

Professor Allison Black

Office: FA126 Office hours: tba

ART METALS I

Email: ablack@southplainscollege.edu

South Plains College

ph: 806.716.2197

METALS STUDIO FA#127

ART METALS I: Exploration of ideas using basic techniques in jewelry and metal construction.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Complete Metalsmith, Tim McCreight

AND a booklet of safety and procedure notes called METALS NOTES –available at the bookstore.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the basic techniques used in jewelry and metalsmithing. These include fabrication processes of sawing, filing, finishing, forming, and soldering: basic cab stone setting, patination, casting, jewelry and hollowware design and findings construction.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To enable the student to explore metal as a medium of aesthetic expression and discovery. Student should strive to develop skill and a sense of craftsmanship in handling metal.
- To focus on an integration of the students ideas, basic design principles and technical processes as they relate to jewelry and metalsmithing
- To provide the student with an opportunity to discover what has been done in the field of Art Metals and its relationship to other art forms.

COURSE CONTENT:

- To learn the basics of sawing, soldering, and finishing
- To build on these skills to include sweat soldering, butt soldering, surface textures, small wire forming and bezel stone setting
- To work out designs on paper and build models from sketches to investigate design possibilities
- To keep a sketch-journal of notes, ideas, and research
- Demonstrations of techniques will be given throughout
- Demonstrations and lectures on safety will be given throughout
- Demonstrations and lectures on casting, forming, and light forging as permitted by tools, supplies and time available

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PROJECTS:

A series of projects will be given in the first several classes to provide exposure and practice in several beginning and basic techniques and procedures. Upon successful completion of these, the student can progress to projects of their choice gradually increasing their technical skill level and degree of difficulty as well as challenging their design skills and idea development.

CRITIQUES:

Critiques will be both individual and group, these are learning opportunities concerning technical, design and idea development skills. Critiques- formal and informal will be held throughout the semester, scheduled and impromptu. The final critique at the end of the semester is mandatory; failure to be present will mean failure of the course.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance:** student is required to attend for the entire class period, every class
2. **Participation:** student is required/expected to participate in class discussions, exercises, and field activities
3. **Absences /tardies:** student is expected to comply with my attendance policy. Two tardies equals one absence. In a regular semester (fall/spring): three (3) unexcused absences are permitted (use them wisely), after that each absence could result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade, 5 unexcused absences could result in student being dropped from the course. In a summer session, only two (2) unexcused absences is permitted before a reduction of final grade or being dropped from the course. Tardies are arriving late, as well as leaving early; both in the same class would be considered an absence. Sleeping in class will be regarded as an absence. A sign-in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class, it is your responsibility to sign-in every class. **SIGN-IN EVERY CLASS!!!**
4. **Preparation:** student should come to class prepared, having read the material, **METALS NOTES and sections of the required text: The Complete Metalsmith.** The student is expected to take notes on all materials presented in class, including discussions, technical demos, critiques and assignments. The student is expected to be prepared with the necessary materials to work in class on the assignment.
5. **Discipline:** every student in the class has the right to be in the class and is therefore entitled to an optimal learning environment. Disruption of that environment will be dealt with by first a warning, second a conference, third a dismissal from class and last, expulsion from the course. Disruptions include but are not limited to: behavior and or speech inappropriate to the classroom, excessive talking, especially which interrupts the lecture or class activity. Please no cell phones in the classroom, unless an emergency of which I should be notified ahead of time. Vandalism of the furniture and /or equipment in the studio will be punishable by expulsion from the course.
6. **Attitude:** student is expected to have an attitude conducive to learning; a cooperative and open-minded attitude is essential to learning about something that is new to you. In this class you will be Metalsmiths.
7. **Commitment to the course:** five hours in class per week, in addition to 5 hours of productive work outside of class are required (perhaps more depending upon work habits). Come to class prepared, and stay for the entire class- you have a contract with me for this time.

General Course Layout:

Week one: introductions

Week two: safety/ tool kits/ tool demos/ sawing

Week three: silver wire ring/ butt solder/ forming/piercing/ filing/ textures

Week four: finishing/ patination/ tumbling

Week five: design workshop/ models/sweat solder sheet/ functional design

Week six: sweat solder findings/ bezels/ stone set/ring shanks

Week seven: hollowware design/ soldering/ tube solder/ flat sheet construction

Week eight: box lip and foot/ soldering/ finishing hollowware

Week nine: design for casting

Week ten: Wax work- wax wires, wax sheet, wax block, wax pour

Week eleven: additive, subtractive and substitutive methods- wax model

Week twelve: wax casting/clean up/ sprue /invest / caste

Week thirteen: casting clean up/ finishing castings

Week fourteen: finish/ findings/ patination of all work

Week fifteen: Final Critique

GRADING:

Final grades will be composed of:

70% Projects

20% research and sketchbook

10% Attitude, attendance, participation, preparedness and work ethic

Final grades will be based on your:

-Fulfillment of the course requirements

-Participation in class and in critiques

-Research

-Attendance

-Projects

-Preparedness and attitude

Furthermore: participation in the final critique, presenting all sample pieces and 3+ projects or series of projects (required and open) as a body of work. Grades on projects will be given in written and/or oral format, with feedback given based on performance of the objectives set forth and described. Due dates will be considered generally, and set on a project basis due to degree of difficulty and discussion with me.

Please note- although we have a designated metals studio, Studio rules apply-- clean up after yourself, put studio tools away when you are finished with them, clean up after yourself at the sink, and at all power tools, wipe down your work bench before you leave-- others do not need to sit in your mess. Failure to comply is considered a discipline problem.

****HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE STUDIO****

Safety lecture- by the third class, a full safety lecture will be given, attendance at this lecture is mandatory!!! Throughout the semester various safety instructions will also be administered concerning specific techniques and/or equipment, these are also mandatory. You may not use any equipment for which you have not received instruction, using equipment which you have not had instruction is a violation of studio rules and is considered a discipline problem and will be treated as such. No loose clothing, no long hair hanging down, this is not a fashion concern but a safety concern. Fake fingernails might also be reconsidered. Safety goggles need to be worn most of the time...as per safety lecture.

GRADING SCALE:

A+		The work is exceedingly excellent
A	95	Exceptional work, outstanding, high level of maturity, perception, clarity and originality. Technically handsome work.
A-		Work is slightly weaker than above mentioned.
B+		Work is above average, but not quite up to the expectations of "A" work.
B	85	The work level, effort and accomplishment is beyond the norm. Good Development and understanding of the media at hand.
B-		Work is not quite a full-fledged "B". A few areas may need further attention.
C+		Work is above average
C	75	Work is satisfactory. Good completion of project. Basically meeting the assigned requirements, improvement is expected.
C-		A clear message that the work is barely satisfactory
D+		Work is poor in execution and presentation
D	65	Barely passing. Not meeting designated criteria set forth; weak effort, inconsistent and sloppy presentation.
F & below	59	Failed. Work is unacceptable, late, incomplete, not meeting criteria set forth, inconsistent, sloppy, poor in quality, not showing any effort.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The faculty is strongly committed to upholding standards of academic integrity. These standards at the minimum require that students never present the work of others as their own.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

In an effort to maintain a safe academic and working environment, your instructor and the department will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the college health and safety program.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but model society as it should and can be.

SPC Disability Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

