

WEST VIRGINIA AT PARKERSBURG
UNIFORM COURSE SYLLABUS
Updated May 2003

Name of Course: Modeling and Casting

Course No.: Art 244

Department: Art

Division: Humanities

I. Course Objectives:

1. The course will introduce the student to various techniques for constructing armatures.
2. The course will introduce the student to the basic techniques used when modeling, firing and mounting a terra cotta head.
3. The course will introduce the student to the techniques commonly employed in casting small sculptures in lead or bronze, using the lost-wax casting procedure.
4. The course will introduce the student to the basic procedures, materials and techniques used to create a flexible rubber mold.
5. The student will learn how to create and plaster waste and press molds.
6. The student will learn how to model a 1/3 life-size human form.
7. The student will become familiar with the major bones, muscles and surface features of human anatomy that directly affect the visual appearance of a human form.
8. The course will increase the student's knowledge and appreciation of the human form in modern art and in select earlier art periods.
9. The course will encourage the student to creatively use the human form in sculptural projects.

II. Topics to Be Studied:

- A. Human Anatomy
 1. Bones and Muscles
 2. Motion, actual and implied
 3. Proportions
 4. Anatomy for expressive purposes

B. Modeling Materials and Techniques

1. Armature: construction and use
2. Clays: terracotta, stoneware & porcelain, and oil-base clays
3. Surface treatments
4. Modeling for expressive purposes
5. Firing clay sculptures

C. Casting and Substitution Materials and Techniques

1. Waste mold construction and use
2. Rubber mold construction and use
3. Press mold construction and use
4. Substitution materials: plaster, lead

D. The Final Presentation

1. Surface treatments for the sculpture
2. Selecting and mounting a piece on a base

E. Safety in the Sculpture Studio

1. Dangerous art materials and/or practices

F. Aesthetic Topics

1. Is it alive?
2. What makes it moving?
3. Is less more or more more, or more less?
4. Nadelman, Hart, DeKooning, Arneson, Lipchitz, Giacometti, Rodin, Manzu, and Miro
5. Overview of religious treatment of the human figure

III. Special Projects to Be Included in Course:

Each student will give a 3-5minute long oral presentation on some artwork, artist, or sculpture technique. The talks will be illustrated, and the topics will be assigned by the instructor.

IV. Methods of Evaluation:

The oral presentation will be graded primarily on the content of the talk, although poorly organized, illustrated and delivered talks will have their grade reduced.

Throughout the semester critiques will be given of works in progress. At the end of the semester a final critique will be held. All students are expected to participate freely in these critiques or their class participation grade will be reduced. The actual grading of the projects will primarily be determined by the fidelity of the sculptures to the models and by the technical expertise demonstrated. The grades will also be affected, but to a lesser extent, by the expressive quality of the work. As a model is necessary for the

successful completion of many projects, no absences will be tolerated when a model is scheduled to be present.

V. Assessment of Outcomes:

Assigned Projects*	90%
Oral Presentation	5%
Class Participation	5%

*1/3 life-size plaster cast (30%); self-portrait (30%); lead/bronze figure study (18 %); and studies of ear (2%), eye (2%), nose (2%), mouth (2%), hand (2%), and foot (2%).

A standard scale will be applied when determining the final grade: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, below 60%=F.

VI. Other Information