Arts 2346.001 Ceramics I  
MW 9:00-11:50 AM  
CA 112

Instructor: Kevin Ramler  
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Office Hours: MW 12:30-3:30

The ceramic student will examine a wide range of materials and techniques in combination with basic design elements. Techniques covered in this course will be hand building. This includes pinching, coil building, slab construction, and the uses of simple molds, either press molds or drape molds. In addition to hand building the ceramic student will be introduced to using the potter’s wheel. There will be an emphasis upon ideas and craftsmanship in exploring the possibilities of finding meaningful themes and forms. Work outside scheduled class hours will be necessary to complete assignments. The open studio situation requires students to be responsible for the safe use of tools and equipment, and for maintaining a clean and safe work environment.

Student Learning Outcomes
Each student will develop technical and craftsmanship skills through hands-on work with materials by effectively assembling pinch, coil, slab, and wheel thrown forms.
Each student be able to make appropriate clay bodies.
Each student will be able to distinguish between fired and unfired clay.
Each student will learn to manipulate stains, glazes and appropriate firing methods, in order to control color and tactile qualities.
The student will demonstrate flexibility and adaptability by using a variety of technical and conceptual strategies in resolving problems with ceramic forms.
Each student will be able to orally critique ceramics.
Each student will be able to participate in group critiques.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
The student has six responsibilities:
1. To produce a body of work with an emphasis upon craftsmanship, demonstrating a mastery of techniques assigned.
2. To develop technical skills using the following processes: pinching, coiling, slab building, wheel throwing.
3. The individual projects will be turned in at assigned critiques during the semester. The body of work (everything made for this class) will be turned in on the date of the final.
4. To actively participate in mixing clay and glazes, and loading kilns.
5. To actively participate in class critiques.
6. To attend class. After three absences a student’s final course grade will be lowered one letter grade. Arriving late to 3 classes equals one absence.
Need to Know

• This syllabus is subject to change.
• Final Exam: See University Exam Schedule
• Students will be expected to have a notebook every day in class with a writing implement. The notebook will hold all class handouts and the student’s notes. Students arriving without a notebook may be recorded as absent. We will not wait as students go to get notebooks or pencils. Taking careful notes during demonstrations and using them will greatly improve a student’s success.
• Participation in preparation of clay and glazes for class use; students will mix clay or glazes as necessary several times each semester. Do not waste work; avoid putting usable clay in scrap barrels.
• Participation in loading and unloading of class kilns
• Having a pair of rubber gloves available for glazing
• All project work and outside work to be graded must be available for review at the end of the semester. Due to space limitations fired finished work may not be stored in the ceramics studios. If work will not fit in lockers, students must make other arrangements for safe storage - i.e., take work home, etc. Again, all work must be available for review at semester’s end.
• Studio Safety and Hygiene: we will read, sign, and hand in the student agreement, attached. All Students are required to clean up their work areas before leaving the studio and do other studio cleaning as necessary.
• All work, tools and other belongings, must be removed from the studio the last day of finals week by noon. (In the summer session by the end of the day of finals). The studio will be cleaned and remaining personal belongings and clay work may be thrown out.

• BREAKAGE, LOSS, FIRING ACCIDENTS Ceramics is fragile, firing is difficult and full of unknowns, especially in a group situation. It is inevitable that some pieces will be lost, broken, or misfired. While losses are regrettable they will happen. The faculty and TAMU-CC cannot be held liable for such accidents. Students should handle work carefully and as little as possible. All work must be marked with a student's initials or stamp.
• LOCKERS: See the Art Office (CA107) to reserve a locker in the hallway. You will need one. The sooner you get one the closer it will be to the studio. If you wait there might not be one available.
• STUDIO HOURS:
  o You may use the Ceramics Lab any time when the building is open except during class time for the other sections of Ceramics or during floor cleaning. The class will involve work in the studio outside of class time.
  o The building is open many nights and weekends. Check on the front door, or with the building supervisor for details. It may be closed Thanksgiving weekend and Labor Day weekend and MLK day.
• CALENDAR: Ceramics is a time sensitive medium. Allowing projects to dry slow and even makes work less prone to cracking and easier to manipulate. Consequently work completed late in the semester will have a greater chance of cracking in the drying process. It is often possible to finish a piece in a small fraction of the time it would take to do it in one week if you spread the work out. Approximately two weeks before final exams will be the end of the time when wet clay can be used. (This date is different in the summer). This date is not fixed until a month before the end of the semester. If most of the work in the studio is already bisqued a few more days of wet work can be added. If little has been bisqued a few more days for firing will be needed and there will be less time for wet work. Even with this two week lead, objects made the last few days for wet work will need to be small if they are to survive the fast drying necessary. Roughly one week before finals will be the last time pots can be glazed. This will occur during dead week. The exact date for the last day for wet work is determined by the amount of work in the studio still needing to fired at the end of the semester.

Occasionally there is too much work to fire in the last week. If the work was glazed before the last day to glaze and it was on the racks to be fired before the last day for them to be placed there it will be graded as if it was glaze fired. Work still needing firing may be brought back into ceramics at the beginning of the next long semester for firing. It may not be left in the studio between semesters. Work left in the studio between semesters will be thrown away.
• Required statements:

*Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

*** Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs. **** Because art studios use materials and tools that could be dangerous, safe and cooperative behavior by students is absolutely necessary. The studio course instructor will be the ultimate judge of cooperative as well as safe and unsafe behavior. Individuals engaging in uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior will be cautioned and instructed once by the instructor. If a second occasion of uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior occurs, that student will be un-enrolled from the course and given a “wd” with no refund of tuition and fees. (per Dean Richard Gigliotti)

Graded activity:
Typical calendar subject to change.

