Arts 4324.001 Advanced Ceramics
Room CA112
Name of Instructor: Gail Busch

- Pronouns: she, her
- Office phone number: 361 825-5987
- E-mail address: Gail.Busch@tamucc.edu
- Office number and building: CA112
- Office hours- after class, Monday/Wednesday, 3:30- 4:15 PM. Find me in the classroom, the kiln yard, or in my studio.
- This syllabus is subject to change.

PLEASE NOTE: Students MUST have a P100 cartridge respirator by the 7th class day or they will not be admitted to class. The respirator must be available for use during class and must be marked with the students name in indelible marker. Tips on finding yours coming up in a later section.

Semester Information:

Ceramics Studio Class Schedule Fall 2019

- Beginning Ceramics MW 9:00-11:50AM Richard James
- Final Monday December 9, 8:00-10:45 am

- Intermediate Ceramics TR 3:30-6:20PM Louis Katz
- Final Tuesday December 10, 4:30 -7:00 pm

- Advanced Ceramics MW 12:30-3:20 pm Gail Busch
- Final Monday December 9, 1:45-4:15 pm

- Advanced Sculpture TR 9:00-11:50AM Richard James

November 24 - Last day to place leather hard ware on racks for bisque firing.
December 1 3:00 pm – Last day to place glazed bisqueware on racks for glaze firing.
December 13 8:30 am - Any work in the studio may be thrown away.
December 13 10:00 am - Cleanup in the studio.

- Dates:
  Texas Clay Festival in Gruene- October 26 10:00 am – 6:00 pm,
  October 27 10:00am – 5:00 pm
  NCECA- March 25-29, 2020 Richmond, VA
  Bountiful Bowl- Rockport TX February 9-10
  Souper Bowl, Art Center of Corpus Christi Thursday, February 20?
The studio is open for enrolled students during the same hours as the buildings official hours except during floor cleaning. Leave 10 minutes before the building closes. Do not work during other class meeting times without asking the instructor.

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:**
  - 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.
  - 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 is 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:

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.

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.

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. November 8th is the last day to drop a class this semester with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is mandatory for your success, and will be recorded during each class session and is considered as part of the professionalism element of your final grade.

- You will 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.
- Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.
- Students are required to attend class for the duration of the scheduled time or until the Professor dismisses the class.
- Attending critiques is mandatory.

**** 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.

—end of required statements
Course Specific Information

- Course title: Advanced Ceramics
- Course number: ART 4324
- Course description: Advanced Ceramics covers different material each semester. This allows the student the ability to take Advanced Ceramics multiple times without much repetition of content. In addition to class assignments, Advanced Ceramics students are expected to develop their own personal agenda in the medium. The assignments given will usually be open enough to allow the students agenda to be imposed upon them. Specific Assignments are contained in the assignments page.
- Student Learning Outcomes:
  1. To become more competent in throwing and/or hand-building techniques and concepts.
  2. To increase surface application skills and develop a palette of glazes and/or slips.
  3. To increase competency in loading and firing kilns.
  4. To become more aware of historical and contemporary ceramic art.
  5. To develop a personal agenda and body of work.
  6. Student will gain a broader understanding of the scope of the medium and participate in more discussion of philosophical issues surrounding the field.

Graded activity:

Assignments and Activities

1. Make 10 test tiles. The tiles must have a glaze-able surface at least 3” tall by 2” wide. They need to fit in the cups you’ll use for glaze tests. The tiles must stand up- don’t be “clever” and end up with tiles that fall over as soon as they are not wet enough to stick to the board! If you think you want to use texture this semester, put texture on one side of the tiles. Are you going to use slip? Your tiles should have slip on part of them! If you think you want to make thrown work with visible throwing marks, make your test tiles on the wheel (Gail can demo, just ask.) Textures or slip should be applied vertically, so that you can see how they look under 1 or 2 coats of glaze. Make the tiles as useful to yourself as possible by making good tiles! Due ready to go on the bisque rack by the beginning of Day 3.

2. Make a series of objects to be stacked in the soda kiln making use of wadding, stacking, or other masks as a means of altering the surface. These must be able to be stacked vertically, making a tall stack- at least three objects high. Make use of wadding or the means of stacking as an integral part of the form. These may not be slab plates. This assignment is intended to use cone 10 clay.

3. On Day 3, be ready to meet with Gail to discuss your plans for your ceramics work this semester. What do you hope to accomplish? How would you like your work to grow?

4. By Day 5, be ready to let Gail know what the topic of your presentation will be. These presentations should motivate each student to look into work that inspires them, and seeing each other’s presentations will allow all of us exposure to work
we might not otherwise be aware of. You can do this about a specific ceramic artist, contemporary or otherwise, or an unusual use of ceramics, like clay architecture. See “Presentation Topics” handout. Start doing a little light research starting now, so that you can choose a topic that benefits you.

5. Over the course of the semester make at least three significant sculptures, or work on three distinct series of thrown or handbuilt forms. This should represent an amount of work equivalent to all the class time from the beginning of the semester until the end of wet work. Little class time will be available for this work. Critiques will take place the first class after September 15, October 15 and November 15.

