SYLLABUS

ART 221: Ceramics

Tuesday 6pm-1030pm
Winter II Term, 2013: January 14th-March 16th
Instructor: Sara Truman
sbtruman@gmail.com
Office: Ceramics Studio, LUX Center for the Arts
Office hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Description: This course fulfills one Doane Plan Fine Arts requirement. This is a beginning course in ceramics. This course is designed to place emphasis on understanding basic forming techniques within clay, surfacing, and firing of clay. In this course, you will learn the skills required to construct with clay and the vocabulary necessary to discuss and evaluate ceramic art. We will also be investigating color and surfacing techniques that relate to a three-dimensional object. This includes hand building, drying, surfacing and understanding the firing process.

Attendance: The attendance policy is simple; it’s mandatory. If you miss more than 1 class, your grade will drop one letter grade, and it will drop an additional half letter grade for every day you miss after that.
Class starts at 6 pm be here on time—it is expected! If you are more than 15 minutes late for class or leave early more than 3 times, it counts as an absence.

Course Requirements:
1. Students must complete ALL assignments.
2. Students are permitted to work on class assignments in the studio during open studio hours. These hours are posted in our classroom. They change weekly so be sure to check them if you plan on coming in to work. Outside studio work is recommended to excel at projects.
3. Students will keep sketchbook for taking notes during lectures and demonstrations as well as for sketching ideas and inspirations. You must have this with you at all times.
4. Students will actively participate in all critiques and group discussions. Learning to think critically and being able to verbalize thoughts is an important part of the artistic learning process.
5. Students must clean up after themselves.
6. Students will help in studio maintenance, clay mixing, and kiln loading/firing.
7. Tools will be provided by the LUX Center for the Arts. However, I do ask you to provide your own sketchbook and keep a folder for all handouts given in the class. Should you wish to purchase your own tools, a basic tool kit can be purchased at Glaser Ceramic Supply (2325 Kimarra Place, Open Tue-Sat 10am-5:30pm), and Gomez Art Supply (120 N 14th St).
8. All work that is left behind after final critique will be recycled or thrown out.
9. Details and expectations for each project are described on the calendar/assignment sheet.
**Studio Etiquette:**
- No eating in the studio (it is not safe).
- No personal music during class.
- Turn phones off at the door.
- ALWAYS clean up after yourself.
- Leave spouses, sweethearts, friends, and children at the door. This studio is to be used only by students currently enrolled in ceramics.

**Evaluation/Grading:**
Projects will be graded on the following criteria:
1. Student effort (i.e. willingness to follow instruction, try new ideas, respond to suggestions, and take risks)
2. Creativity (ability to personalize the assignment with a unique and interesting solution)
3. Technical proficiency (proficiency with necessary technical skills and ability to meet assignment criteria)
4. Class participation (students will participate in group critiques to collectively assess each assignment)

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 that which is explicitly assigned. The student takes a leadership role in group activities. 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 art student. The required work is creative, well developed, and carefully executed. The student generates work that goes beyond that which is explicitly assigned. 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 acceptable manner. The required work is average in development and craft. The student participates little in group activities. 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 little 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 earning this grade by mid-semester will be asked to withdraw from the course.*
Quantitative range: 0-59
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.

It is the student’s responsibility to turn in all work on time. Grades for work that is late will be lowered half a grade for every class meeting late. In ceramics, the process requires that greenware be completed and then dried over a period of 3–5 days, depending upon scale and complexity. The domino effect of being late is something that will cause you great problems with bisque and glaze firing dates. Please finish building all wet work on time for greenware due dates and manage the careful drying of your work so that you can meet all deadlines.

Clay is a wonderful material, but requires your regular attention to achieve good results. It cannot be rushed or neglected. Full participation by showing completed work during all scheduled critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

Extra Credit: There are two opportunities for extra credit in my class. One is to research a current ceramic artist and their work. This can be someone you are interested in from a lecture or class, or someone I can suggest by what you are working on. It has to be approved first, and turn in two to three pages on this person. The other is two write a two-page response to an approved exhibit you visited here in Lincoln, during the class session. The opportunity to have such venues suggested to you and done earlier than later is available! Just ask.

*You do NOT HAVE to purchase this textbook. But it is what I will be going from for lecture and discussion. I will have my copy on hand, and give several handouts. Should you chose to purchase your own, you can order them used online at a very inexpensive price. Please bring a folder, and keep all handouts on hand at all times.

Sketchbook: You are required to keep a sketchbook that is a minimum of 5 x 7”. You will be using this for every project, and sketching in it will assist you in producing ideas and surfaces for making your artwork. I will also check this periodically to make sure you are outlining your ideas for your projects. These can also be purchase from Gomez Art Supply, Barnes and Noble, Target, Walmart, Office Depot, or ordered online. They need to be with you every class meeting.