



Modeling and Mold Making
Art 444
Units: 2.0
Spring 2024—Friday—Time: 12:00-2:40

Location: WAH 108

Instructor:

Ashley Hagen

Office: Watt Hall 108

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Info: Email: hagenash@usc.edu

Course Description

In this course students will learn basic mold, casting and model making techniques. Through demonstrations and tutorials, students will make their own plaster and silicone molds. We will go over various materials that can be used for casting such as plaster, resin, concrete, and wax. We will cover scratch building as well as creating molds from found objects and translate our casts into finished works of art.

Current Studio Hours

Watt 108 M-F 9am – 6 pm. Hours may change at any time during the semester depending on COVID protocol.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Over the course of the semester we will learn several mold making techniques and translate the finished cast pieces into sculptural works of art. Not all demonstrations will turn into completed art projects but all projects demonstrated may be used towards the final project that is TBD. Over the course of the semester we will look at numerous examples of artists who use mold making in their work as well we will look at different types of ways to combine cast objects together into final pieces. We will learn about different types of glue, silicone caulking, and other adhesives. Due to drying times and unforeseen circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any point.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Over the semester you will make at least five projects. During drying and waiting times other smaller projects may be demonstrated and assigned.

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
“Smoke and Mirrors” multiple casts	25	25%
“Repetition” multiple casts	25	25%
Two part mold	10	10%
Attendance and participation	10	10%
Slip Cast	10	10%
Final project TBA combination of techniques	20	20%
TOTAL	100	100%

Grading Scale (Example)

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Grading

Each project grade is based on the following:

Project Completion – Students must be able to set their own criteria and envision a project that is realistic within each project’s allotted time frame and material restrictions.

Participation In Critiques and Class Discussions – You are expected to approach your work, and that of your peers, in an intelligent and critical way. You should be prepared to discuss the decisions you made in regards to your work.

Willingness To Take Risks and Challenge Yourself – Each student should be committed to learning new techniques and ideas, and apply them in creative and experimental ways.

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignment timeline is stated in the calendar of table. Deadlines may change throughout the course of the semester. It is important to be in class and pay attention to any deadline changes. For example a project may be moved up or pushed back depending on the needs of the class.

Grading Timeline

Grades will be assessed at the completion of each project.

A: As an *A* student, you work above and beyond the requirements of the assignment and produce work that is thought provoking and fully realized. Your vision is clear and your work shows you have put time and effort into your ideas and participate in critiques. You are self-motivated and work during and outside of class. You are in class on time with no unexcused absences. If you have to be absent or late to a class you have notified me well in advance.

B: As a *B* student you are working hard to produce work that is thought provoking although it may not yet be fully realized in its intensions. You challenge your thinking and your skills and participate in critiques. You are self-motivated and work during and outside of class. You arrive on time to class and have no more than 2 unexcused absences.

C: As a *C* student you are doing what is required to complete the assignments. You don't have more than 2 unexcused absences and you are not late to class.

D: As a *D* student you are not doing what is required or not doing it satisfactorily which could include turning things in late not being prepared for critiques, or demos, not working outside of class, not being self-motivated. You have more than 2 unexcused absences.

F: As an *F* student you are not doing what is required of the class and are not adhering the department's policies. You have multiple absences or late attendance. You are non-participatory.

Additional Policies

ATTENDANCE

Due to the nature of this course, attendance is mandatory. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade. Only absences accompanied with a signed doctor's note are considered excused. For each subsequent absence (excused or otherwise) the student's letter grade will be lowered by the following increment: 1 absence over 3 = the lowering of the final course grade by one full grade. **Being absent on the day a project is due or a class critique, can lead to a lower grade for the assignment.** Arriving late, leaving early, making poor use of class time, are each considered as being tardy and can affect a student's grade. Tardies can accumulate and become equivalent to an absence. Three tardies equal one absence. Any student not in class after the first 5 minutes is considered tardy. Students will be considered absent if they leave before the class has ended without the instructor's approval. **Five (5) absences will automatically result in a failing grade. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

LOCKERS: Classroom lockers are available for Sculpture I students. You will need to label the locker with your *name, class name and semester* and **provide your own lock**. Please keep in mind if you plan to store everyday items for other courses **do not interrupt other classes in sessions to access your locker**. This the fastest way to have your locker privileges revoked. A schedule of classes is posted on the front door.

