

**Chaddock and Morrow College of Fine Arts**  
**Art 1230: Structure and Space**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Schedule:** TBD

**Instructor:** Johannah Cairns

**Office:** Seigfred Rm 103

**Hours:** By Appointment Only

**Email:** [jc440923@ohio.edu](mailto:jc440923@ohio.edu)

**Course Description:** This course explores the use of structure and space as physical, conceptual, and organizational practices in contemporary art and design. Students will learn to develop their ideas through composition and fabrication, considering issues such as scale, site- specificity, repetition, impermanence, and performativity. Individual and collaborative making will provide the opportunity for students to explore, define, and create organizational systems and structures.

**Course Outcomes:** By the end of the semester:

- Students will be able to define the ways contemporary and historical artists and designers use structure and space to convey ideas.
- Students will be able to apply relevant processes and construction methods.
- Students will be able to use strategies of iterative and research-based processes.
- Students will be able to realize their ideas in the physical world.
- Students will be able to evaluate the implications and context of specific locations and/or environments in the creation of artwork.

**Course Topics:**

- Problem-solving and construction skills to address specific objectives
- Exploring location and site-specificity in developing concepts
- Communication and translation skills through verbal, visual, and written forms
- Individual and collaborative studio practice
- Surveying physical structure as components of content in conjunction with pragmatic concerns
- Contextualizing studio course practice within historical and contemporary art and design practice
- Critique of structural and spatial works
- Physical structure as a pragmatic consideration
- Research related to projects
- Structure, pattern and compositional variance

**Texts:** We will be reading excerpts from Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*. While it is recommended that this text be purchased, the specific excerpts will be provided on Canvas, so it is not a required text.

**Course Expectations:** Students will be graded based on completion of projects, adherence to project outlines, craftsmanship, attendance, and participation in critiques. While we will have

in-class work time, the projects will require a significant amount of time spent outside of class to complete.

### **Other Important Information:**

- **Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices such as laptops, cellphones, or tablets should be put away during class time. Listening to music during work time is permitted but please keep one ear free. You may be asked to put devices away if the instructor believes it is hindering your ability to work effectively.
- **Audio/ Visual Recording:** You are not allowed to record during class without written permission from the instructor.
- **Communication:** It is your responsibility to communicate to the instructor if you need extensions, if you will be absent, if you have questions or concerns about your projects, grades, or the class in general. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to ensure you pass the class.
- **Project Retention:** All student work that is not picked up by the set deadline at the end of the semester will be thrown out. It is your responsibility to take work home by this deadline.
- **Course Timeline:** The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule and assignments at any time to meet the needs of the class timeline.

**Attendance Policy:** You are allowed 3 absences over the course of the semester. Each absence over three will drop  $\frac{1}{3}$  letter grade off of your final grade for the class. Leaving early or arriving late will count as half an absence. A total of 6 or greater absences will result in automatic failure of the course. One additional absence can be made up by completing the following assignment:

Go to a current exhibition that is not affiliated with the University. Write a 250-word response to the exhibition. This is open-ended. You can choose to write about a singular work in the exhibition, the show as a whole, the organization of the show, the choice of artists, etc. Email me the response.

\*If you are unable to go to a gallery outside of the University for accessibility reasons, please email me and we can sort something out.

All material covered in class is your responsibility. There will be no repetition of demos or instructions for those who were unable to attend, so it will be up to you to fill in any gaps caused by your absence.

Any unexcused absence on a critique day will result in an automatic failure of that project.

**Excused Absences:** Although instructors' policies govern how excused absences will be handled in their classes, certain absences are considered legitimate by the University. These include illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, jury duty, and involvement in University-sponsored activities.

