ARTF 1303 Basic Design 2  
Fall 2015

Course Information

Title: Basic Design 2  
Course prefix and number: ARTF1303  
CRN # 22086  
Meeting times: T/Th 9:00 am – 11:50 am  
Required texts and materials: Tool and material requirements will be discussed on the first day of class. Generally students should be prepared to spend $100-200 for supplies.

Instructor Contact Information

Name: Alexander Keyes  
Office: Fox Fine Arts 263 B  
Office hours: M/T 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
Email: askeyes@utep.edu

Instructor Introduction

Alexander Keyes holds a BA in Studio Art from The University of Puget Sound and an MFA from The University of Oregon. Currently he is visiting from the Pacific Northwest as Resident Artist at The University of Texas at El Paso. As an “emerging” artist he does whatever he can to make and show as much artwork as possible and has upcoming shows in Seattle WA, Peoria IL, and El Paso TX.

Course Description

This course expands upon the visual elements and principles of design studied in Basic Design I as they apply to creating three-dimensional designs. The intent of Design II is to explore the thought processes and sensibilities to working three-dimensionally through a series of assigned problems during the semester. A technical working vocabulary including line, plane, form, space, volume and mass will be developed during the semester. Other concepts such as symmetrical and asymmetrical balance, color, texture, proportion and scale, will also be discussed and applied. A basic understanding of solid forms versus hollow constructions as well as cross section of forms and structures will be addressed through various processes such as modeling, carving and the building of structures. Other discussion will include but not be limited to viewing form and structures in the round, problem solving, and working safely with various materials and tools. You are encouraged to explore your own individual self-expression to its fullest within the context of each assignment and to develop competency in the execution of basic constructional and conceptual elements. You will
have the opportunity to explore various materials such as wire, mat board, cardboard, and plaster. The use of other materials and approaches will be encouraged. All required techniques used in assigned creative and technical problems will be demonstrated and discussed in class.

Structure

The majority of our class time will be spent working in the studio, with a good deal of individual discussion. Periodically, slide presentations, group discussions and critiques will complement our studio assignments.

In addition to in-class work, you will have daily homework (sometimes assigned, sometimes independently structured) — expect at least 8 hours of work outside of class each week. Because continuity is so important to artistic practice, this daily work outside of class is crucial. The sculpture studio is available for you according to the posted hours.

At the end of class, you are responsible for cleaning up your work area and returning supplies and tools. Because the sculpture studio is a heavily used, shared space, it is crucial that everyone work to help maintain the area.

Course Prerequisite Information

Students taking Basic Design 2 are required to have completed ARTF1301 and ARTF1302. A student seeking prerequisite waiver must contact the instructor.

Course Objectives

This course focuses on:
• Further developing an understanding of good composition principles in a 3-dimensional format.
• You will be introduced to a basic terminology of art and 3-dimensional design.
• Before each assignment, you will learn the technical skills needed to accomplish the problem and render a well composed design.
• Your critical thinking skills and problem solving process will be challenged in an aesthetic environment.
• You will learn what it means to undertake a building project and complete it with good craftsmanship and disciplined working habits.
• You will learn to always work safely in material manipulation and tool usage.

Course Outcomes

Students who complete the course will be able to:
• Effectively incorporate the concepts learned in Design 1 to create stronger, more creative and effective 3-dimensional artwork.
• You will learn the basic tenets of composition and create interesting designs using various materials.
• You will be able to define the various aspects of 3-dimensional design from a practical, logical, and aesthetic point of view, applying the vocabulary of basic design.

Assignments

Each assignment will be introduced via a presentation and detailed assignment sheet. Assignments must be submitted in a completed condition at the time of the project grading critique. Grades established for the primary project assignments will constitute 100% of the final grade for this course.

