

CERAMICS I

Instructor: Sean J. Langlais
CL 10471 ART K161
W 03:30 pm-06:15 pm
Spring 2006

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 four main assignments. All four assignments will be graded for the final critique, in which, all works, in their final forms, will be due. The four assignments graded at final critique will be 60 percent of the grade. Mid term grading will be 20 percent of your grade and will consist of a critique of your work up to that point in time. Participation in critiques and class discussions, as well as studio maintenance, will account for 20 percent of the grade.

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 unless arrangements are made.

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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- W 1/25/06 First day of class, go over syllabus and materials list.
- W 2/01/06 Introduction to the Studio and procedures. Coil building, scoring and use of slip. **Assignment 1 introduced - coil built project.**
- W 2/08/06 Introduction to making slabs and impressions.
- W 2/15/06 **Assignment 2 introduced - surreal tea vessel.** Slab joining techniques Discussed.
- W 2/22/06 First group critique on the coil built form. Techniques for texture discussed.
- W 3/01/06 I will be working with individuals on ideas and concepts.
- W 3/08/06 Second group critique and midterm grade. Work on the vessel assignment. **Introduce assignment 3 - abstraction with coil, slab, and pulling.**
- W 3/15/06 No class - instructor in Europe on college trip.
- W 3/22/06 No class - spring break
- W 3/29/06 **Introduce assignment 4 - personal vessel with applied texture.**
- W 4/05/06 Discuss concepts and specific assignment concerns.
- W 4/12/06 Glazing techniques discussed. Individual support for personal vessel.
- W 4/19/06 **WARNING** finish work on personal vessel and the three other projects so we can fire them.
- W 4/26/06 Kiln loading and glazing.
- W 5/03/06 Last workday for ceramics class.

Final exam/critique will be announced