If you are involved in University activities that might conflict with your class schedule, check with your instructor as early as possible to make satisfactory arrangements. You may document the reasons for your absence as follows:

- If you are participating in an authorized University activity (departmental trip, music or debate activity, ROTC function, or athletic competition), you can obtain notification from the sponsoring office. If you are in the military reserves and reserve training (including reasonable travel time to training locations), a letter from the commander of your military reserve unit showing the date of the absence and the reason for it will serve as prior notification.
- If you visit OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital, Ohio University Campus Care, or other healthcare facilities, you can ask for and receive official notification to verify to your instructors that you have visited these healthcare centers on a specific day. However, it is your responsibility to request and obtain such a notification, and the notification should include the date(s) and times for receiving care. It is assumed that, whenever possible, you will visit the health service as an outpatient without missing class.

### **Interim policy on reasonable religious accommodations.**

In addition to participation/attendance/absence policies already listed, students/you may be absent for up to three (3) days each academic semester, without penalty, to take time off for reasons of faith or religious or spiritual belief system or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. Students/You are required to notify the instructor/me in writing of specific dates requested for alternative accommodations no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. These requests will remain confidential. For more information about this policy, students/you may contact the Director and Title IX Coordinator, Equity and Civil Rights Compliance, Lindley Hall, 006, 740-593-9140, [Equity@ohio.edu](mailto:Equity@ohio.edu).

**Shared Studio Ethics:** This course will share a classroom with several other classes, therefore we must be respectful of the space we use and clean up any messes made during the class period. We will take 15 minutes at the end of the day to make sure all work is returned to your assigned shelf, the tables are wiped down, the floors are swept, and all materials are put away neatly. We will lay down butcher paper tables at the beginning of class when working on any projects requiring glue/other messy materials.

### **Grading Policy**

- A: = Superior, B: = Above Average, C: = Average, D: = Below Average, F: = Failure
- A: One who answers all of the course requirements and performs at a level so far above the average as to be visibly outstanding. It is assumed that they do more than is required.
- B: One who answers all of the course requirements and performs at a level measurably above the average.
- C: One who answers all of the course requirements and performs adequately in so doing. This is the standard of competence. C is a worthy not a disgraceful grade.
- D: One who answers all the course requirements, but performs at a level measurably below the average. D is a passing grade not a failure.

**F:** One who either does not answer all of the course requirements, or performs inadequately, or both. F is a failing grade.

Note: The grade of C may be earned only through effort; the grade of B may be earned only through considerable effort combined with superior ability; and the grade of A may be earned only through even more considerable effort combined with ability of a rare nature indeed.

Note: Energy alone will not suffice; and ability unaccompanied by effort will not suffice. Let it be understood that not everyone can be “above average”, and that the grade of B is not the average, nor the bottom limit of respectability. It is anticipated that the grade of C will be the commonest grade issued; B’s will be issued sparingly; A’s will be rare. D’s will indicate and measure sub-average performance, and F’s will indicate inability to deal with the material of the course, or insufficient effort, or both.

**Key Grade Factors:**

Project 1: Toothpick Edifice Recreation- 20%

Project 2: Sculpture in the Contemporary Research Project- 20%

Project 3: Flattening a Form- 20%

Project 4: Group Installation Project- 20%

Participation: 20%

Students will be graded based on original concept, timely completion of projects, adherence to project outlines, craftsmanship, attendance, and participation in critiques. All of these factors play a role in the overall grade you will receive in class. Each project will have a further breakdown of points on the project description rubric.

At any time during this course, students may inquire about the status of their performance or grade. Please arrange for an outside meeting with the professor if there are any questions or concerns about grades.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted in this course. All work **MUST** be completed by the critique day/presentation day to receive any points for completion and participation. Any extensions must be requested at least a week before the deadline and be confirmed in writing by the instructor.

**ART 1230 - Structure + Space Course Bundle**

This class requires students to purchase a course bundle consisting of materials and communal consumable supplies students will be using throughout the semester: Woodshop Safety Training Bundle, tape, glue, supplies for specific projects determined by the instructor, and communal consumable supplies utilized throughout the class. Not included in the bundle are personal tools, and specialty materials/supplies students may be interested in using to complete course work. Your instructor will inform you if additional tools and supplies may be needed for the course.

