

ART 162.2 – Intro to Ceramics – Spring, 2009

Tuesdays, 1:00 to 3:30 Room 6, Ceramics Lab

Renzo Faggioli, Ceramist-in-Residence

Office Hours:

Before or after class by appointment

Ceramics lab phone: 610/861-1677

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I. Course Description: This course introduces the fundamentals of ceramic art, including hand-built and wheel techniques, applied to tiles, objects, and vessels. Methods of glazing and the use of low-fire kilns will be covered. Includes introduction to the history and use of ceramics.

II. Goals:

- Students will learn how to carry out projects including hand-builds with slab and coil technique, plus a brief introduction into wheel pieces.
- Students will also learn how to apply glazes.
- Students will learn operation 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.

III. Materials and Texts:

Make it in Clay: A Beginner's Guide to Ceramics by Speight and Toki

All clay, glazes, etc. will be provided.

IV. Requirements:

Students complete minimum of 10 projects for grading. The total of the projects represents 50 per cent of the final grade. See project descriptions on calendar below. (Each individual project represents 5 per cent of the final grade.)

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. This paper is due at individual final critique.

V. Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. Please see departmental attendance policy. Missing more than 1 class without written valid excuse from the Dean or Student Services, or verified with a doctor's note, will result in grade being reduced by one full letter. Documentation is required for sports. Coach should email a note to instructor confirming matches, meets, departure time for away games, or anything that would require absence from class. Practice is not an excused absence. Students over 15 minutes late without a valid excuse, or failing to return from break, will be considered absent. After the third unexcused absence, student will receive a failing grade. Students are expected to fulfill class time requirements as arranged with the instructor.

VI. Grading: Grading for a course in studio art is determined by objective and subjective assessment. Throughout the semester, the instructor will be available at any time to discuss grades. 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.

Mid-Term (Group Critique): Work will be reviewed and graded at mid-term. Grades can be discussed. Warnings will be issued at mid-term, if needed.

Final Critique: There will be a group critique the last day of class. Students will have an opportunity on their own time to make final adjustments prior to the individual critique. A final individual critique will be scheduled during exam week. This will involve each student setting up a final display of work for the instructor to evaluate. The field trip paper and the final paper will be due at this time.

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.

Projects, as listed on calendar:	50 per cent
Field trip paper	10
Participation in class and attendance	10
Participation in critique	15
Final paper	15

A	Exceptional
B	Above Average
C	Satisfactory: All assignments and portfolios meet basic requirements
D	Below Average
F	Failure

VII. Disability Statement:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

VIII. Academic Honesty Policy:

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

IX. Projects: (calendar with due dates at end of syllabus)

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

Group Mid-Term Critique (Projects 1 to 4, 6 to 7 total pieces)

Group Final Critique (Projects 5 to 10, 8 to 9 total pieces)

Individual Final Critique Includes all pieces from entire semester in addition to written material.

X. 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.

At the end of the semester, students will receive a final hand-out from the instructor with information about firing, glazing, proper kiln use, etc., that can be used as a reference for future ceramics projects in the classroom.

XI. 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.

	<u>Spring 2009 course schedule:</u>	<u>In class work</u>	<u>Due</u>
1)	Pinch pots (hand-built) (2)	Jan 20	Jan 27
2)	Hand-built form vessel	Jan 27	Feb 3
3)	Coffee cups thrown on wheel (2 - 3)	Feb 3, 10	Feb 17
4)	Slab construction based on architectural forms	Feb 17	Feb 24
	<i>Group Mid-Term Critique</i>	<i>Feb 24</i> (Projects 1 to 4, 6 to 7 total pieces)	
	<i>No Class –Spring Break</i>	<i>Mar 3</i>	
5)	Two-piece hand-built form. (Two pieces, each on the same theme. Each piece is built on a different scale. The two pieces must interact in an aesthetically complementary manner.)	Mar 10	Mar 17
6)	Slab project – enclosed form	Mar 17	Mar 24
7)	Wheel-thrown project – 2 vessels with small openings	Mar 24	Mar 31
8)	Hand-built project – covered jar	Mar 31	Apr 7
9)	Pitcher with handle (1 to 2)	Apr 7	Apr 14
10)	Bowls (2)	Apr 14, 21	Apr 28
	<i>Group Final Critique</i>	<i>Apr 28</i> (Projects 5 to 10, 8 to 9 total pieces)	
	<i>Individual Final Critique</i>	<i>Week of May 4 (date TBA)</i> Includes all pieces from entire semester in addition to written material.	