

ART 162.2 – Tuesday afternoon
Intro to Ceramics – Spring, 2006
Renzo Faggioli, Ceramist-in-Residence

Office Hours:

Before or after class by appointment

Ceramics lab phone: 610/861-1677 Art Office Phone: 610/861-1680 (call before 4:00)

I. Goals:

Students will learn how to carry out projects including hand-builds with slab and coil technique, plus a brief introduction into wheel pieces. They will also learn how to apply glazes and to operate the newest version of an electric kiln. Projects are designed to transfer into the classroom or can be used for personal work and learning a new medium.

Students complete minimum of 10 projects for grading:

- 1) Pinch pots (hand-built) (2)
- 2) Hand-built form vessel
- 3) Coffee cups thrown on wheel (2)
- 4) Two-piece hand-built form on the same theme. Each piece is built on a different scale. The two pieces must interact in an aesthetically complementary manner.
Mid-term evaluation will be based on the first four projects.
- 5) Slab construction based on architectural forms
- 6) Slab project – enclosed form
- 7) Wheel-thrown project – vessel with small opening
- 8) Hand-built project – covered jar
- 9) Pitcher with handle
- 10) Bowls (2)

In addition to ceramics projects, students must write a paper for final evaluation demonstrating their understanding of firing, glazing, and operating a kiln, including loading, unloading, and safety issues.

II. Evaluation:

Students are expected to fulfill class time requirements as arranged with the instructor. Attendance in class is mandatory. Missing more than 3 classes without written valid excuse from the Dean or Student Services will result in a reduced grade. Students over half an hour late without a valid excuse will be considered absent. If more than 4 classes are missed without written valid excuse from the Dean, student will receive a failing grade.

Critiques of the works produced will take place throughout the semester. Student involvement in classroom activity and critiques will be reflected in their final grade.

Grading

Grading for a course in studio art is determined by objective and subjective assessment. Competency and understanding of the methods and materials of ceramics can be directly observed. Creativity is more subjective. Students are encouraged to develop their own individual vision in addition to the required basic skills. The instructor reserves the right to apply qualitative judgment in determining a grade based on creativity (concept) and craftsmanship (form). The commitment to this pursuit in the form of effort, time and progress must be a factor in determining grades. **Projects receive a grade that is based on technical accomplishment and concept. The final grade for each assignment will be based on an average of the two. Skill developing exercises will receive a Pass/Fail rather than a numerical grade.** The following lists the course requirements and the weight of each on the final grade:

A grade of A is earned by accomplishing the following:

- Consistent, on Time Attendance
- All Work Submitted on Time and according to assignment specifications
- Class Participation, particularly in critiques
- Technical Expertise – knowing how to use the kiln and ceramic media covered in class
- Productive Use of Class Time
- Work outside of class
- Clean, Well Crafted, Professional Presentation – the most important component of the grade is the final presentation.

Class Participation	15 %	A (4) – Exceptional
Field trip paper	10 %	B (3.25) – Above Average
Mid Term Review/Presentation	20 %	C (2.5) – Satisfactory: All assignments and portfolios meet basic requirements
Final Paper	15%	D (2.0) – Below Average
Final Presentation	40 %	F (1.5 or below) – Failure

III. Academic Honesty Policy:

Please see the write-up in the Student Handbook. Appropriation of another student's creative work will not be tolerated.

IV. Readings and Notes:

Hand-outs will be distributed throughout the semester regarding firing temperatures, glazing, kiln operation, and all other necessary information. You will be asked to take notes on information passed out regarding firing, glazing, and differences in clays. You should also take notes when you experience loading and unloading kilns and to assist you in understanding the various temperatures. You will need to write a final paper related to this material.

V. Field Trip:

A field trip may be scheduled later in the semester to a craft show or gallery exhibit. More information will be distributed prior to the trip. A written paper will be required after the trip.