MEDIA: You may use your laptop, smartphone for listening to music or conducting research during studio time, however, using social media, texting, emailing and other non-class related activities are not permitted during studio time. If you misuse your media during studio time, you will lose that privilege entirely. Please

make sure your phone is set to “silent” before entering the classroom. Texting and cell phone use is not allowed during class time unless directed by the professor.

Art Supplies

You should bring in a lock and claim a locker in the hallway as soon as possible. We’ll also assign you an in-class cupboard to store your work and some supplies.

There is a lab fee for this course of \$90.00. This fee helps to cover the cost of the materials used in this class. In addition to the lab fee, you may want to purchase the following:

- A dust mask or a dust mask with two straps and an exhalation valve
- A respirator (this is necessary if students choose to spray-paint their work or certain types of resin)
- An apron is recommended, this class can get messy

[- Other supplies may be recommended and needed throughout the course](#)

IMPORTANT:

In addition to in-class contact hours, all courses must also meet a minimum standard for out-of-class time, which accounts for time students spend on homework, readings, writing, and other academic activities. **For each unit of in-class contact time, the university expects two hours of out of class student work per week over a semester.**

(Please refer to the [Contact Hours Reference guide](#).) Spring Recess March 12-18

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 1/12/24-23	Introduction to class. Alginate Mold and plaster tutorial. Intro to “Smoke and Mirrors” Must have materials ready to start building structure by 1/19	We will go over items needed to bring into class for “smoke and mirrors” assignment	Must have items for “Smoke and Mirrors” by 1/19 Boxes or found objects will be used as a support for the cast facades. Find objects or ideas for your Scratch build mold for 1/19
Week 2 1/19/24	Start building structure for “Smoke and Mirrors” project.	We will look at works from artists such as Thomas Houseago, Rachel Whiteread and others for structure inspiration	
Week 3 1/26/24	We will begin scratch building, those who finish early will pour first mold We will discuss various options for casting our molds such as resin, concrete, and plaster. Demos will be given.	Bring in 10 – 20 small objects for “Repetition” project by 2/2 Finish our molds and begin working on adhering our facades to the built structures	Must work outside of class to finish structures. “Smoke and Mirrors”
Week 4 2/2/24	“Smoke and Mirrors” Continued		Must have objects to cast for one part “Repetition” assignment by 2/9/24
Week 5 2/9/24	Start working on “Repetition” One-piece mold multiples project. Discuss various types of	“Repetition” assignment will be inspired by Lynn Aldrich’s use of combining everyday objects into	

	mold boxes and materials. We will go over different casting materials and cast our molds.	abstract sculptures. We will look at other artists who use repetition and mold making to combine objects into sculpture Work outside of class on putting together cast pieces	
Week 6 2/16/24	Work on “Smoke and Mirrors” and “Repetition”		
Week 7 2/23/24	Work on “Smoke and Mirrors” and “Repetition”	FINISH “Smoke and Mirrors” and “Repetition” for critique 3/1/24	
Week 8 3/1/24	Critique of “Smoke and Mirrors” and “Repetition”	Bring in objects for two-part mold by 3/22/24	Must bring in simple plastic object for two part mold by 3/24/23
Week 9 3/8/24	Guest speaker/Reynolds demo		Bring in items for two-part mold by 3/22/24
3/15/24	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS		
Week 10 3/22/24	Two part mold		
Week 11 3/29/24	Slip casting from two part mold	Start sketching ideas for final. Idea must be approved by instructor	Slip casting project from two part mold
Week 12 4/5/24	Work on final project		
Week 13 4/12/24	Work on final project		
Week 14 4/19/24	Work on final project		
Week 15 4/26/24	Work on final project		
FINAL 5/3/24	Final exams 5/3/24 11-1:00		PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR OUR FINAL EXAM

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

USC is committed to supporting the health, safety and well being of our community.
<https://coronavirus.usc.edu/>
 COVID-19 hotline: 213-740-6291
 Email: covid19@usc.edu

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.