Ceramics, Art 1080  
4 credit hours  
Class Location: Sculpture 190  
Instructor: Nolan Baumgartner  
Email address: claybully@hotmail.com

Course Description: This is an introductory course in ceramics for non-art majors. 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.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Includes technique demonstrations, lectures, written assignments, slide presentations, and a written final exam.

Materials Needed:

- Ceramic tool kit and sketch book (8 1/2 x 11)—can be found in the bookstore*
- Combination lock! (You must have this to be assigned a locker!)*
- White Clay receipt: $7/bag--Get it at the tuition window in the SSB*
- Bucket (approx. 1 gal.)*
- Fork (not plastic)
- Cheap ruler (plastic)
- 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)

Textbook (suggested reading)


Studio Attire: Please understand that you will get dirty in this class, and you will be sitting at a potters’ wheel. Do not wear skirts or kilts. Please wear shoes (broken ceramic is much like glass), and if you plan on using a kick wheel, do not wear sandals/flip flops.

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, 381-5020 (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:** 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.

- **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:** Thrown assignments should be completed before the demonstrations for the next assignment. You may work on previous assignments after this, but not during class time. Individual critiques will happen, by appointment, throughout the semester.

  Written assignments are due on the date given. After the due date, they will be deducted 10 percent each class period they are late.

  For the assignments given when you are absent, you may email me for the information. **It is always your responsibility to make sure that you know and understand your assignment before you leave.**

  **All works must be completed and glaze fired to receive credit.** 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. (80%).

  Your sketchbook is considered an assignment.

*Extra Credit:* There is no extra credit.
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 1/2: 2 cups with handles, 2 teabowls with trimmed feet
Class 12-19: Assignment 2: 4 taller-cylinder forms with exaggerated lips, bodies, and/or feet
Class 20-25: Assignment 3: 5 lidded forms
Class 26-27: Trim and bisque week
Class 28-29: Bisque and glaze week
Class 28: finish glazing
Class 29: Technical Test/cleanup.
Final Critique: Finals Week (TBA)

“Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.”