Course Title: Jewelry Making with Silver Metal Clay- Molding, Texturing and Toggle Clasps

Instructor: Paula Beckett

Course web page: http://www.collin.edu/ce/courses/silvermetal-molding.html

Course Description: An introduction to the fun and excitement of making your own fine silver jewelry. Metalworking experience isn’t necessary. Silver metal clay is remarkable clay made of microscopic particles of fine silver mixed with an organic binder and water to give it the consistency of clay. The metal clay can be rolled, textured, molded, carved and shaped to create earrings, pendants and charms. You will have the opportunity to create a pendant featuring a swing bail and faceted stone while learning the basic metal clay skills using lump, syringe and paste forms of the clay. Create beautiful a leaf and carved branch toggle clasp while learning to imbed fine silver wire. Fabricate a charm from a mold of your design and choice. Learn how to fabricate a swing bail. Learn how to wire wrap and add findings.

Materials Needed: The instructor will bring the supplies needed to the first day of class. The supplies are the consumables such as the silver and faceted stones. The supplies are between $130.00 and $150.00. Please bring cash or a check to the first day of class. All tools are made available to use in class

Course Objectives:
1. Students will learn the properties of the clay; the composition, what stones and findings can be fired into the clay, how to roll, texture and shape the clay.
2. They will learn how to keep the clay moist, to repair cracks, to attach it to itself both wet and dry.
3. They will learn how to finish the piece using files and sanding paper and how to fire the piece with a simple kitchen torch.
4. Learn to add a patina.
5. They will form a swing bail.
6. They will learn how to form jewelry using a mold they made.
7. Students will learn how to create a leaf shaped clasp with a carved branch formed out of silver metal clay as the toggle. Fine silver wire will be imbedded into the branch.
8. Wire wrapping and the attachment of findings will be taught in order be able to take home finished pieces of jewelry.

Instructor Notes: I will work with students on a one on one basis depending on the skill level of the student. I will take the more advanced students to the next level. I provide extra help for students that are completely new to jewelry design and metal clay.

Textbook(s): None
Lesson Plan – by week or session

Session 1: Introduce the characteristics of metal clay. Explain what materials it's made from as a means to explain why it's formed, dried and fired the way I teach it in this class. Introduce the tools used in class. Demonstrate how to successfully roll and shape the clay. Students will start the rolling out process to begin their first project, which is a pendant with a swing bail.

Session 2: Individual instruction to finish pendant. Roll out and cut swing bail. Demonstrate how to dry the swing bail over a mandrel. Sand the edges smooth and discuss techniques used to repair cracks and smooth minor imperfections. Spackling and finessing techniques will be demonstrated. Holes will be added to accommodate a jump ring.

Session 3: Form and bake a mold. After the mold is cooled students will learn how to add clay to the mold to make their charm. Dry charm. Add holes and sand the swing bail.

Session 4: Finish the swing bail and sand the molded piece and add a hole.

Session 5: Fire the molded piece, pendant and swing bail. Roll out the leaf clasp start the twig by rolling a snake form. While the twig is still wet think about adding knots and texture. Press in a piece of fine silver wire into the twig.

Session 6: Finish the leaf and twig toggle. Sand rough edges, fill indents add additional twig texture. Add a hole in the leaf where the jump ring will be added. All pieces must be fired by end of class today. If not the instructor will take them home to fire and tumble to be ready for the 7th class.

Session 7: Pieces will have a patina added and be polished. Instruction on how to put the pieces together to form finished pieces of jewelry will be taught and practiced.

Session 8: Each piece made out of silver metal clay will be made into a piece of jewelry

Course Sessions: listed are a guideline to indicate all topics that will be covered during your course. Do not plan your personal calendar based on these sessions. Your instructor will give you a calendar for your class that will indicate specific topics, assignments, and days.

Method of Evaluation: Unless otherwise stated, course completion is evaluated on the basis of attendance. Students must be in attendance 90% of the class time in order to be considered a successful completer of the course.

Students must be in attendance 90% of each course in a certificate series for successful completion and to earn a certificate as specified.

Students must complete all courses (core and no. of elective courses needed) to complete a certificate series within two years from start date of the first course taken.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/personal/studenthandbook.aspx