CERAMICS 1 2346.002 – James – Spring 2020

Ceramics 1 ARTS-2346.002
Rm CA-112
T/Th 3:30-6:20 pm

Instructor: Richard James
E-Mail: Richard.james@tamucc.edu
Phone: 361-825-2315
Office: 116C
Office Hours: T 9-12, W 9-10, TH 11-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Ceramics 1 is a comprehensive introduction to the craft of working with clay. By exploring the nature of clay through the learning of ceramic forms and techniques, this class builds an understanding of the possibilities, which ceramics can offer. Through hand-building and throwing techniques, this course introduces the nature of clay and emphasizes the process of creating ceramics from concept to finished product. In addition to developing an understanding of the skills used in forming clay, we will be discussing the history of ceramics and contemporary artists who work in clay.

This course is designed as an introduction to studio ceramics. This course will provide the student with the fundamental knowledge regarding ceramic vocabulary, materials, tools, methods of construction, surface resolution, and firing. This course is intended to broaden the student’s understanding of clay as a viable medium for personal visual expression and extend the student’s capacity for practical application for two and three dimensional design considerations.

Creative and Artistic expression is one of the objectives of this class. You will be expected to:
1. create unique, personal, finished objects in clay.
2. perform a critical examination and assessment of your own work, as well as the work of others.
3. articulate how your work moved from the initial concept to the final product.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the conclusion of this semester, a student who successfully contributes and participates in the course will:

1. Student will use a variety of clay, slips, glazes and experience simple firing techniques.
2. Student will become competent in basic hand-building and glazing techniques.
3. Student will begin to learn about using the potter's wheel.
4. Student will successfully work with form, proportion and surface in three-dimensional ceramic objects.
5. Student will begin to become aware of the scope historical and contemporary ceramic art.
6. Student will begin to learn about loading and firing kilns.
7. Student will gain the sensitivity to be able to gauge the appropriate wetness of the material for a particular process.
8. Student will begin to gain a broader understanding of the scope of the medium and an introduction into philosophical issues surrounding the field.

SYLLABUS and CALENDAR DISCLAIMER
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary. This document is based on estimation for the number of assignments, demonstrations, and techniques that will occur during this semester. This is subject to change due to situations including, but not limited to: equipment problems, studio space availability, and announcements from the university altering the academic schedule. Any changes will be announced via email and Blackboard.
REQUIRED COMMUNICATION

- **COMMUNICATION** - Check your TAMUCC email and Blackboard regularly. Make sure to set up your email to accept Bb email messages. Missing information because you did not check your email or Bb is not an acceptable excuse for missing deadlines.

- **SKETCHBOOK** - Students will be expected to have a notebook every day in class with an implement. The notebook will hold all class handouts and the students notes. Students arriving without a notebook may be recorded as absent. We will not wait as students go to get notebooks or pencils that are outside the classroom. Taking careful notes during demonstrations and using them will greatly improve a student’s success.

REQUIRED TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- A personal towel. Something old to use drying hands. This will be especially important during the throwing portion of the class.
- Notebook. You should have your notebook in class at all times and use it to record processes, hints, etc. during demonstrations, as well as written notes on critiques. All handouts should be stored in your notebook. They will also be available on Blackboard.
- Kemper potter’s tool kit AND serrated rib (Bookstore, Michaels, Amazon)
- Serrated rib (Bookstore)
- A dull Xacto® knife, or a dull drywall knife, or a dull pairing knife, Best is a potters long bladed fettling knife. A long thin straight blade is best, sometimes these can be picked up cheap at discount stores such as the Dollar Store® or thrift stores.
- Thin plastic drop cloths (.3-.8 mm) for covering work. Paint and hardware, lumber stores sell these for about $1.00. Dry cleaning bags work too. And if all else fails, reused bags from grocery store.
- Thin cloth such as a bed sheet for covering work you wish to dry in a slow manner. Very cheap at a goodwill.
- One gallon or so plastic bucket with a wide top.
- A pair of rubber gloves available for gloves and safety glasses for glazing
- 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.
- Cap: to cover your hair when mixing clay or glaze, sweeping, or other dusty jobs (optional).
- Full covered, sensible shoes – no flip-flops
- And any other tools you can think of for forming, shaping, texturing clay.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- *The Ceramics Bible*, Louisa Taylor
- *Launching the Imagination*, by Stewart
- *Hands in Clay*, Charlotte Speight
- *The Potter’s Workbook*, Clary Illian
- *The Craft and Art of Clay*, Susan Peterson
- *Ceramics Monthly*, magazine
- [www.artaxis.org](http://www.artaxis.org)
- [www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net)
COURSE POLICIES FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

• Communal music agreed upon by the whole class is allowed during class. **Headphones are NOT allowed during class time**, so that you are always engaging with your peers, participating in the learning process, and contributing to the safety of the class by being aware of tool use.

