

Ceramics, Art 1080
Fall 2006, TH 6-9 PM

Instructor: Nolan Baumgartner
Class Location: Sculpture 190
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Course Description: This is an introductory course in ceramics. Throughout this course you will develop skills in throwing, surface decoration, and glazing of stoneware and porcelain. Students will explore work rhythms of the pottery studio as they learn the concept of good craftsmanship. This is an art course and you will be asked to reconsider stereotypes about ceramics.

Course Goals: Student will attain some knowledge of wheelthrown skills (knowing the basics and properties and limits of clay), and have some knowledge of the history of ceramic art. The course will emphasize ideas of functionality, aesthetic awareness, critical thinking, and the awareness of oneself as a creative individual.

Materials Needed:

- Ceramic tool kit and sketch book (8 1/2 x 11)—can be found in the bookstore
- Fork (not plastic)
- Bucket (approx. 1 gal.)
- Large sponge
- slip trailer (ketchup squeeze bottle)
- Plastic sheet (a painting drop cloth under 1 mil will work) or dry cleaner bags
- Rubber ribs – hard black and soft blue
- Various sized wooden ribs
- Variety of brushes (they don't need to be good ones—from fairly fine to 3 or so inches)
- Small containers with lids (small to large yogurt cups are fine)
- Spray bottle
- Combination lock! (You must have this to be assigned a locker!)

Textbook (suggested reading)

- Peterson, Susan. *The Craft and art of Clay*. 4th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc. 2000.

The University of Utah Department of Art and Art History seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disabilities Services, <http://disability.utah.edu> 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (VTDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Grading System: A (Excellent), A-, B+, B (Good), B-, C+, C (Average), C-, D+, D (Below average), D-, F (Failure)

I- Incomplete. This mark will be used sparingly and only when an emergency prevents a student from completing course work during the Regular College session. This grade may be granted only when the student has completed 75% of the class work with a passing grade.

Evaluation: Grading will be assessed by the following criteria: attendance, attitude, test grade and assignments.

Attendance/Attitude: After two absences (use them wisely!!!!), your attendance grade will be lowered by one grade per absence. Four consecutive absences during a semester will be given a non-passing grade for the course. Five or more non-consecutive absences during the semester will not receive a passing grade for the course. You will also be assessed by my observation of how well you are focused in class, care shown for your assignments, and how open you are to criticism and new ideas (20%)

Technical Test: This test will be given on the second to last class. It will cover a basic understanding of ceramic materials and processes (20%).

Assignments: Completion dates for all projects will be the critique date of that assignment (two weeks after the last work day for that assignment). Short, individual critiques will happen at this time. For the assignments given when you are absent, you may call or email me for the information. It is always your responsibility to make sure that you know and understand your assignment before you leave. There are a total of 4 projects, totaling 12 actual project pieces. All works must be completed and glaze fired at the end of the semester for the final critique. You will be graded on your assignments according to growth exhibited in total assignments, complexity of projects chosen according to your level, number of actual pieces, and degree of completion. Your sketch book will also be considered one of your assignments (60%).

Rubric's

A Grade

- Less than three absences
- Completion of all three projects with a significant amount more pieces than assigned
- Project completion showing care, effort, and quality. Note that quantity is a factor for some of the assignments, and completing more pieces than required will be considered exceptional. However, the quality of the pieces should not be sacrificed for quantity.
- Focused during class time, and extensive growth exhibited
- Ability to articulate process, design, and content of their assignments
- B or better on the technical test

B Grade

- Two or less absences
- Completing all assignments with a small amount more than specified
- B or less on technical test

C Grade

- More than three absences
- Completing the assignments with the specified amount of pieces
- C or less on technical test

D Grade

- More than four absences
- Less than the specified amount of project pieces
- Failure on technical test

F Grade

- More than four absences
- Four consecutive absences
- Missing 6 or more project pieces
- Failure on technical test

Tentative schedule:

Class 1: Introduction/syllabus

Class 2-11: Assignment 1: 6 cups with handles

Class 12-19: Assignment 2: 4 taller-cylinder forms with exaggerated lips, bodies, and/or feet

Class 21-25: Assignment 3: 4 lidded forms

Class 25-26: Trim and bisque week

Class 27-28: Bisque and glaze week

Class 29: technical exam/finish glazing (absolutely the last day to glaze)

Class 30: final critique