Cost: \$47.00

- Bundles cover consumable supplies that are necessary for the course.
- Bundles allow bulk price savings on costs of consumable supplies for students.
- School of Art + Design course bundles are comparable to the cost of a textbook in other disciplines.
- Under the OHIO Guarantee, tuition covers course and technology fees. The tuition dollars that include course fees are still being used to maintain the spaces and equipment that are used in course instruction.
- Prepare to purchase your course bundle by the end 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes.
- Use either of these links to access the College of Fine Arts - eMarket Site:

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/COFA>



- If you have concerns paying for your School of Art + Design eMarket course bundle, please keep an eye out for an email from the College of Fine Arts after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of classes with a Qualtrics survey for review by Maureen Wagner, Assistant Dean of Student Services for the College of Fine Arts.
- If your course bundle is not purchased when the eMarket site is operational or alternate arrangements made through the online survey from the Dean's Office, your materials and supplies will no longer be accessible. This may result in the inability to complete coursework and projects.

**Student Accessibility Services:** Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability/accessibility should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and provide written documentation from Student Accessibility Services. To be registered as a student with a disability, visit the Student Accessibility Services' office in Alden Library, Suite 230. <https://www.ohio.edu/uc/sas/> 6 Email: [disabilities@ohio.edu](mailto:disabilities@ohio.edu) or 740-593-2620.

**Diversity And Inclusion Statement:** Ohio University is committed to supporting the inclusion of diverse people and populations within and beyond our campus community. It is crucial that we commit to learning from one another in our classroom and provide an environment where if something is occurring that prevents us from being able to succeed, we talk about and address it. Discrimination has a negative impact on one's learning, and my hope is that we can create a classroom environment in which all are able to learn and succeed. It is the policy of Ohio University that there shall be no discrimination against any individual in educational opportunities because of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, veteran status, sexual orientation and/or disability.

**Academic Dishonesty:** The Ohio University Student Handbook includes the following description of acts considered to be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct:

"Academic misconduct is an A1 violation of the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct and is defined by the student code of conduct as dishonesty or deception in fulfilling academic requirements. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, unpermitted collaboration, forged attendance (when attendance is required), fabrication (e.g., use of invented information or

falsification of research or other findings), using advantages not approved by the instructor (e.g., unauthorized review of a copy of an exam ahead of time), knowingly permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's work, or submitting the same assignment in different courses without the consent of the instructor."

Student misconduct violations will result in the loss of assignment points and will be handled by the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility. For complete Ohio University Academic Integrity guidelines, see:

<https://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/#students>

<https://www.ohio.edu/studentaffairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct>

**Sexual Misconduct And Mandatory Reporting:** All students and employees at Ohio University have the right to work and learn in an environment free from sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct. With the exception of the confidential resources listed below, all OHIO employees are required to report any instances of sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC). If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment or other sexual misconduct, and you would like to make a report, please contact OHIO's Director of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance (ECRC) and Title IX Coordinator in any of the following ways:

- Complete the on-line reporting form for sexual misconduct here:

<https://www.ohio.edu/equitycivil-rights>

- Walk-in or mail:
- Office of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance
- Kerri Griffin, J.D., Director and Title IX Coordinator
- Ohio University
- Lindley Hall 006
- Athens, Ohio 45701
- Phone: 740-593-9140
- 740-593-9168
- Email: [titleix@ohio.edu](mailto:titleix@ohio.edu) or [equity@ohio.edu](mailto:equity@ohio.edu)

When a report is made to ECRC, it leads to outreach where the alleged victim can receive information about their options for medical services, counseling, reporting to law enforcement, requesting an investigation, and other supportive measures, such as assistance with class adjustments, work schedules, housing arrangements, etc. If you are not yet ready to have something that happened to you or someone else reported, you can speak confidentially with the Survivor Advocacy Program (740-597-SAFE or <https://www.ohio.edu/survivor>), Counseling and Psychological Services (740-593-1616 or <https://www.ohio.edu/student-affairs/counseling>) or Campus Care (740-592-7100).

## **Course Schedule:**

### **Week 1: Syllabus Introduction/ Project 1 Introduction**

**Tuesday:** Instructor will read through the Syllabus and Course Schedule with the class. We will be discussing expectations, required materials, and projects that will take place throughout the course.