• Smart phones, tablets, and computers are allowed in the primary 3D studio classroom for tasks related directly to our assignments: documenting progress and research on ceramicists. Keep your electronic work visible.

• If you do the above and are asked to stop more than one time, this will first affect your grade and if this becomes a common problem, you will lose all in-class device privileges.

OPEN STUDIO

This is a studio-based art course and ample time will be allotted to production and creative output; however, students are expected to work at least 6-8 hours a week outside of class time. This is a general estimate and every artist is unique in time expenditure.

Regarding the studio time built into this class: this is time for you to work under supervision in the studio. This is the best time to ask your instructor specific questions about your work and get feedback on your work in progress. It is expected that you will have enough work to occupy the full class period. It is also expected that students put in the adequate work time outside of class in order to ensure the quality outcome of their work.

Make note of the posted building hours. If another class in session when you would like to work:

• Locate the instructor for that course and respectfully introduce yourself and which class you are in

• Describe what you would like to work on

• Respectfully ask if (and where) you can work while his/her class is in session

STUDIO CARE and CLEAN-UP

This is a shared studio space. A lack of respect for the studios will affect your grade.

• Touch only your own work. Do not take or damage other students’ work or materials. If you are not sure or if something is in the way, ask a professor before moving or touching.

• Clean up after yourself both in class and outside of class is required. This includes disposing of used materials properly.

• If you use spray paint, this is to be done outside in the covered yard area. Make sure to cover the concrete with cardboard or plastic. If you overspray or forget, use solvent and wirebrush to remove paint.

• If you install artwork affecting walls, when you deinstall, repair wall accordingly

• If you break something you notify faculty promptly, and so on...

• If you throw away artworks you have made THIS IS NOT TO GO IN TRASH CANS – go straight to dumpster

• **Final Exam Week** - All artwork and materials must be removed from the studios upon the completion of the semester. Make early plans for large, heavy, and bulky work. Failure to remove your work and belongings after Final Exam week on Friday at 5pm will affect your grade.

• After Final Exam Week is concluded, any unclaimed artwork and materials will be disposed of.

GRADING and ASSESSMENT

Grades are a measure of achievement, not of industry. A student who fails to carry out assigned tasks is not entitled to credit; on the other hand, a student who expends twice as much time or energy in completing a task as another is not thereby entitled to a higher grade.
The grade is a measure of the degree to which the goals of the assignments have been achieved and should not be distorted by other considerations.

**GRADING**

\[
90.5-100 = A \quad 80.5-90.4 = B \quad 70.5-80.4 = C \quad 60.5-70.4 = D \quad 60.4 \text{ and Below} = F
\]

There will be approximately six major projects, some of which may require the student to make more than one object.

| Attendance: | ___ 100 points total |
| Participation in making clay | ___ 100 points total |
| Hand building - pinch/coil | ___ 100 points total |
| Hand building - slab | ___ 100 points total |
| Hand building - Love/Hate | ___ 100 points total |
| Throwing - cylinders | ___ 100 points total |
| Throwing - cups/bowls | ___ 100 points total |

\[
\text{___ / 700 Total points}
\]

**IMPORTANT!!!** Projects will need to be presented in a leather hard state. This will allow the student to make changes to the work and improve the grade. Students will have exactly one week after the critique to make the recommended improvements to their work before the grade is entered and finalized.

**PROJECT GRADING**

The percentages and areas vary with respect to the specific assignment.

