

CERAMICS I

Art K161 12:30-3:15pm 3 credits
Three Dimensional Design/Hand building in Clay
Instructor: Sean Langlais - Fall 2004

Course description and objectives

This course is designed to be an introduction into the methods and nature of working with clay as an artistic medium. Our primary concern will be with the practical use of design principals such as: line, symmetry, balance, visual mass, texture, ground/foreground relationships, and spatial relationships. We will also be concerned with the exploration of various artistic movements such as surrealism, minimalism, abstraction, etc. The assignments are structured in such a way as to allow the exploration of artistic themes while solving various design problems. The class will include discussions and demonstrations on various glazing and finishing techniques to be incorporated into your work effectively.

Grading

Work should be ambitious, imaginative and creative. Craftsmanship will count so you should continually work to refine your projects. You will be responsible for timely completion of assignments. There will be a mid-semester review and a mid-semester grade. There will be six main assignments. All six assignments will be graded for the final critiques, in which, all works, in their final forms, will be due. The break down is as follows: final critique will be 40 percent of your grade. Five formal critiques will be 10 percent each of your final grade with another 10 percent for class participation and studio maintenance.

Office hours

To be announced in class.

Important Information

After demonstrations and discussions, special needs and concerns will be addressed each class as I walk around to each student.

Work in progress can occasionally sustain damage either by you or by others. You should build in time for these unfortunate events.

Clay work can be like having responsibility for a child, you may have to nurture the piece through various drying stages, depending on your design. Work in progress can occasionally sustain damage either by you or by others. You should build in time for these unfortunate events. Upon completion of critique and grading, all work needs to be removed from the studio in order to retain ample workspace. At the end of the semester, all work left behind will be discarded.

Special Concerns

If you have any special needs or handicaps, please see me at the beginning of the semester. Special accommodations may be possible.

Requirements

1. Regular and on time attendance is extremely important as I will give pertinent information at the beginning of each class.
2. Full participation is required of all students in all class activities: critiques, demonstrations, discussion sessions, and studio maintenance.
3. The completion of assignments for specified critique deadlines.
4. Responsible behavior in the studio and compliance with all safety procedures.
5. There will be various tools, materials, and a Sketchbook that will need to be purchased at a nominal cost.
6. Always come to class prepared, that means, all necessary tools and materials and relevant discourse in regards to assignment critiques.

CRAMICS I - SCHEDULE

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| August | 31 | First day of class, go over syllabus and materials list. |
| September | 7 | Introduction to the Studio and procedures. Coil building, scoring and use of slip. We begin a coil built project. |
| September | 14 | Assignment 1 introduced (slab architectural assignment). Introduction to making slabs and impressions. Joining slabs. |
| September | 21 | Continue work on making slabs and impressions. Work on assignment 1 (slab architectural assignment). |
| September | 28 | First group critique on the coil built form. Techniques for texture discussed. |
| October | 5 | Assignment 1 work session and I will be working with individuals on ideas and concepts. |
| October | 12 | Introduce assignment 2 (the vessel). Continue and finish work on assignment 1 (slab architectural assignment). |
| October | 19 | Assignment 1 due (slab architectural project). Second group critique. Work on the vessel assignment. |
| October | 26 | Introduce assignment 3 (abstraction with coil, slab, and pulling). Work on the vessel and abstraction assignment. |
| November | 2 | Introduce assignment 4 (personal vessel with applied texture). Finish work on the vessel assignment. Continue work on abstraction assignment. |
| November | 9 | Work on assignment 2,3, and 4. |
| November | 16 | Assignment 2 due (the vessel). Third group critique. Work on abstraction and personal vessel assignment. |
| November | 23 | Classes not in session/supplemental sessions may be scheduled. |
| November | 30 | Assignment 3 due (abstraction with coil, slab, and pulling). Fourth group critique. Finish work on personal vessel. All work must be completed for final firing date, which will be announced. Work that is not completely finished will receive a grade reduction. |
| December | 7 | Last workday for ceramics class. Assignment 4 due (personal vessel with applied texture). This assignment is due for final exam along with the rest of the assignments. |

Final exam/critique will be announced