(If you are going to throw for these assignments, spend at minimum a full class day between each project just throwing cylinders.)

Each of these sculptures or series of things must be discussed with Gail first. There is no need to discuss the second until the first is mostly done. If you are short on ideas consider:
- pots to hold, pour, or eat specific foods or beverages.
- forms made to express something about your personality or lifestyle- self-portraits, literal or otherwise
- 3D versions of your 2D work
- a 3D version of a 2D work you have made, or a 3D version of a famous 2D work.
- a container to hold a specific important object or substance.

6. An additional assignment may be added by instructor if it seems necessary to make the class as productive as possible.

Student will participate in activities held during the student's class time. Out of class work will be very necessary.

Expect class time to often be used for demos, presentations, critiques, etc.

Grading Criteria

Rubric for Handbuilding and Throwing Assignments.

Completion Definitions:

Excellent completion of a form is at its root level:

- a complete sense of intendedness of the details making up the form
- demonstration of necessary skills for making the form

Satisfactory but not excellent completion of a form is:

- A sense intendedness is apparent but not complete in most of the form’s primary details.
- A significant improvement in the necessary skills to make the forms in respect to intermediate class (or beginning class for hand-built objects) expectations. The student should have a more advanced ability to construct and finish work without cracks, glaze flaws, or other blemishes. The instructor does understand that things do occasionally crack from the luck of the draw. The instructor also knows that good practice of skills eliminates or minimizes many of these
problems. The advanced student should be able to manage the making, drying, and firing of work in a long semester without difficulty. Do not wait until the last weeks to do things.

**Unsatisfactory Completion**
lacking intendedness. Usually this appears in thrown details or comes from poor technical throwing. In handbuilding it is a *Laissez-faire* ("yeah, whatever") look to the assembly or choice of details.
lacking the skills necessary to complete the form. Usually the skill lacking is using the clay at an appropriate stage of wetness or attempting to assemble clay objects at different wetnesses.

An excellent project, thrown or handbuilt will also represent the time put into it. It will appear to be a month's work or improvement. This can be expressed in quantity, quality or a combination.

An excellent project will demonstrate excellent completion.

A satisfactory project will demonstrate an appropriate amount of work for a month but will fall short of "Excellent completion."

An unsatisfactory project will fail to demonstrate an appropriate amount of work for a month or will lack intendedness

**Firing.** Advanced students are expected to actively participate in the firing, loading and maintenance of kilns. Washing shelves, cleaning burners and loading kilns are normal skills required in a studio. Student will participate in studio practices such as loading and unloading kilns, glaze-making, group cleanups and clay-making.

At the end of the semester you should be able to light our kilns, adjust them for reduction, load them and clean the kiln shelves properly. This will require out of class time. Instructor does not test being able to load or fire. If you do not want to pursue this, you will not be compelled to do so.

Glazes: students will research, test, develop, and use a palette of glazes in consultation with the instructor.

**Surface development**
Students are expected to develop personal surfaces for their objects. This can be glaze combinations and application techniques or it can be non-glaze surfaces. Because of the vast variety of possibilities and materials, the student should consult with the instructor, and must consult before using non-standard class glazes not mixed for the beginning students. There are great examples of surfaces on the web, in books, and in Ceramics Monthly magazines. Like other details, surfaces should look intended.
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<th>STUDIO PRACTICE</th>
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<td>Bisque Kiln</td>
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<td>Glaze Kiln</td>
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<td>Ability to construct and finish</td>
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<td>Demonstrated ability to use glaze</td>
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<td>Effective use of Form</td>
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<td>Effective use of Glaze</td>
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<td>Effective Integration of form and surface</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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GRADE BEFORE ATTENDANCE ______________
GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE* _______________

* Students missing the final exam will be marked down a full letter grade. The instructor must still be shown the student work before grades are posted, or lack of information may result in an F. Conflicts with the exam time must be worked out the first week of school.
• A "B" requires a score of 5 or better on the studio practices and at least a total score of 18 or better on the "Projects" and at participation in at least half the workshops.
• An "A" requires a score of 5 on the studio practices and a score of 22 or better on the "Projects" This can further be defined as having a sense of intendedness in all details including surface, and clarity of idea.
• A "C" requires a score of 2 or better on the studio practices and a score of 12 or better on the "Projects"

More than 3 absences will result in the lowering of your grade by one letter grade, 4 absences by two grades, 5 absences by three, 6 will result in a failing grade.
• A grade of "D" will only be given if five of the projects are completed (not tokens) or if the criteria for an A, B, C are met but the grade is lowered by poor attendance.

Missing the final exam will lower your grade by one letter grade. The instructor still must review your work before the end of the semester in order for a passing grade to be given. There is NO TOLERANCE for other instructors giving exams during the exam period set in place for this class by the university. Any complications due to an exam being scheduled at the same time as the one for this class should be brought to the attention of the appropriate dean.

