COURSE DESCRIPTION: Concrete; Theory, Practice and Power
This course will focus on Concrete as a material and metaphor by considering its power and ubiquity in our immediate built environment and the broader art landscape. Throughout the course, we will discuss various readings, film screenings, and site visits to contextualize ourselves in a historical understanding of the material. We will look to other modernist and contemporary artists who have utilized concrete in their practice to support a deeper understanding of its place in the canon of art history. Additionally, students will gain hands-on experience working with concrete in the studio through various techniques, demos and approaches.
3 hours.

COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE CHANGES
This course develops the visual, verbal and technical skills essential for understanding the concerns of contemporary sculpture, along with its history and theories with a focus on the material concrete. While learning tools and techniques for adding new objects to the world, we will also heighten our awareness of the objects and materials that already exist, consider the actions and feelings we direct at them, and discuss the ways we determine their value. We will view sculpture through the lens of familiar objects that we interact with daily, and notice how our relationship to an object changes when its functionality shifts. We will explore the potential for form and material to convey meaning, through both personal narratives and universal associations.

Assignments will explore the possibilities and limitations afforded by this ubiquitous material from hand building forms to casting into silicone molds. You will be encouraged to incorporate your personal interests and express your beliefs through the work you create in this course. You will also be challenged to make, view and discuss sculpture in the context of current events and social, political and environmental concerns. The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter, and is considered tentative and subject to change as we go through the semester. You will be notified of any changes in the schedule ahead of time.

*Keep an open mind. Don't be afraid to fail. Usually the 5th time works the best. And remember, the greatest tool of a sculptor is the ability to troubleshoot.*
## COURSE OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge: What students should know</td>
<td>Beginning knowledge of the history and theory of sculpture, including the traditions, conceptual modes, and evolutions of the discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline</td>
<td>Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline</td>
<td>Knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes to work from concept to finished product. Beginning understanding of the possibilities and limitations of various materials.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use the technology and equipment of the artistic discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills: What students should be able to do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline</td>
<td>Understanding of basic design principles with an emphasis on three-dimensional design, and the ability to apply these principles to a specific aesthetic intent, including basic abilities in drawing sufficient to support work in sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill</td>
<td>Demonstrated beginning ability to analyze and evaluate works of sculpture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline</td>
<td>Produce sculptures that demonstrate emerging technical skill and knowledge of the medium, beginning to develop solutions to aesthetic and design problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge</td>
<td>Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks</td>
<td>Utilize basic knowledge of sculpture and the vocabulary of art and design to critique and analyze your own works and the works of others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participate in critiques of own work and work of others</td>
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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attend all classes and take notes during technical demonstrations.
- Attend ALL CRITIQUES prepared and ready to discuss and present work.
- Complete three Projects that utilize the following tools/techniques:
  1. Unit casting into silicone mold
  2. Hand building
  3. Concrete Environment
- Actively participate in group critiques with your classmates and Instructor.
- Complete 5 required Writing Prompts and actively participate in group discussions.
- Document the artwork you create in this course and submit 1-3 images/videos and a Fabrication Report for each artwork.
- Give one research presentation to the class about an assigned artist.
ASSIGNMENT & ASSESSMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Worth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Presentation</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist Research Presentation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Writing Prompts (3 points each)</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1 - Unit block casting</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2 - Encasing</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 3 - Hand build</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project - Concrete Environment</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation in Class</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each assignment will be graded by:

1) Following the parameters of the assignment
2) Creativity, ambition, risk-taking
3) Craft, skill, attention to detail
4) Effort, revision, perseverance
5) Planning, efficient use of class time
6) Participation in group critiques

SCULPTURE MATERIALS CHARGE

We require all students taking this class to pay a $30 materials charge. The exact costs covered by that charge are outlined on the charge sheet provided. To pay this materials charge, please take the charge sheet provided by your instructor to the Cashiers Services in the Eagle Student Services Building (the Southwest part of the Union building). After paying, please return this sheet and your receipt to the Sculpture technician, Jacob Philips, and they will mark you off the list. All students must pay the materials charge within the first week of the semester. Please contact Jacob Philips with questions or budgetary concerns.

**SCULPTURE IS HARD AND TAKES TIME !!**
ARTIST RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Each student will be assigned a sculptor's name and will give an oral and visual presentation on their work. (See more info on Canvas)

WRITING PROMPTS

At various moments in this course, I will assign a required reading or film to watch. The Writing Prompts will be posted on Canvas and should be completed by the following class period for discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS

Each student will obtain hands-on experience using the tools needed to work with concrete. Each assignment will be thoroughly discussed in class and posted on Canvas with adequate class time to complete each assignment. Outside of class work is encouraged but not required.

GRADING

Grades will be provided regularly through the semester via one-on-one check-ins with the instructor (after assignments are submitted, critique, etc…) and at mid-term. Note: There are no pluses and minuses given at UNT.

A = Excellent (100-90%)
B = Above Average (89-80%)
C = Average (79-70%)
D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]
F = Failure (59% or below)

A = EXTRAordinary performance with thoughtful and robust participation in critiques and class discussions. This student’s work goes ABOVE AND BEYOND what is required for class. This student sets goals and surpasses them. This student follows up on all suggestions for both technical and conceptual development, does good research and revisits work if needed.