Evaluation

All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above and beyond, always working for the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% – 90%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Always trying, always making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% – 80%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% – 70%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory work, failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project grades will be established by considering in class work and time at critique in the following manner:

Attendance

Because this is a studio course, being present, on time and ready to work is extremely important. I take unexcused absences seriously; they will affect your grade. If you must miss class, try to contact me ahead of time. The intensive work, discussions and one-on-one interactions of class cannot be made up in other ways. Missing five or more classes for any reason will result in a failing grade

Preparation

Coming to class prepared to work is essential. You should have all work in progress and all materials that you anticipate needing for the class period.

Engagement

Once you are here, I expect that you are focused and working hard for the entire session. Class is not the time for visiting with your friends. Your work will require your full attention and concentration. Cell phones and computers should be turned off.

I understand and expect that your interests will be different—some of you may be working more intensively with wood, some with the ordinary materials, some with both. Regardless of your focus I will expect your engagement to be ambitious throughout the course and you will be evaluated with that in mind.

Progress
I am concerned with the distance you move between now and the end of the term. I realize that each of you come to this class with a different level of experience. You will be judged on your individual effort and development. If you are present, engaged and working to understand new ideas, progress will come naturally.

Critique Policy

The studio must be clean. Please take extra care to clean up around your projects (sweep, pick up debris, etc.) Work is due at the **beginning** of class on critique day. You should plan to arrive early if you anticipate needing extra set-up time. Your work will be counted late if it is not ready at the beginning of class. In short, I consider critiques to be an exercise in professionalism. Be on time, clean up, and present your work thoughtfully.

Initial Supply List

- Sketchbook (no smaller than 8” x 11”)
- Steel bailing wire
- Pencils
- Tape Measurer
- Square (plastic is fine)
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Needle nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Goggles
- Hot glue gun and glue
- Acrylic paints of your choice
- Half gallon square cardboard juice box
- Sandpaper
- Masking tape
- Basic carving kit (dental tools work excellently for fine details)

Course Guidelines

- Please prepare for studio days so that you are able to make good use of your time. You should have any supplies that you need for that day. You should not leave class to purchase additional materials.
- You may not work with any tool or machine without having had a safety demonstration.
- Each student is permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Each absence after 3 will result in your final grade being dropped a letter. 3 times tardy will count as 1 absence.
- Do not come to class sick. Please email me before class starts to let me know you will not be there and seek medical care.
• Guests and children are not permitted in the studios during class.
• Communal music turned down low and agreed upon by the whole class is allowed during work time in the form of a boom box or music system. Head phones or personal music is not so that you are always engaging with your peers and participating in the learning process.
• Be mindful of the fact that equipment use is limited. I expect that you will use your time wisely and take advantage of the open studio hours outside of class.
• During studio days I will want to meet with each of you individually to discuss your ideas and your work. Be prepared with drawings and work in progress.
• Safety is the number one priority. You will be asked to leave class if you come with inappropriate attire or footwear. Please report immediately any tool or piece of equipment in need of repair. Do not use equipment that you have not been trained to use safely.
• The main studio may not be used when other classes are in session.
• The main studio is shared with other classes. This means that you may not store work in progress on the tables or floors. The last portion of class will be used for clean-up. If you wish to stay after class to continue working, you may do so after the studio has been restored to a clean and workable state. Leaving early before clean-up will count as an absence.
• Critiques in studio classes are equivalent to major exams. Participation is an expectation. We will review specific questions for each critique, but generally you should: be on time and be prepared to discuss, analyze, and raise questions. Missing the final critique may result in failure of the course.

Late Assignments, Make-up Work, and Exams

Your assignment grade will be reduced by one letter for each class day that it is late. There is no extra credit. Unless arranged beforehand, you will lose one half of your assignment grade for missing critiques.

University Policy Statements

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm for further information.

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:
Web: http://www.utep.edu/dss
Phone: 915-747-5148 Fax: 915-747-8712
Please feel free to discuss my expectations and evaluation at any time during the term if you have questions. I am available at all times by appointment.