

Art 211: Ceramics Elective

Syllabus

Instructed by Ryan LaBar & Gerit Grimm
Email: ceramic1973@hotmail.com
Phone: 406-465-0451
Office Hours by appointment

Course Objectives

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the basic techniques and aesthetic principles of ceramic art. This course will consist of demonstrations, supervised studio work, critiques, slide lectures, readings and working in the studio outside of class. We will focus on hand-building techniques including pinch, slab and coil construction during this eight-week course. We will use a variety of methods to finish and glaze our work. In addition to learning technical applications, each student will be encouraged to explore their individual voice stressing creative solutions to class assignments.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and timeliness is mandatory and necessary for your success in this class. Class begins at 6pm and we will conclude working at 8:15pm to allow time for cleanup. Do not arrive late. Do not leave early. Either will count against your final grade. Arrive prepared to learn and work.
- In addition to class time you should expect to spend at minimum 3 hours working outside of class each week to finish assigned projects. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of open studio hours.
- Critique and class discussions will be a common activity in this class in which your participation is crucial. You are expected to take an active interest in the subject matter, your work, and the work of your fellow students. You are required to be in attendance for any and all critiques.
- We work in a shared, communal space. Keeping it clean is imperative. We will spend 10-15 minutes cleaning up before the end of class leaving the room cleaner than when we found it.
- You will be required to obtain a sketchbook. You will use ceramic tools provided by the Lux but I encourage you to bring in other utensils and tools that you find useful. Your sketchbook must be brought to every class; we will dedicate 10 minutes of every class to sketching/drawing/writing down ideas that pertain to the current assignment. I encourage you to have your sketchbook with you at all times and to embellish it with images/objects you find visually inspiring.

Studio Etiquette

- The ceramics studio is a cooperative system. All members of this class must do their part to maintain an orderly and clean studio space. ALWAYS clean up after yourself. Politely harass your fellow classmates if necessary.
- Eating is not allowed in this studio.
- Turn all cell phones and other electronic devices to silent when you arrive to class.

Grading

° Final grades are determined using the following equally weighted criteria:

- Completion of assignments, including sketches and historical research
- Craftsmanship, intent and effort
- Class Participation, including attendance, discussion and cleanup
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn about materials and processes

Materials Fee

This will cover all of your clay, glazes and firings for class and should be paid through Doane.

Tools

- ° *You provide:* Sketchbook and a pencil.
- ° *Lux provides:* Standard ceramic tool such as fettling knife, needle tool, rubber rib, metal ribs, small sponges, wire tool and trimming tools. The Lux also has available for your use forks, spray bottles, plastic bags, brushes, rulers, cleaning sponges, buckets, towels and smocks. If you want to purchase your own you may do so and store them here.
- ° *Other suggested tools:* Surform, 3M Green Scrubby, 120 or finer Sandpaper, Kemper Mini Tool Kit.

Where can I get supplies?

- ° **Gomez Art Supply:** They have a large variety of basic art materials. It is very close to UNL city campus--located at 120 N 14th Street (on 14th between O and P), 402- 477-6200.
- ° **Glasers Ceramics:** This place has tons of ceramic supplies, including bisque ware, commercial glazes, and ceramic decals. It is funky and unusual, a little odd, and for some people hard to find. Take 27th St. North. Continue on 27th past Vine and Holdredge and over the big bridge. At end of bridge, take a right onto Theresa St, and then an immediate right onto State Fair Park Dr. Go 1/8 mile and take a right onto Kimco St. Go left onto Kimarra Place and Glasers will be on your right.
- ° **Dick Blick:** Located inside the Nebraska Bookstore at P and 13th.

Class Schedule:

Week 1, May 27: Course overview. Facility tour. Demo: slab construction and brainstorm a project. Begin work on project #1: 11" tall slab built vessel in Akio Takamori style.

Week 2, June 3: Finish #1. Begin project #2: 8" wide platter with décor attachments. Research Akio Takamori and Bernard Palissy and bring printed images to class. Bring small objects to press ornaments of.

Week 3, June 10: Bring more small objects to press ornaments of. Finish #2. Lecture on Funk ceramics. Research Robert Arneson, David Gilhooly, Jack Earl and bring printed images to class. Intro to Project #3: Slice of life.

Week 4, June 17: Review #3 sketches, discuss construction methods and begin work on project #3 "Slice of life". Research Howard Kottler, Patty Warashina, Sergei Isupov and bring printed images to class.

Week 5, June 24: Keep working on #3. Introduction of glazes and stains. Glaze project #1. Research Mark Burns, Grayson Perry, Michael Lucero, David Regan and bring printed images to class.

Week 6, July 1: Glaze project #2. Finish work on project #3. Research Chris Antemann, Michael and Magdalena Frimkess, Kristin Morgin and bring printed images to class.

Week 7, July 8: Glaze project #3 ready for once-fire by the end of class. Research Clayton Baily, Viola Frey, Judy Fox and bring printed images to class.

Week 8, July 15: Assigned artist report due. Final critique and last chance to glaze any bisque ware. Slide talk.

Notes on Completing Projects:

Learning to manipulate and work with clay can be very frustrating for some students. I encourage you to keep your cool, ask lots of questions and be very attentive to the material. It is important that you learn to work with the material and understand the different stages of the construction, drying and firing processes. You must have your projects at the stages necessary to move to the next step as discussed in class. If you are not ready to move ahead, your grade will suffer and it will be difficult to get work fired.

If you are completing all projects on time and to the best of your abilities, I encourage you to make objects beyond the class assignments. I will make and fire as much work as you feel inspired to make. My objective as a teacher is that you will gain knowledge about ceramic history and techniques. I also hope that over the course of this class you will find a creative, problem-solving bug inside of you that leads you to new ways of thinking and looking.