Art 221 – Ceramics
Instructor: Heather Davis
Tuesday 6pm-10:30pm
Office hours: By Appointment
Office: LUX Ceramics Studio
Phone: 478.957.6806 | Preferred. Texts ok.
Winter 2014
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Required Texts: None. Handouts will be provided.
Please bring a 5x7 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.

Good clay work expresses itself clearly and requires that you exercise thoughtfulness and sensitivity.

Also included will be an introduction to decorating, glazing and firing. The majority of our time in class will be spent on working on our projects. The rest of the time will be used to demo techniques and introduce projects. Critiques will be used to discuss success and possible improvements discovered in each project.

Course Objectives:
- Develop an understanding of ceramic materials and construction techniques.
- Practice 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.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the technical aspects of hand building and finishing ceramic objects.

Specific details and expectations for each project are outlined on each assignment handout.

Student Responsibilities:
- Attendance is MANDATORY. Class begins at 6:00p.m. and continues until 10:30p.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. Viewing demonstrations is crucial to your understanding of the process and to your successful completion of the assignments.
- Students are able to work outside of class during open studio hours which 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.
- A large part of the clay media is participating in studio clean-up. Doane students will sign up for mopping days twice during the semester. This means you may be asked to stay after the other students leave. Please plan to stay after other students during the days you have signed up for.
- 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.

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 healthier and more 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.

Grading
You will be evaluated on:
- Craftsmanship
- Demonstrate understanding about the relationship between form and surface
- Willingness to take risks and try new ideas, openness to in-process changes
- Classroom participation (daily cleanup, critiques, etc.)
- Technical challenge and achievement
- Creative form and willingness to push initial ideas further

Grades will correlate with a 0-100 point system using the scale below.

89-100 = A+  77-80 = C+
87-90 = A  74-77 = C
80-84 = B+  60-64 = D+
70-74 = B  67-69 = D
60-59 = D-  0-59 = 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 student who submits unacceptable and/or late work will receive this grade. 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.

Class Assignments (50% or 50 points):
- Make something using the soft slab technique
- Make something using the hard slab technique
- Make something using the pinching technique
- Make something using a slump mold
- Make something using a hump mold
- Learn about coils and their many uses
- Apply slip to a piece (at leather hard stage)
- Apply majolica glaze and stains to a piece (bisque stage)
- Learn how to mix a batch of clay
- Mop the studio twice this semester
- Using the wheel, make a 4 inch tall cylinder with only one pound of clay
- Using the wheel, make a bowl with a smooth, continuous bottom
- Trim a footring
- Apply a handle to a piece using the hand-built or pulled method
- Use stamps or spring molds for decoration
- Make a lidded form with a well-fitting lid

Final project (50% or 50 points)
Students will use skills learned in the class to design and create a final personal project.