

2015

ARTS 109-01 Ceramics I

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- **ARTS 109: Ceramics I** - is a comprehensive survey of beginning handbuilding in the medium of clay.
- The student will study all aspects of producing a finished ceramic piece, including construction techniques (wet & dry), the mixing of clay bodies and glazes from scratch, kiln loading and firing, along with a historical background. The course consists of a combination of demonstrations/discussions, critiques, lectures, audiovisuals and interaction, both individually and collectively.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will begin to possess a technical proficiency in manipulating clay as a 3-Dimensional material;
- Students will become skillful with the basic handbuilding processes and techniques of clay construction;
- Students will solve creative problems with originality, imagination and risk, including research and synthesis of technical, aesthetic and conceptual knowledge;
- Students will develop an awareness of the historical, anthropological, geological, chemical, physical and multicultural origins of clay and the ceramic arts, while referencing both ancient and contemporary ceramic art forms.

TEXT:

- HANDS IN CLAY (5th edition) By: Charlotte Speight and OhioLINK

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Attendance is **mandatory** due to the many lectures and demonstrations that cannot and will not be repeated for absentees. In addition to class time, be prepared to spend extra hours in the studio completing the various clay experiences. There will be a grade deduction for absence - for every two (2) absences, your final grade will be lowered one (1) full letter grade. Two (2) "tardies" equals one (1) absence. Arriving late and/or leaving early may result in an absence. Arrive on time and expect to stay the full 2 ½ hours.

GRADING POLICY:

- **Grade F will be given for:**
 - a) failure to meet course requirements
- **Grade D will be given for:**
 - a) overall poor quality of work, unsatisfactory effort, motivation and improvement during semester
 - b) incomplete or late projects
 - c) absence from critiques, inadequate participation
 - d) lack of ability to receive advice, criticism and to exercise critical judgment in relation to works in progress
 - e) repeated absences from class (**see policy**)
- **Grade C will be given for:**
 - a) overall average (satisfactory) quality of work, satisfactory motivation, effort and improvement demonstrated during the semester
 - b) completion of all projects by the due date
 - c) participation in discussions, critiques and classroom exercises
 - d) ability to receive advice and criticism, and to exercise critical judgment in relation to work in progress
 - e) attendance (**see policy**)
 - f) minimum 5 hours per week spent on home and studio assignments
- **Grade B will be given for:**
 - a) consistently high quality of work, motivation, effort, and improvement during the entire semester, and demonstrated attempts to go beyond the required standards of the course.
 - (b-f) same as for grade C
- **Grade A will be given for:**
 - a) consistently exceptional quality of work, motivation, effort and improvement during the entire semester, with results going far beyond the required standards and framework of the course.
 - (b-f) same as for grade C

NOTE: Quality of Work in grade definitions means studio project(s), conceived and started as a concept/idea, materialized with appropriate craftsmanship and with interesting visual, formal, and/or conceptual end results (finished project).

OTHER CLASS PROCEDURES:

- Studio maintenance is a crucial part of any art class. Students are expected to participate in all aspects of this, which includes the timely mixing of clays and glazes, assisting with the stacking and unstacking of the kilns along with other kiln maintenance, and cleaning up after themselves at the end of each class session. Strict adherence is expected and directly affects the final grade.
- **Turn OFF all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices while in class, as they have become extremely distracting to students and professors, resulting in a lack of attention and focus. An environment of mutual respect is expected at all times.**

This course fulfills Fine Arts (3 hr) requirement of the CORE CURRICULUM promoting such learning outcomes for students to: be effective communicators in writing and orally; be critical thinkers who analyze and interpret images, objects, and artifacts; discuss fundamental questions that arise from the human condition; be creators of new knowledge and expression utilizing your imagination and creativity; create, perform, and produce work that synthesizes technical execution and expressively communicates; understand and appreciate the arts, encouraged to use human experience and religious traditions as resources to address contemporary issues; act as global citizens who recognize the societal, ethical and moral dimensions of art-making.

- Every class session of the semester is outlined on the following pages. Students are expected to be **on time** and **prepared** for each class and each designated critique. With each class session a project is late, it will be dropped one full letter grade. **Active participation** in class discussions and critiques will directly affect the final grade.

