Art 221-2 Ceramics
Autumn Term
3 Semester Credits
Thursdays 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
LUX Center for the Arts, 2601 N. 48th St

Instructor: Jason Piccoli
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Course Objectives:
The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with a basic understanding of ceramic processes, where they will learn to develop solutions to technical and conceptual problems from design to finished product. Practice of basic ceramic principles will enable exploration and development of personal aesthetic taste and enable their unique voice to emerge. Students will use techniques such as wheel throwing, hand building, glaze and underglaze application, various other surfacing techniques, and kiln firing. Students will be given functional as well as non-functional projects to complete. Ceramics in both historic and contemporary traditions will be presented on for each assignment and throughout the course.

Students will be able to demonstrate a general working knowledge of the manipulation and use of clay as a medium for artistic and functional expression through specific assigned projects.

Upon complete of this course students will:

- Be able to successfully create objects using basic hand building and wheel throwing techniques.
- Gain an understanding of techniques and processes related to ceramic practice.
- Gain a working familiarity with ceramic terminology and definitions to be able to speak critically about their techniques and their work, and the work of others.
- Gain knowledge and experience on glaze, glazing, surfacing techniques and firing work. Demonstrate and understand the use of basic studio equipment.
- Identify and evolve a personal aesthetic voice, with form and finish. Deepen understanding and appreciation for the ceramic arts.
- Understand the importance of safety, respect, and responsibility that comes with working in a community ceramics studio.
Attendance:
Attendance is paramount, and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Class will begin at 8:00 AM in the ceramic studio at the LUX Center. You are expected to arrive to class on time, and remain in the studio until class is over unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Frequent tardiness or leaving class early will be viewed as partial absences. Two late arrivals or early departures equal one absence. Two absences will result in a lowered letter grade: four absences are an automatic withdrawal or failure. The information needed to complete projects will be given in the beginning of class. We will discuss objectives for the day, watch short slide shows, and have demonstrations of upcoming projects. Class demonstrations will not be repeated to late or absent students.

Excused absence:
If you know you are going to miss a class, or if you’re going to arrive late or leave early, please tell the instructor in advance. Sending an e-mail with the date that will be missed is the best way to let the instructor know.

Critiques:
Students will be involved in three critiques throughout the class. Attendance during a critique is mandatory. We will have two small critiques for the first two projects and one larger critique the last day of class for the final project. Participation during critiques is a small grade on a pass/fail basis. Either you participated in the conversation and passed or you didn’t say anything and you failed. Critical conversation is a strong way to learn from one another, and encourages further development. The artist will be asked to discuss the ideas and concepts behind each project and field questions from the class. A solid foundation based on research and preliminary sketches will allow the student to feel more comfortable discussing the work. Group discussions at this stage are meant to help and encourage the artist. Be kind and intelligent regarding all questions and comments. Use tact when giving feedback to your peers. There are many ways to say something, choose the one that shows respect and appreciation of differences while getting your point across.

Grades:
To succeed in this class, first and foremost: Care about the work you make. If you approach these projects with care, consideration, and research, you will find them to be tremendously rewarding and you will learn much. Feel free to incorporate multiple techniques within each project, it will add to your demonstrated understanding of process and facilitate understanding your own voice as a maker.

Students will be given three projects to complete. In addition to the finished assignments, students will be required to complete design sketches, and a written response. Sketches will be looked at in the beginning of the class (a week after the project has been introduced). We will talk critically in groups or one on one about your sketches and the best way to move forward with them into a project. Project grades will be based on concept, utilization of technical skills, craftsmanship, and commitment (how hard you work/how much you care). Research assignments will likely be given in response to sketches and ideas, and will be factored into the final grade. Simple completion of the project will earn you a C. A finished project which proves further technical or visual research will earn a B. To earn an A, a work must demonstrate an extensive technical or visual investigation, as well as show evidence of innovative formal solutions and/or content. Work outside of class time is highly encouraged, so you do not fall behind. All assignments must be completed by the due date. Late assignments will result in a lowered grade (half a letter grade per class until the project is turned in).

Project 1: 20%
Project 2: 25%

Project 3 Final: 30%

Sketchbook: 10%

Writing Response: 10%

Critique Participation: 5%

No incompletes will be given:
If you feel you are working hard, but having a difficult problem keeping up in class please let the instructor know. *Don’t wait* until you feel overwhelmed!

Open studio hours at the LUX: Tuesday - Friday 10-5

Half way through class you will have a 30-minute break/dinner.

**Materials:** The LUX Center for the Arts will provide clay, glazes and tools required for this course. If, however, you wish to find alternatives or like your own tools and materials there is a ceramic supply store nearby.
It is called Glaser Ceramics Inc., and is at 2325 Kimarra Place, Lincoln, NE 68521.

**Doane College Academic Integrity Policy:**
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests 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.