- Response to the assignment and completed on time
- Demonstrated skill and technical mastery
- Demonstrated ability to apply surface treatment
- Overall Aesthetic and Design of form
- Overall Aesthetic and Design of surface
- Participation: Artist Research, Studio maintenance, Clay mixing/kiln loading support

**A = Excellent**

The objectives have been surpassed, and the solution is fully developed and innovative beyond the requirements. Craftsmanship is exceptional and reflects careful attention to detail and investment in presentation. Distinguished/excellent use of concepts, process and materials. Frequent contribution class discussion and studio community. In-class and out-of-class work ethic, preparedness, and attendance are superb. Seeks and utilizes professor’s and classmates’ feedback.

**B = Good**

The objectives have been exceeded, and the solution may be unique and unusual. Craftsmanship is clean and attention to detail is apparent. Good understanding of materials and techniques. All work completed on time. Work shows evidence of a solid work ethic. Attendance is good and student is prepared for each class.

**C = Average**

The objectives have been solved, but the solution is obvious and lacking in innovation. Craftsmanship is adequate but attention to detail is minimal. Average understanding of medium and methods. Research is cursory and experimentation in approaches is limited. Most work is completed on-time.

**D = Passing**

The objectives have been solved poorly, and the solution shows lack of understanding of the problems presented. Craftsmanship is sloppy. Marginal understanding material. Execution of final projects is rushed. Student shows little willingness to experiment with different approaches, and does not respond to feedback. Some work completed on time but often not prepared for class.

**F = Failing**

The objectives have been unaddressed, and the solution is incomplete. Craftsmanship is ignored. All work completed late and often unprepared or absent. Student shows little knowledge of topics discussed in class.

Participation in preparation of clay and glazes for class use; students will be assigned or allowed to choose a mixing partner and will mix clay or glazes as necessary several times each semester. Don not waste work, avoid putting usable clay in scrape barrel.
COURSE POLICIES FOR ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for your success, will be recorded during each class session. Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in critiques.

- If you will be absent, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to seek out the information presented in class and to ask to schedule a make-up demonstration if there was such the day you missed. You are still responsible for everything presented in class during your absence.
- The departmental absence policy accommodates standard illness, religious holidays and schedule conflicts during the semester.
- Excused absences: personal illness with medical note, death in the immediate family, and duties performed for the University.

As noted under "GRADING and ASSESSMENT," there is a grade for attendance. It is important that you communicate with your faculty if you are having a problem with the course.

- Attendance will be kept via Blackboard.
- Being "Late" will also be recorded on Blackboard Attendance
  - 10 minutes or more late
  - Leaving class 10 minutes or more early
  - Working on homework for other classes
- The department policy for attendance:
  - Lose a single letter grade on your fourth (4) absence.
  - Five (5) absences will result in the drop of another letter grade.
  - Six (6) absences will result in the failure of the course.
- Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.

Attending critiques is mandatory.

- Critiques are the equivalent of a major test and your attendance for critique is absolutely mandatory.
- Missing a critique with unexcused absence = 0 for the in-class and verbal parts of the critique grade.
- Using electronic devices during a critique = 0 for the in-class and verbal parts of the critique grade.
- Missing a critique with excused absence = NA for that critique grade.

COURSE POLICIES LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments are accepted up to 3 days late but with a grade reduction increasing for each hour and day respectively. Running out of time or blaming the materials, the internet, or the equipment are not acceptable reasons for not finishing your assignments. Late submissions for the last project nor the final presentation will be accepted.

COURSE POLICIES and STUDIO GUIDELINES

The following guidelines include Responsibility, Safety, and Maintenance. Studio guidelines are not optional and must be followed completely. Any student who does not follow the studio guidelines will have their final grade reduced by an amount to be determined by the instructor. Additional safety details will be covered in the "Safety Rules and Student Agreement."

1. Keeping The Studio Clean
   Long-term exposure to clay dust is harmful. Clean up with water, bucket and large sponge any area you have worked with clay or glaze (tables, wheel, stool, floor, wedging table). All students are
required to clean up their work areas before leaving the studio and do other studio cleaning as necessary. Keep the wedging table clean and free of scrape clay. Food and beverages are NOT allowed in the Studio area.

2. **Studio Equipment**
   Turn off wheels and clean splash pans. Return ware boards, bats, and any other equipment to their proper location after use. All students work must be removed from the studio following the final critique and clean up or it will be discarded.