• Pinched Vessels.
  5 Pinch Pots with Feet
  5 Objects assembled from two or more Pinch Pots

• Slabs
  10 Slab Plates with decoration
  5 Slab Trays, using hump or slump molds

• Coil Pots
  1 Basic Coil Pot at least 12” tall
  1 Blended Coil Pot with at least two openings 15” tall

• Thrown Pots
  20 Cylinder prints
  6 Cylinders
  6 Cylinders with Handles

•Extra Project
Grade lowered one letter for missed final.
For a grade of A student must:
• Complete all studio practices.
• Finish all objects satisfactorily. At least three must be excellent.
• Demonstrate all skills satisfactorily. At least three skills must be excellent.

For a grade of B student must:
• Complete all studio practices.
• Finish all objects satisfactorily
• Demonstrate each skill except integration satisfactorily.
   Excellence in any one part of a group offsets an unsatisfactory in that group

Grade of C
• Complete 2 of three studio practices
• Finish all but two objects satisfactorily. Student must complete all but one of the objects.
• Demonstrate all but two skills satisfactorily. One of these must be the ability to construct and finish. Most work must be glazed.

Policies
• Projects that are finished by the end of the semester but do not meet wet finished or glaze deadlines will be marked unsatisfactory
• All student grades after computing by this method will be adjusted per the attendance policy.
• All work must be available for review during the final exam period.
  • Late work:
    o Any work not available for the final exam period will not be graded.
    o Work not available for the assignment critiques may be marked as not on time.
  • Plagiarism: Work made by other students will be marked as not turned in; skills associated with
    the work will be marked as unsatisfactory. Students caught turning in the work of other students
    may be subject to the rules and procedures set out in the student handbook. Students missing more
    than 3 classes will be marked down one full grade. Each two classes absence after that will result
    in the loss of another grade.
  • ATTENDANCE:
    o This is a studio class. Attendance is mandatory. There is no “make up work” to
      compensate for missed class time. Some information will be imparted only during class.
      It is the student’s responsibility to follow the attendance procedure. After the third
      absence student will drop a letter grade. After fifth absence student will drop
      another letter grade. Missing a scheduled critique will count for two absences.
    o -All assignments spanning more than two class periods must be reviewed in progress during class time. It is not acceptable to complete all work on a project outside of class. It may not be possible to complete all work for a project inside class. Passing through the building to cover and uncover work will be necessary several times a week. If the plan is to be on campus only twice a week, a different class might be a good idea.
    o -LATENESS- it is essential that students come to class ON TIME. Important information will be given each class during the first few minutes of class. Attendance will be taken. Having three or more tardies will result in an absence.
    o -Leaving early- while it is better to show up for part of a class than none at all. Leaving early without the instructors’ permission (he may say no) may result in an absence or lateness being recorded for the day. Often demonstrations, or slide shows occur in the last 1/2 hour of class.
    o It is the student’s responsibility to find out what materials were missed because of
      absence or tardiness. Just as in lecture classes the absent students will want to ask
      fellow students for notes. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to provide makeup
      demonstrations.
    o Students missing the final exam will be marked down a full letter grade. The instructor
      must still be shown the student work before he turns in grades or lack of information may
      result in an F. Conflicts with the exam time must be worked out the first week of school.
    o Incompletes will be given to those called to active US military duty in accordance with
      university policy. Other incompletes are at the instructor's discretion. They will not be
given unless 3/4 of the work is finished before the reason for the incomplete takes place. The reason must be out of the student’s control. Attendance must be good before the reason for the incomplete takes place.

Supplies Texts/reading:

• Rubber gloves for glazing.
• Kemper potter's tool kit
• A dull exacto knife, or a dull drywall knife, or a dull pairing knife. A long thin blade is best, sometimes these can be picked up cheap at discount stores such as the Dollar Store®.
• Serrated rib will be supplied.
• Thin plastic drop cloths (.3-.8 mm) for covering work. Paint and hardware stores sell these for under $1.00
• Notebook. You should have your notebook in class at all times and use it to record processes, hints, etc. during demonstrations. All handouts should be stored in your notebook. They are almost all available online at http://www.tamu.cc.edu/~lkatz if you lose one.
• Work clothes: You might want to keep a change of clothes that you can get very dirty in your locker, also closed top, and closed back shoes that you can work in. You cannot be in the studio with sandals, open or high heeled shoes. Loose skirts and aprons, hanging jewelry and other loose ware are not safe for mixing clay. See student agreement.
• Hair control devices: long hair must be tied back when using potter's wheel, mixing clay, using the grinder, or firing kilns.
• One gallon or so plastic bucket with a wide top.
• Cap: to cover your hair when mixing clay or glaze, sweeping, or other dusty jobs (optional).

SUGGESTED TEXT

- Ceramics A Potter’s Handbook by Glenn C. Nelson, Richard Burkett 6th edition. Reading assignments will be given (see calendar). If you are short on cash and find an older edition it will do. It is quick reading and may be able to be checked out of local libraries.

- Ceramics Monthly Magazine. Anyone serious about clay should be subscribed to this magazine. Others should look at it in the library. Other magazines in the library worth looking at are American Ceramics, Studio Potter, and Ceramics Technical.