This course is designed to help the Student find his or her own voice and style through the medium of ceramics using the Raku technique. Raku finds its roots in Japan in the sixteenth century. The tea master Rikyu is credited with establishing the tea ceremony, a ritual closely tied in with the philosophy of Zen - beauty of the simple and natural. (Raku: Art & Technique by Hal Riegger). The technique was brought to the west, in the 20’s, through the book written by English potter Bernard Leach, A Potter’s Handbook. The process then gained popularity in the United States in the 60’s with Paul Soldner’s innovation of local reduction. The purpose of this class is to carry on the tradition of seeking “beauty of the simple and natural.” We will find our voice through the art of Raku.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES
The student has six responsibilities:
To produce a body of work with an emphasis upon IDEAS and CRAFTSMANSHIP in exploring the possibilities of meaningful themes in three dimensional forms.
To develop a glaze or a glazing technique that works at the temperature at which the class kilns are fired. To complete this requirement the student will create 10 glazed pinch pots, and make a brief oral presentation.
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.
To actively participate in mixing clay and glazes, and loading kilns.
To actively participate in class critiques.
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.

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 works using techniques like pinch, coil, slab, and wheel throwing.
Each student will be able to fire a raku kiln.
Each student will be able to make appropriate clay bodies.
Each student will be able to distinguish between high fired and low fired clay.

Each student will learn to make glazes for Raku firing temperature
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.
CLASS EXPECTATIONS
This class will include lectures, videos, and demonstrations relating to assigned projects. An important element in the learning process is the attitude of the student toward his work and the work of his fellow students. Ceramics is created in an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration; the artist/student will function best in this spirit. Demonstrations and lectures will not be repeated; it is the student's responsibility to get the notes from another student. A high level of personal discipline in maintaining the studio and all equipment is required of each student. It is expected that each student clean up the area he/she has been working in before leaving the studio. Failing to do so will cause a student's grade to be lowered one letter grade. A failure to conform to safety procedures at any time could cause a student's letter grade to be lowered, or a student may be asked to drop the course. Students must wear safety protection and dress in clothes suitable for an art studio. I expect a significant effort on each assignment. In solving each problem the student will demonstrate an ability to communicate an idea, and that technical obstacles were overcome. As your instructor I will not make decisions for you. My role is to help you establish contact with your creative potential by removing technical obstacles. Ceramics is a creative process and every student has a creative potential. I will encourage this creative growth through assignments that incorporate a suggested theme with a technical problem to be resolved. Achieving this growth will require studio time beyond class hours, oral expression of ideas, and creative decision-making. The purpose of this class is not to create a quantity of objects, but to acquire the self-confidence and desire to continue creating.

CRITIQUES
Participation in the critiques is required. The students will be asked to explain their work to the class and defend it on its aesthetic merit. The work will be evaluated on craftsmanship, creativity, and the ability to communicate an idea.

ATTENDANCE
After three absences a student’s final course grade will be lowered one letter grade. Excessive tardiness (6) will cause a student’s grade to be lowered one letter grade. Leaving class for supplies demonstrates that the student is ill prepared and this will affect his/her grade.

STUDIO
A high level of personal discipline in maintaining the studio and all equipment is required of each student. It is expected that each student clean up the area he/she has been working in before leaving the studio. Failing to do so will cause a student's grade to be lowered one letter grade.

SAFETY
A failure to conform to safety procedures at any time will cause a student’s letter grade to be lowered one point, or a student may be asked to drop the course. Students must wear eye protection, and dress in clothes suitable for an art studio.

GRADES
Body of work 50%
Glazing technique 25%
Attendance 10%
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. TS

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at 361.825.5816 in Driftwood 101.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at 361.825.5816.

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. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

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 Website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.