Art 221 – Ceramics
Instructor: Bri Murphy
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Monday 8:00am-12:00pm
Office hours: By Appointment
Winter 2013
First Work Day: Monday October 21th
Last Work Day: Monday December 16th

Required Texts: None. Handouts will be provided. Please bring a 5x7 (minimum dimensions) sketchbook to every class, all other supplies will be provided.

Course Description: This Course fulfills one Doane Plan Fine Arts requirement. The purpose of this class is to introduce the beginning student to the materials, processes, tools, ideas, and aesthetic principles of ceramic art. During this 8-week period, the class will explore a variety of techniques for working in clay and practice these techniques in a series of small projects. This will include demonstrations for various handbuilding strategies, and introductions to decorating, glazing, and firing ceramic work. The majority of our time in class will be spent on studio work. The rest of the time will be used to demo techniques and introduce projects. Participation in class critiques is essential for gained understanding of ceramic processes, as well as the development of critical thinking and analytical skills.

Course Objectives:
• Develop an understanding of ceramic materials and construction techniques.
• Make personal creative choices using your own judgment and learned principles of design.
• Develop sensitivity to craftsmanship.
• Develop a vocabulary for discussing ceramics.
• Develop critical and analytical skills by participating in group discussions and critiques.
• Develop awareness of ceramic art produced by various artists.
• Demonstrate proficiency in the technical aspects of hand building and finishing ceramic objects.
• Complete all projects as assigned*

*Detailed project descriptions, deadlines, and requirements will be passed out in handouts as needed.

Student Responsibilities:
• Attendance is MANDATORY. Class begins at 8:00am and continues until 12:00p.m. I expect and appreciate students to be on time and attend all classes. Many demos cannot be repeated. Your grade will drop a letter grade for each class missed. Demonstrations and lectures cannot be repeated and are crucial to your successful completion of the assignments.
• Students are able to work on class assignments in the studio during open studio hours. These hours will be posted in our classroom. They change weekly so please check the schedule regularly.
• Students must keep a notebook/sketchbook for taking notes and for sketching ideas for each project. Please bring this with you to class each day.
• Students must complete all assignments.
• Students must clean up after themselves. ALWAYS.
• Turn phones off at the door. I will give you my full attention during our time and ask the same of you.
• My intention is to develop and foster an appreciation in each student for ceramic art. You will do well in this class by simply showing up to each class willing to learn and by fully engaging in the material and critical discussions. This class is structured with projects that could ideally be completed within the allowed class time. However, everyone works at a different pace so if you need more time to fulfill the requirements please take advantage of the open studio hours.

Student Project Responsibilities continued:
Complete class assignments, which will include:
• 2 graded Handbuilding assignments
  These assignments will require practice of skills such as pinching, coil building and slab building. They will also require conceptualizing sculptural form, as well as learning how to communicate ideas.
• Each assignment will include learning how to create and develop surface:
  o Developing an understanding of the variety of surfaces available
  o Learning how to apply slip, glaze, stains, wax.
  o Learning about the relationship between form and surface

Grading
You will be evaluated on:
• Creative form and willingness to push initial ideas further
• Exploration of diverse techniques
• Successful use of texture, colorants, and glazes
• Technical challenge and achievement
• Craftsmanship
• Willingness to take risks and try new ideas, openness to in-process changes
• Research, when appropriate
• Classroom participation (daily cleanup, critiques, etc.)
• Grades will correlate with a 0-100 point system using the scale below.

97-100 = A+
94-97 = A
90-94 = A-
87-90 = B+
84-87 = B
80-84 = B-
77-80 = C+
74-77 = C
70-74 = C-
67-70 = D+
64-67 = D
60-64 = D-
0 - 60 = F
The following rubric is intended to clarify the assigning of letter grades:

A: The student completes all requirements, on time, in an outstanding manner. The required work is creative, provocative, well developed, exquisitely executed and impeccably crafted. The student generates work that goes beyond the assignment. The student takes a leadership role in group activity. The student makes excellent, consistent progress. Quantitative range: 90-100.

B: The student completes all requirements, on time, in a good manner - better than that of the average student. The required work is creative, well developed and carefully executed. The student generates work that goes beyond the assignment. The student is an active participant in group activities. The student makes good, consistent progress. Quantitative range: 80-89.

C: The student completes all requirements, on time, in an average (acceptable) manner. The required work is average in development and craft. The student makes average progress. Quantitative range: 70-79.

D: The student completes all requirements in a less than acceptable manner. The required work is under-developed and without dedication. The student is passive in critiques and group discussions. The student makes poor progress. Quantitative range: 60-69.

F: The required work is undeveloped and without dedication. Students who are earning this grade at the mid point of the semester will be asked to withdraw from the course. Quantitative range: 0-59.

Due to the nature of clay needing to dry, we will have a last wet working day set in order to get all work fired by end of session. During the session you must be aware of clay’s needy nature. It must be attended to or it will dry out quickly.

STUDIO ETIQUETTE

• No eating in the studio. Students may have a beverage as long as they throw away empty containers.
• No wearing of headphones during class. This helps me communicate with you whenever necessary.
• No talking on the phone or texting during class; however, smart phones may be used as educational tools for looking up ideas which may inform your project.

CLEAN UP

Because we share this studio with so many classes, we must maintain this shared space for all. Do not leave your work out on the table. Always return it to your designated shelf or discuss other options with an instructor.

In addition to major class cleanups, you are each responsible for cleaning up after yourself each time you use the studio, whether in or out of class. This keeps our studio a more healthy and pleasant working environment.

The semester calendar will be posted with all upcoming requirements; it is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

Academic Integrity:

The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies. Any use of others’ direct labor in fabricating assignments will also result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.
Guide to Criticism
You will learn to dialogue about your projects with the following system:

1. **Content / Intent/ Concept/ Idea**: What the work is all about

2. **Formal Qualities**
   - a. use of color
   - b. use of texture
   - c. surface
   - d. form
   - e. line
   - f. scale
   - g. proportion
   - h. volume
   - i. balance
   - j. edges
   - k. positive/negative space
   - l. contrast

3. **Craftsmanship**

4. **Use of Medium**

5. **References** - work of art in relationship to:
   - a. society
   - b. culture
   - c. environment
   - d. history
   - e. material process
   - f. artist's perspective

6. **Clarity of Idea** - all elements and components come together to communicate idea

7. **Other Considerations**
   - a. risk
   - b. overstated
   - c. expressive factor
   - d. impact
   - e. organization
   - f. title
   - g. effort
   - h. originality
   - i. creativity
   - j. organization

**Principals of Art:**
- Unity
- Dissonance
- Hierarchy
- Variety
- Contrast
- Movement/motion
- Harmony
- Proportion
- Pattern/rhythm/repetition

**Elements of Art:**
- Line
- Value
- Mass
- Scale
- Shape
- Color
- Volume
- Form
- Texture
- Space