



SUMMER PROGRAM 2025

Course title: Introduction to jewelry making - The splendors of French jewelry

Meeting Times and Days: July 15–25 2025 / Monday – Friday, 9:00am-5:45pm

Instructor: Ines Gerard Cuesta

Room: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You love wearing jewelry and would like to learn the traditional techniques to create a jewelry collection?

With Paris and its splendors as a background, we will explore jewelry making and learn how to handcraft beautiful pieces using base metals and silver.

With visits to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs and its jewelry galleries, we will meet actors of the parisian and french jewelry world and go to the famous Place Vendôme, home to many iconic jewelry houses, such as Van Cleef and Arpels, Cartier and more.

We will gather inspirations in different places of Parisian life and design a small collection of objects and wearable art.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, a student should be able to:

- Demonstrate the basic knowledge of traditional jewelry techniques : cutting, filing, forming, soldering, wax carving.
- Understand how to research and utilize multiple sources of inspiration to create a jewelry collection.
- Create a moodboard to plan the outcomes of a collection
- Identify a trend and elect whether or not to follow it
- Actively participate in group discussions and critiques.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

Creativity, collection coherence, respect of techniques and safety measures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to fully participate in every session to be sure not to miss important information, which will lead to the successful completion of the course. Substantial absences are factored into grades. Please note the following:

- 2 late arrivals (more than 15 minutes) or early departures = one full absence
- 2 absences = excessive absence for a course that meets once per week
- 3 absences are grounds for failure in the course

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Jeweler saw, bench peg (around 30€ per student)

We will go to a jewelry supply shop to buy these items together.

The wax pendant will be cast by a casting company, the cost for a brass one is around 10€, it is also possible to make it in silver for 20-30€.

These costs are additional to the course fee.

RESOURCES AND READINGS

(if applicable)

SCHOOL POLICIES

1. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. All research, text, and image sources must be cited using Chicago (Turabian) style. See your instructor or the Student Handbook if you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism.
2. You are required to attend and participate in class critiques and other presentations. Be respectful of your fellow classmates.
3. No phones, devices for listening to music, or other electronics are allowed in class, unless otherwise specified by the instructor.
4. No emailing, web surfing, or instant messaging, etc. is allowed during class time, unless otherwise specified by the instructor.
5. Classrooms are community space. Please leave them clean and tidy.
6. All *Paris College of Art* buildings are NON- SMOKING, including balconies and the courtyard. You must go outside in the street to smoke. Students found smoking on PCA premises will be fined.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that this outline is subject to modification.

Tuesday, July 15

Introduction and presentation of syllabus. What is jewelry for you? An object? A trend? An amulet? Introduction to Art and Jewelry History.

Elaboration of ideas for the mood-board and sketches of the collection.

Visit of Le Marais and its historic jewelry and gemstones shops to buy tools and find inspiration and objets to include in the collection.

Start carving a pendant in jeweler's wax and introduction to casting methods.
Homework: Notes and thoughts about what was seen today. What jewelry are you drawn to? What design style resonates with your aesthetic?

Wednesday, July 16

Finish carving your wax jewelry. We will bring them to the casting company at the end of the day.

Homework: TBD

Thursday, July 17

Basic jewelry techniques applied to make a pierced pendant with a jeweler saw.

Visit of Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

Learn the jewelry techniques to make a ring band.

Homework: Notes and thoughts about what was learnt today. Which jewelry or artists did we see today that inspired you? Did you see jewelry being used somewhere that surprised you? What other surprising uses jewelry could have?

Friday, July 18

Finish your ring.

Visit of Musée du Quai Branly and its collection of world ornaments.
We will collect our pendants at the casting company.

Bench work, refine your castings and work on your collection.

Review of museum visits, what did we see that was different, what was similar?
Analysis of patterns, colors, materials. Spend the weekend daydreaming your collection.

Monday, July 21

Trip to jewelry shops to buy materials for your collection if needed.
Work on your jewelry pieces, time to build your collection!

Tuesday, July 22

Work on your collection.

Wednesday, July 23

Workshop. Afternoon critique with the entire class, review of final projects and feedback.

Thursday, July 24

Photography of your pieces and creation of a still life portfolio.

Friday, July 25

Finalize project, print, and prepare for class exhibition. Afternoon exhibition in gallery with fellow summer classmates. Invite your friends and family.