



Band Saw Boxes by Michael Cullen

Woodworking: Enclosures & Containers (Draft)

Fall 2021

Program Description

Revised 9/28/21

Faculty and Staff:

Bob Leverich Visual Arts and Sustainable Design, 3253 Lab II, 360 349 9042, leverich@evergreen.edu

Don Jensen Wood & Metal Shops Instructional Technician, 0111 Art Annex, 360 867 6228 jensend@evergreen.edu

Elisa Brown Wood Shop Aide for our Class

Registration: This program is open to all students. Interested students are welcome to contact Bob or Don by email (listed above) prior to registering, or during the first week.

Credit: This is a 4-credit EWS course, requiring a time commitment of at least 10-15 hours per week! Credit will be awarded in introductory woodworking and container design.

Course Description and Goals: There are three principal furniture forms: seating, containers, and working surfaces. Any of these pieces marks a point in time in the life of its maker. In this class, students will each make a series of small projects, considering how boxes and container forms can both conceal and reveal what is inside them, learning to be shapers of meaningful, beautiful, and useful things using wood and essential woodworking tools and processes. Students will learn how simple parameters can inspire creative solutions, working within size, material, and joinery constraints appropriate to the time and tools we have available. They will learn to consider human scale in their designs, gain experience working safely and effectively with basic woodworking hand and power tools/ They will acquire a deeper understanding of how mind, hand, and tools work together to shape expressive and functional forms. They will document their work and ideas for a possible final online exhibition.

Course Components:

Woodworking and Design Studio – We'll lead you through the entire process of design and construction of small wooden containers and boxes, from initial conceptual ideas to sketches and drawings, wood choices, joinery choices, scale and ergonomic issues, and construction drawings, and then on to construction itself – cutting and shaping parts, cutting joints, fitting parts together, ornamentation, assembly and gluing, and sanding and finishing.

Research and Writing – We'll ask you to do some basic research into the type of woods you choose for your project – what trees they come from, where those trees grow, their social, economic, and environmental significance, and how they are harvested, prepared, and brought to the shop for you to use. We may investigate other tools and materials commonly used by woodworkers, as well. We'll ask you to write brief responses to short readings and/or

videos posted online most every week. And we'll ask you to write brief statements about your projects to explain your intentions, your choices of materials and processes, and what you learned. Please have a sketchbook/notebook on hand to record your ideas and notes. Bring it to class with you!

Evaluations and Critical Assessment – We'll ask you to take an active role in work discussions and reviews during class, learning to think carefully about what makes good work good – others' work and your own. At quarter's end, we'll ask you for digital images of your work and a self-evaluation summing up your work and learning.

Books and Readings – Readings about wood, woodworking tools and techniques, design, and ideas about containers will be posted online on the course's Canvas site. This is a hands-on class, not an online one, but you are responsible for checking the Canvas site regularly!

A textbook is not required for this class, but there are some good basic introductions to woodworking that you might consider owning:

Peter Korn: Woodworking Basics: Mastering the Essentials of Craftsmanship. Newtown, CT: Taunton Press, 2003. ISBN 978-1-56158-620-2

Albert Jackson, David Day, & Simon Jennings: The Complete Manual of Woodworking. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011. ISBN 978-0-679-76611-7

Bruce Hoadley: Understanding Wood: A Craftsman's Guide to Wood Technology. Newtown, CT: Taunton Press, 2000. ISBN 978-1561583584

Vic Tesolin: The Minimalist Woodworker. Spring House Press, 2015 ISBN 978-1940611358

José Teixido & Jacinto Santamera: Woodcarving: A Beginner Friendly Step-byStep Guide to Sculpting Wood. Skyhorse, 2021. ASIN: Bo7MDD6K2BS

Eric Sloane: A Reverence for Wood. New York: Ballantine, 1965, 1973. ISBN 0-345-31991-5

Canvas Site – Yes there is one, and as noted, you should check it regularly for documents and assignments, readings, resources and announcements.

Field Trips – No all-program field trips are scheduled this quarter, but we may suggest that you to get out on some short solo rambles to different spots.

Expenses: A \$130 required fee will be assessed to your student account, to cover the wood for the four essential projects in the class (the basic versions!) plus shared resource expenses. If you have time to make more or more advanced container projects, we can discuss additional materials...but it's best to start simple, master the tools and processes, and keep things simple! All necessary tools will be provided for you, but you may want to purchase some of your own after trying things out.

Typical Weekly Schedule (Be Alert for Changes!):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1-4:30 Open Shop	1-4:30 Open Shop	2-4:30 Open Shop	1-4:30 Open Shop	
5-8:30 Open Shop (Proficiencies in Wks. 2 & 3)	6-10 PM (The Other Class, Not Us!)	5-8:30 Open Shop (Proficiencies in Wks. 2&3)	6-10 PM OUR CLASS!	

Note: No Open Shops in Week 1!

FIRST CLASS: 6 PM, Thursday, September 30, in the Art Annex Wood Shop Atrium.