**Thursday:** The students will be introduced to Project 1. We will be going over the project description sheet and rubric and discussing the required materials for the project. The remainder of class will be used to create 3 initial sketches of potential edifices that the students would like to make from the toothpicks.

### **Week 2: Project 1: Toothpick Edifice Recreation**

**Tuesday:** This will be the first in-class workday for project 1. Students must have finalized on their initial sketch and gathered materials to begin work on project 1.

**Thursday:** Project 1 work day.

### **Week 3: Project 1: Toothpick Edifice Recreation**

**Tuesday:** Project 1 work day.

**Thursday:** Project 1 work day.

### **Week 4: Project 1: Toothpick Edifice Recreation**

**Tuesday:** FINAL IN-CLASS WORK DAY for project 1. Students must complete the project by Thursday.

**Thursday:** Project 1 in-class Critique. Attendance and participation are mandatory.

### **Week 5: Project 2: Sculpture in the Contemporary Research Project**

**Tuesday:** The students will be introduced to Project 2. We will be going over the project description sheet and rubric and discussing the requirements for the project. Students will be introduced to effective modes of research and different sources of information available to them.

**Thursday:** This will be the first in-class workday for project 2. Students should have 3 ideas for artists that they would like to emulate for their small-scale reimaginations. Students will either conduct research on their personal devices or be allowed to go to the library if they do not have a device with them.

### **Week 6: Project 2: Sculpture in the Contemporary Research Project**

**Tuesday:** Project 2 research/work day.

**Thursday:** Project 2 research/work day. It is advised that students complete the presentation portion of this project by next class, so the remaining 2 weeks can be spent on the reimagination sculpture.

**Week 7: Project 2: Sculpture in the Contemporary Research Project**

**Tuesday:** Project 2 work day.

**Thursday:** Project 2 work day.

**Week 8: Project 2: Sculpture in the Contemporary Research Project**

**Tuesday:** FINAL IN-CLASS WORK DAY for project 2. Students must complete the project by Thursday.

**Thursday:** Project 2 in-class presentations. Attendance and participation is mandatory.

**Week 9: Project 3: Flattening a Form**

**Tuesday:** The students will be introduced to Project 3. We will be going over the project description sheet and rubric and discussing the required materials for the project. The remainder of class will be used to create 3 potential shapes out of paper and tape that can be turned into patterns.

**Thursday:** This will be the first in-class workday for project 3. Students must have finalized on their initial shape and gathered materials to begin work on project 3.

**Week 10: Project 3: Flattening a Form**

**Tuesday:** Project 3 work day.

**Thursday:** Project 3 work day.

**Week 11: Project 3: Flattening a Form**

**Tuesday:** Project 3 work day.

**Thursday:** Project 3 work day.

**Week 12: Project 3: Flattening a Form**



**Tuesday:** FINAL IN-CLASS WORK DAY for project 3. Students must complete the project by Thursday.

**Thursday:** Project 3 in-class Critique. Attendance and participation are mandatory.

### **Week 13: Project 4: Group Installation Project**

**Tuesday:** The students will be introduced to Project 4. We will be going over the project description sheet and rubric and discussing the required materials for the project. The remainder of class will be used to divide students into groups of 3 or 4. The groups will then discuss composition, space, and materials for their group installation.

**Thursday:** This will be the first in-class workday for project 4. Students must have finalized on their initial group composition and gathered materials to begin work on project 4.

### **Week 14: Project 4: Group Installation Project**

**Tuesday:** Project 4 work day.

**Thursday:** Project 4 work day.

### **Week 15: Project 4: Group Installation Project**

**Tuesday:** Project 4 work day.

**Thursday:** Final workday for project 4. The last half of class will be used for classroom cleanout. Attendance is mandatory for final cleanup.

### **Week 16: Finals Week**

**Date TBD:** Students will participate in the final critique of project 4.

\*The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Johannah Cairns on this date, 25 Nov. 2024.