

Ceramics I/Ceramics II Syllabus

Instructor: Chotsani Elaine Dean

e-mail: chotsanielainedean@mac.com or cdean@trcc.commnet.edu (both emails are linked)

Office phone: 860-823-2823

Ceramics Lab 100D M/W 6:30pm-9:15pm

Office hours: Tues: 10am-12pm/Thr: 11am-12pm Fri: 4pm-5pm

(or by appointment)

Course Description

This course will explore clay-forming techniques on the wheel to create functional and sculptural ceramic objects. Techniques will center on wheel throwing, coil technique, pinch, slab and plaster (press-molding) methods to create and explore functional vessel and sculptural forms, with an emphasis on pattern/decoration, form and concept. Issues of function and utility will be addressed as well.

Objective

At the end of the session, students should be able to turn a lump of clay into an aesthetically pleasing and conceptually strong form. Also, students will be able to critically assess one another's work and discuss technical issues and conceptual issues relative to the medium of clay. The student, with consistent work ethic will have developed a good level of confidence with the material. Last, using the library as a springboard for all assignments will enable the student to investigate and research the historical and contemporary span of ceramics and its relationship to contemporary art.

Grading Policy

Grading is based on individual development. Each student is responsible and expected to fulfill certain requirements to successfully receive credit for the course.

Grading is as follows:

- A- Superior work/works consistently above standard for the entire semester/always works above and beyond assigned requirements, turns assignments in on time, takes risks, follows through on ideas, utilizes sketchbook to work out and execute ideas, arrives to class on time and excellent attendance record. Willing to participate in class activities and critiques, always clean up after him/herself
- B- Above average work, shows potential and moderate success in completed projects, consistently developing clarity in work and improvement is evident through each project and process, investment in work is displayed
- C- Average – Student works with little enthusiasm or investment in project, does what is required without exploring or engaging in process, work lacks attention to detail, only works during class time (shows that no outside class time is used)

- D- Below Average – assignments late, unfinished, incomplete, excessive absences to class, does not use class time wisely, unprepared for class, no motivation, non responsive to course, poor effort, leave workspace dirty
- F- Failing – excessive absences assignments never completed, total lack of effort in class, never helps in class, behavior is disruptive to peers

Assignments – 70% (works in progress and finished works, in some cases work will be graded in two stages)

Participation/Attendance – 20%

Sketchbook – 10%

Attendance

A major part of this class relies on consistent attendance as much of the class information is explained in class demonstrations. Attendance is considered a significant portion of your success, please remember this is a studio class and class time is very important.

Sketchbook

ALL students are required to keep a sketchbook solely for this course. The sketchbook should be no smaller than 8 1/2 by 11 inches and must contain plain unlined paper. You should bring your sketchbook to every class. During class demonstrations you will be expected to take notes, as these notes will be helpful when operating equipment in the department. The sketchbook should be filled more than 50% by the end of the session. You will be graded on the sketchbook.

Homework

There will be some open studio times for students to work on projects outside of class. Students are expected to come to at least **three** outside sessions to work on projects as clay needs to be worked with at different stages and extra time outside of class is unavoidable, times will vary so as to suite a variety of individual schedules.

Supplies

Being prepared for class is important, therefore always having your tools and necessary equipment for class is essential to your progress and success in this class. Not being prepared negatively affects your grade.

Clean-up

Everyone is expected to participate. Also, cleaning up after working is required of everyone, all students are responsible for their workspace. Not cleaning up will definitely negatively affect your grade.

Technology

Cell phones and headphones are not allowed during class. Texting is also not allowed in the ceramic studio. If you need to make a phone call or text, please leave the studio to do so. If you use your phone during class your grade will be negatively affected.

