03/30/21	Spring Recess – No class	(Dry out plaster over the break)
10	04/01/21	Spring Recess – No class	
11	04/06/21	Zoom discussion: Turned plaster / Silicone rubber molds	Turned plaster due
11	04/08/21	Mold boxes	
12	04/13/21	ATC	Safety quiz #4 due
12	04/15/21	Setting up two-part molds	Module 4 field log due
13	04/20/21	(optional in-person) Silicone rubber molds	Mold box due
13	04/22/21	Finish molds	
14	04/27/21	(optional in-person) Working with plastic	Silicone molds and mold log

			due
14	04/29/21	Work on multiples	
15	05/04/21	(optional in-person) Work on molds/multiples	
15	05/06/21	Final work day	Multiples due
16	05/11/21	Install and document final pieces	
16	05/13/21	Final critique	Final documentation due
Final Exam	05/21/21	9:45 – 12:00 Tool/ Material drop-off, Art pickup	