3. **Disposal Of Scrap And Waste Clay**
   Do not dump clay into sinks!!! Use either the reclaim barrel. Do not throw contaminated clay into reclaim bins. To support clay mixing, avoid putting usable clay in reclaim barrels. Spray with a little water, wrap in plastic, and keep on your own shelf.

4. **Identify Your Artwork And Tools**
   Write your name on all your personal tools and equipment. Sign your artwork; all work must have your last name on it in order to turn it in for credit.

5. **Locker**
   Please go to the Dept. of Art office to check out a locker. This locker will be for you to keep your materials, finished work, personal safety protection, and so on.

6. **Handling And Moving Artwork**
   Clay is fragile! It can break and crack if mishandled and usually cannot be repaired. Always use two hands when handling artwork. Typically projects that crack are not formed using fundamentally good construction techniques. Respect other student’s work. Avoid touching, moving, or picking up clay that is unfired (it is in its most fragile stage when unfired). Each student is responsible for tracking his or her own artworks location throughout the course and to ensure his or her artwork is placed in the proper location for its designated firing.

7. **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.

8. **Final Exam and Last day of Term**
   - Clean out cubby - THIS IS NOT TO GO IN TRASH CANS – go straight to dumpster
   - Remove all works – THIS IS NOT TO GO IN TRASH CANS – go straight to dumpster
   - Help the studio by cleaning up for 30-min studio - there will be a list of jobs posted.
   - All work, tools, and other belongings, must be removed from the studio the last day of term. The studio will be cleaned and remaining personal belongings and clay-work will be thrown out.
   - Failure to remove your work and belongings after the last class meeting and someone else has to clean or pick up for you, it will affect your grade.

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**COURSE POLICIES FOR CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**

Because Art Studios use materials and tools that could be dangerous, safe and cooperative behavior by students is absolutely necessary. The instructor will be the ultimate judge of cooperative as well as safe and unsafe behavior. The instructor will caution individuals engaging in uncooperative and/or unsafe behavior one time. If a second occasion of this behavior occurs, that student will be un-enrolled from the course and given a “WD” with no refund of tuition and fees.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct,
classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor's ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade in the course.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS
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 Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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.
STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard, email, and our group website http://bajuyo.weebly.com/. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, websites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825-3466.

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
The following page is a general calendar for the semester.

This document is based on estimation for the number of assignments, demonstrations, and techniques that will occur during this semester. This is subject to change due to situations including, but not limited to: equipment problems, studio space availability, and announcements from the university altering the academic schedule. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard and via email.

Assignment handouts and Announcements will be shared on Blackboard (Bb). These will have specific expectations and more detailed calendars. Any changes to this calendar will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Make sure to set up your email to accept Bb email messages and check email regularly. Missing information because you did not check your email or Bb is not an acceptable excuse for missing deadlines.

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR
Updated deadlines for project critiques are given with the assignment handouts. Daily demos, lectures or critiques may vary as humidity and firing dictate. Provisionally all work has to be ready for bisquing 9 days before the final. The last glaze kiln gets loaded 4 days before the final. The last day of finals is the last day to remove work from the studio before it is subject to being thrown out. Work left in the studio between semesters will be thrown away and such will affect one's final grade with respect to the amount left behind.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>For more details, see Blackboard Announcements and Project Assignments</th>
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<td>Mar 16-20</td>
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<td>#16</td>
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<td>Final Exams</td>
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Syllabus Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the course syllabus for CERAMICS 1 FALL 2019.

My class meets on _________ (days)
               at ____________ (time)
               in room ____________.

I have read the syllabus (either in paper or online) and I understand the classroom policies, instructor’s expectations, and rules (technology and text requirements, grading system, attendance policy, academic integrity policy, assignment responsibilities, test policies, etc.) as stated in the syllabus for this course.

If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact the instructor for further explanation. I understand that I am responsible to complete all homework assignments, quizzes/in class assignments, and test correction assignments by due date as outlined in the schedule. I also understand that this is a tentative syllabus that may change with notice from the instructor; to be prepared for and attend class each day an on each scheduled critique day.

SIGNED. ____________________________________________

DATE. ________________________________________________
Ceramics 1 ARTS-2346.001  
Rm CA-112  
T/Th 3:30-6:00 pm

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