2014

109-01 509-01 Ceramics I

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ARTS 109/509-01 CERAMICS I  SPRING 2014
TUES./THURS. 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
MARSHA KARAGHEUSIAN (Karagheusianm@xavier.edu)
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Secretary: 745-3811 (COH 190a)
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
• ARTS 109/509: Ceramics I is a comprehensive survey of beginning handbuilding, in the medium of clay.
• You 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 multicultural origins of the ceramic arts, including both historical and contemporary ceramic art forms.

TEXT:
• HANDS IN CLAY (5th edition) By: Charlotte Speight and OHIO LINK

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 1/2 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 will directly affect the final grade. Xavier students are expected to check their Xavier email on a daily basis.

• Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices while in class. An environment of mutual respect is expected.
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.

Note: There is a CRITIQUE (projects are due) every two (2) weeks.

* COURSE OUTLINE *

Week of: Jan. 14/16  Tues: Introduction to course  
DEMO: Wedging; Pinch Method;  
Surface Treatment/Texture  
Thurs: DEMO: Science and Practice of Mixing Clay  
Keynote: Pinch Method

Week of: Jan. 21/23  Tues: Due: Outline on Pinch Method from text: Finding One’s Way with Clay by Paulus Berensohn (McDonald Library-closed reserve -Part I: 92 pages)  
Due: 8 Pinched Forms  
Thurs: Work Day

Week of: Jan. 28/30  Tues: CRIT #1: 15 PINCHED FORMS  
DEMO: Coil (Chapter 11)  
Pinch and Coil  
Thurs: Lecture: History, geologic origins, physical and chemical properties of clay. (Chapters 1, 9, 10)  
Work Day

Week of: Feb. 4/6  Tues: Intro: Prehistoric Jomon Pottery  
Thurs: Work Day

Week of: Feb. 11/13  Tues: CRIT #2: 2 COILED FORMS (min. 12” any direction)  
DEMO: Kiln Stacking  
Due: Jomon Sketches  
Thurs: Work Day

Week of: Feb. 18/20  Tues: Glazing: Science and Practice of Dry and Wet Mixing Ceramic Glazes (Chapter 14)  
Make Test Tiles  
Thurs: Glazing: Mix Glaze #2  
Work Day

Week of: Feb. 25/27  Tues: CRIT #3: 1 JOMON-ESQUE COILED VESSEL (min. 15”)  
DEMO: Slab (soft, leatherhard); Joints (Chapter 11)  
Thurs: Intro: Tribal Masks  
DEMO: Drape and Press Molds (Chapter 13)

* SPRING BREAK * MID-SEMESTER *
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of: Mar. 11/13</th>
<th>Tues: MID-TERM EXAM ASSIGNMENT: FINAL HANDBUILT PIECES: Pick 2 (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)</th>
<th>Thurs: Work day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week of: Mar. 18/20</td>
<td>Tues: Work day</td>
<td>Thurs: Work day</td>
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<td>Week of: Mar. 25/27</td>
<td>Tues: CRIT #4: 2 SLAB BOX FORMS (angular w/lids, textured, no squares) Glazing: Application/Glaze Test Tiles for Palette Thurs: CRIT #5: 1 SOFT-SLAB/TRIBAL MASK (non-angular; drape or press molds) DUE: FINAL SKETCHES FOR FINAL PIECES</td>
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<td>Week of: Apr. 1/3</td>
<td>Tues: Glazing: Mix Glaze #3 Work Day Thurs: Glazing: Mix Glaze #4 Work Day</td>
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<td>Week of: Apr. 8/10</td>
<td>Tues: CRIT #6: 1 FINAL HANDBUILT PIECE (LARGE SCALE) Thurs: CRIT #7: 1 FINAL HANDBUILT PIECE (LARGE SCALE)</td>
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<td>Week of: Apr. 15/17</td>
<td>Tues: Glazing &amp; Kiln Firing Thurs: NO CLASS-EASTER BREAK</td>
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<td>Week of: Apr. 22/24</td>
<td>Tues: Glazing &amp; Kiln Firing Thurs: Glazing &amp; Kiln Firing</td>
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<td>Week of: Apr. 29/ May 1</td>
<td>Tues: Glazing &amp; Kiln Firing (LAST DAY TO GLAZE-NO EXCEPTIONS!) Thurs: STUDIO CLEAN-UP</td>
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- **FINAL EXAM AND CRITIQUE:** (MANDATORY) TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014 10:30 A.M. - 12:20 P.M.

- **ACCORDING TO XU POLICY, ABSENCE FROM THE FINAL EXAM COULD RESULT IN FAILURE OF ARTS 109/509**

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

- The professor reserves the right at all times to add to and/or delete from this syllabus when she deems necessary