• **COURSE OUTLINE** •

Week of: Aug. 25/27	<u>Tues:</u>	Introduction to course Demo: Wedging; Pinch Method; Surface Treatment/Texture
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Demo: Science and Practice of Mixing Clay Keynote: Pinch Method
Week of: Sept. 1/3	<u>Tues:</u>	Due: Outline on Pinch Method from text: <u>Finding One's Way with Clay</u> by Paulus Berensohn (McDonald Library-closed reserve- Part I: 92 pages) Due: 8 Pinched Forms Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Work Day
Week of: Sept. 8/10	<u>Tues:</u>	CRIT #1: 15 PINCHED FORMS Demo: Coil (Chapter 11) Pinch and Coil
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Lecture - History, geologic origins, physical and chemical properties of clay. (Chapters 1, 9, 10) Work Day
Week of: Sept. 15/17	<u>Tues:</u>	Intro: Prehistoric Jomon Pottery Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Work Day
Week of: Sept. 22/24	<u>Tues:</u>	CRIT #2: 2 COILED FORMS (min. 12" any direction) Due: Jomon Sketches & photo references
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Glazing: Science and Practice of Dry Mixing Ceramic Glazes (Chapter 14) Demo: Making Test Tiles for Glazes
Week of: Sept. 29/ Oct. 1	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing: Wet Mixing Mix Glaze #2
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Demo: Kiln Stacking
Week of: Oct. 6/8	<u>Tues:</u>	CRIT #3: 1 JOMON-ESQUE COILED VESSEL (min. 15") Demo: Slab (leatherhard); Joints (Chapter 11)
	<u>Thurs:</u>	NO CLASS—FALL BREAK
Week of: Oct. 13/15	<u>Tues:</u>	MID-TERM EXAM Intro: Tribal Masks (soft slab) Demo: Drape and Press Molds (Chapter 13)
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Work Day

• **MID-SEMESTER** •

Week of: Oct. 20/22	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing: Application/Glaze Test Tiles for Palette Due: Tribal Mask Sketches and photo references ASSIGNMENT: GRAND FINALE PIECE (large scale/requires approval of sketches) (1) Portrayal of the Written Word (with one (1) page paper) (1) Narrative Piece (with one (1) page paper) (1) Cultural Replica (with documentation and one (1) page paper)
	<u>Thurs:</u>	CRIT #4: SLAB BOX FORM (angular w/lid, textured, no squares, min. 8") Glazing: Mix Glaze #3
Week of: Oct. 27/29	<u>Tues:</u>	Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	CRIT #5: 1 TRIBAL MASK (SOFT-SLAB PIECE) (non-angular, using a drape mold) Due: Grand Finale Sketches/Maquettes
Week of: Nov. 3/5	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing: Mix Glaze #4 Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Work Day
Week of: Nov. 10/12	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing: Mix Glaze #5 Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Work Day
Week of: Nov. 17/19	<u>Tues:</u>	Work Day
	<u>Thurs:</u>	CRIT #6: GRAND FINALE PIECE (large scale)

NO MORE CLAY WORK! NO EXCEPTIONS!

Week of: Nov. 24/26	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing & Kiln Firing
	<u>Thurs:</u>	NO CLASS—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Week of: Dec. 1/3	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing & Kiln Firing
	<u>Thurs:</u>	Glazing & Kiln Firing
Week of: Dec. 8/10	<u>Tues:</u>	Glazing & Kiln Firing (LAST DAY TO GLAZE –NO EXCEPTIONS!)
	<u>Thurs:</u>	STUDIO CLEAN-UP

• **FINAL EXAM AND CRITIQUE:** (MANDATORY) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015 10:30 A.M. - 12:20 P.M.

• **ACCORDING TO XAVIER UNIVERSITY POLICY, ABSENCE FROM THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD COULD RESULT IN FAILURE OF ARTS 109**

***BRING A NOTEBOOK/SKETCHBOOK AND THIS SYLLABUS TO CLASS EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY* These will be checked periodically for accuracy in note taking and development of ideas (sketches/photos).**

- Xavier students are expected to check their Xavier email on a daily basis for class announcements. Failure to obtain this information is not a valid excuse for being unprepared.
- The professor reserves the right at all times to add to and/or delete from this syllabus when she deems necessary.