Other COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
• All students MUST have their own respirators, rubber gloves, and safety glasses
• Preparation of clay: mixing may take place outside of class time. Do not plan to mix clay during class time for the beginning class.
• Participation in loading, firing, and unloading of group kilns, and preparation of clay and glazes.
• Participation in class projects, if any.
• All project work and outside work to be graded must be available for review at the end of the semester. Due to space limitations, 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 Hygiene and Safety: read, sign, and hand in student agreement, attached. Students using equipment or materials in an unsafe manner may be prevented from using the ceramics facility even if this results in a failing grade. All students are required to clean up their work areas before leaving the studio and do other studio cleaning as necessary.
• RESEARCH- to enrich their own work, students should:
  • Make a habit of looking at Ceramics publications -Become familiar with The Library's large collection of Ceramic titles and periodicals. Search under subject headings Ceramics, Clay and Pottery or head for the stacks.
  • NOTEBOOK-Students are required to keep a notebook with all class information, all handouts including this syllabus, results of glaze tests, and notes from class lectures. Students will be expected to have this notebook every day in class with a writing implement. Students arriving without a notebook may be recorded as absent. The notebook will be checked during the final exam. It is not expected that the notebook will be finely presented or worked on other than it containing the above mentioned information.
ATTENDANCE:

- If illness prevents you from attending class, email instructor ahead of time. Communicate if chronic illness is affecting your ability to attend.
- 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.
- LATENESS- It is essential that students come to class ON TIME. Lateness is disrespectful to the teacher and other students. Late students are expected to not ask questions during the lectures that they were late to. Chronic lateness will lower your grade. As per university policy, “Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will result in the recording of one (1) full absence.”
- It is the student's responsibility follow attendance procedures during class to make sure they are recorded properly. If you are late, make sure to come talk to the instructor about it, so that you are not left marked absent.
- Class time will often be taken up by demos, talks, critiques, and studio work. It is expected that coursework will be done outside of class time.
- INCOMPLETE POLICY- Incompletes are given at the instructor's discretion. They involve extra work from the instructor and use university facilities taking class space. The student must be able to complete the work with minimal input from the instructor. The incompletes must be for a reason that can be justified by the instructor to the dean, provost and department chair. For more information consult your catalog. Ware made for incompletes must be bone dry by the next long semester's mid term, and must be glaze fired before the last 2 weeks of classes.
- You may use the Ceramics Studio any time the building is open except during floor cleaning and other ceramics classes.

CRITIQUES:

- The first class day after the middle of each month, or as announced in advance by instructor

STUDIO HOURS:

- You may use the Ceramics Studio any time the building is open except during floor cleaning and other ceramics classes.

BREAKAGE, LOSS, FIRING ACCIDENTS

Ceramics is fragile, firing is difficult and full of unknowns, especially in a groups situation. It is inevitable that some pieces will be lost, broken, or misfired. While these 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.

SUGGESTED TEXTS:

• Ceramics Monthly Magazine PO Box 12448 Columbus Ohio 43212, (614) 891-8960 ORDER TODAY ask for the current issue. All serious ceramists in the U.S. should get this.
• A POTTER'S BOOK- by Bernard Leach. A classic, this book was the inspiration for many of this century's greatest potters. It has some very good basic information, but is better as an expression of a philosophical stance towards pottery.

LOCKERS: See Art Office to reserve a locker in the hallway.

REQUIRED TOOLS:
• NOTEBOOK
• ALL students must have appropriate dust protection for mixing clay and glazes by the 7th class period. Students MUST present their respirators for admittance to class on this day. Shared respirators, and single use masks, are not appropriate and may not be used. An MSA model 817664 is appropriate, or a 3M reusable mask with p100 filters. You will need a resealable plastic bag to store it in. The respirator and bag MUST have your name or initials marked on them with a marker. Do not share them.

The following are OK (They have P100 certification). Other not disposable respirators with a P100 cartridge are fine too.
• Safety glasses
• One quart sized lidded container for glaze tests. Have these the third day of class.

SUGGESTED TOOLS: this list is intended only as a guide- you may find you need or want other tools.
• chamois for thrown and handbuilt edges.
• fettling knife or another long straight edged thin bladed knife.
• Gloves
• Ribs and other tools as required to make the work you wish to make
• brushes for slips and glazes. If you want to see catalogs to order from, ask.
• notebook
• bat pins
• thin plastic drop cloths (.03 mm) for covering work.
• work clothes: You might want to keep a change of clothes that you can get very dirty in your locker, also closed top, sensible shoes. You cannot use the studio wearing sandals or high heels. 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.
• scarf or cap: to cover your hair when mixing clay or glaze, sweeping, or other dusty jobs.
Provisional Calendar

Day 1 Syllabus and Safety
Day 3 Glaze tiles done and placed outside on greenware racks, Glaze recipes brought to class. Be ready to talk about what you want to make this semester.
Day 5 Glaze recipe should be mixed before the beginning of class.
Deadline to commit to a research topic
Deadlines for assignment critiques are given with the assignment, but final grading on assignments is not done until the final exam
Daily demos, lectures or critiques as humidity and firing dictate
The following deadlines will be firmed up as the semester gets near the end:
- Provisionally, all work must be ready for bisquing 14 days before the first ceramics final.
- All work should be glazed by 7 days before the first ceramics 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.