B = Good performance, good solid work that develops steadily with intermittent but intelligent participation in critiques and class discussion. This student keeps pace with assignments but does not necessarily excel in them (medium effort as opposed to superior effort). The student sets goals and meets them. They follow up on some of the suggestions given - including technical and conceptual development and research - and revisits work if needed.

C = Lackluster performance, attendance issues, not much work being produced in and out of class and presents work that reflects limited effort and thinking. This student rarely participates in class discussions and critiques and shows little evidence in keeping up with assignments (turned in late or completed the night before, yes I can tell). It means not thinking about your goals, and not meeting them.

CLASS PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

- Come to class prepared & on time.
- Participate consistently in class discussions and critiques. Think critically. Be honest.
- Respect your peers’ opinions, beliefs, orientations, and histories when discussing their work.
- Challenge your classmates and push each other to do your best.
- Share your skills, experiences, and energy to strengthen the community.

Students are expected to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
- Three absences will be tolerated.
- The fourth absence will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.
- More than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence.
- Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments will occur at the beginning of class periods and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy.
- Four tardies will constitute an unexcused absence.
- A tardy is considered to be an arrival of 10-30 minutes after the beginning of class. If you arrive more than 30 minutes after the class begins, you will be marked absent for the day.
- Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each class day they are late.
- Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

**Communication is A VITAL component of this course – please communicate any questions, concerns and issues (personal, grade or class related) to the Instructor. The earlier the better, do not wait until the last minute.**

**COVID-19 IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE**

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for
guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

LATE WORK / MAKE-UP POLICY

Late work will receive a penalty of 5% deducted from the assignment’s value each day the work is late, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

FINAL CLEAN-UP

We will conduct a final clean-up of the sculpture facilities during our last full week of in-person classes. Attendance and participation in final clean-up is mandatory. Absence from the final clean-up will result in lowering your final grade by one full letter. If you are unable to attend final clean-up, you must schedule an alternate date and time with your instructor.

SCULPTURE SHOP ACCESS & POLICIES

Sculpture Shop Hours for Spring 2024:
Mon - Thursday: 8am-9pm
Friday: 8-5pm
Saturday and Sunday: 12pm-5pm

The shop is only open to undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in a sculpture course, OR students who have taken a sculpture course in the past and have purchased a Shop Card ($50/semester for undergraduate students, free for graduate students).

SCULPTURE TOOL CHECK-OUT SYSTEM

1. Only students that are currently enrolled in a Sculpture course or who have bought a Shop Card are allowed to check out tools from the tool cage.
2. Tool check-out is for one day (not overnight), unless it is a long term checkout item (like welding jackets). Tools must be returned before the shop closes that day. Tools not returned by the time the shop closes and that haven’t been checked out overnight will be considered a Shop Rule Violation.
3. Some tools may be checked out overnight but permission must be obtained from the Shop Supervisor or a faculty member in advance. Tools checked out overnight must be returned by 9am the next morning unless permission has been granted in advance by a faculty member or the Shop Supervisor. Please plan accordingly. Tools returned after 9am will be considered a Shop Rule Violation.
4. All tools must remain in the building unless you have received advanced permission to take them elsewhere from a faculty member or the Shop Supervisor.
5. Never leave your tools unattended. If you need to leave the area for a short time (for example, to use the restroom), please ask someone in the shop to look after your tools for you. Please check your tools back in if you need to leave the Sculpture area for more than 10 minutes. Tools found unattended will be checked back in by a Tool Cage Worker, and this will be considered a Shop Rule Violation.
6. You are financially responsible for all the tools you have checked out. If a tool is lost or stolen under your care, you will be charged for its replacement.
7. Report any broken or damaged tools to a Cage Worker or the Shop Supervisor. Tools break all the time, so you won’t be punished if that happens, but we need to know about it so that we do not hand a damaged or broken tool to the next student who needs it.
PROJECT AND MATERIAL STORAGE

1. Projects and materials may be stored in the Sculpture area only if they are labeled with a current Storage Tag. Tags (WHITE) can be acquired from the tool cage.

2. A Storage Tag will permit you to store that item on one of the shelves in the classroom for two weeks. If additional time is needed to store the same item(s), you must receive special permission for a new Storage Tag from a faculty member or the Shop Supervisor.

3. All projects should be disposed/recycled after critiques.

4. If your Storage Tag expires, a Cage Worker will replace it with a RED Removal Tag. At that point you will have one week to remove or renew your belongings. If the item is not removed or renewed by the date on the Removal Tag, it will be put in the dumpster or allocated as scrap material. This will be considered a Shop Rule Violation.

5. Emergency egresses must ALWAYS remain clear. Make sure artworks/materials are not blocking walkways, doorways, etc.

CONSEQUENCES FOR SHOP RULE VIOLATIONS

The following consequences will be faced for health and safety, material storage, and/or tool-check out violations.

1. First Violation: Warning from instructor and Shop Supervisor.

2. Second Violation: Meeting with course instructor and shop supervisor, and loss of tool checkout privileges for 3 days.

3. Third violation: Meeting with program coordinator, course instructor and shop supervisor, and loss of tool checkout privileges for one week.

4. Fourth violation: Meeting with studio art department chair, and indefinite loss of tool checkout privileges.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas'

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are
strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct).

**STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

**SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT & ASSAULT**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources). UNT’s Student Advocate can be reached through email at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

**EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

UNT Emergency Guide: [https://emergency.unt.edu/emergency-guidelines](https://emergency.unt.edu/emergency-guidelines)

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering