

Ceramics I – Tue/Thur 9:00am-11:45pm D100

Instructor: Chotsani E. Dean

e-mail: cdean@trcc.commnet.edu

Office: 205D, 860-823-2823 (voicemail)

Office hours: Tuesday 12:30pm-2:30pm, Wednesday 10:00am-11:30am

Studio open hours: TBA

Class website: access via Blackboard

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the methods and nature of working with clay as an artistic medium. Emphasis is placed on the practical use of design principles such as line, symmetry, balance, visual mass, texture, ground/foreground relationships, and spatial relationships. Various artistic movements such as surrealism, minimalism, and abstraction will be explored (as well as many others). Assignments will allow the exploration for artistic themes while solving various design problems. The class includes discussions and demonstration on various glazing and finishing techniques. Studio: Meets 6 hours per week.

Objective/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of Ceramics I, students should:

- Realize the workability of clay as a medium for artistic expression
- Understand and translate traditional art and design movements into works of art
- Knowledge of the history and evolution of clay coupled with an understanding of the contemporary world of clay movements and working artists
- Be familiar with studio procedures, maintenance, and safety concerns.
- Be able to critique a work of ceramic art using an informed visual vocabulary specific to clay
- Be familiar with the uses of specialized tools and equipment, and the use of glazes and alternative finishing techniques
- Have completed a sketchbook at the end of the semester with information that prepares the student for Ceramics II and other upper level ceramic courses

Grading Policy

Grading is based on individual development. Each student is responsible and expected to fulfill course requirements to successfully receive credit for the course. Trying is the first step in ceramic studio practice, improved and consistent performance is what your grade is based on, not solely trying.

Grading is as follows:

- A- Superior work ethic, works consistently above assignment standards for the entire semester/always completes assigned requirements, assignments turned in on time, takes creative risks within the structure of class assignment and implements consistent and excellent technical skills and attention to all work, follows through

on ideas and thinks creatively, responds positively to constructive critique, evidence of consistent outside of class activity utilizing sketchbook to work out, plan and execute ideas, arrives to class on time and excellent attendance record and displays excellent organizational skills. Consistent and constructive participation in class activities and critiques with peers, always cleans up after him/herself

- B- Above average work within structure of assignments but does not fulfill the components of 'A' work/skill level, evidence of creative application and potential, constant improvement in technical skills, above average success in completed projects, consistently developing creative and technical clarity in work and improvement is evident through each project and process, investment in work is displayed and positive response to constructive critique is considered and applied to achieve improvement in course activity with sketchbook.
- C- Average – Student works with average enthusiasm and satisfactory investment in project, does what is required within structure of assignment without exploring or engaging in the process creatively or with the material, work consistently lacks attention to detail in technique and creativity, only works during class time (shows that no outside class time is used), inconsistent class attendance, arriving to class late
- D- Below Average – assignments late/unfinished, incomplete, excessive absences, late to class regularly, does not use class time wisely, unprepared for class, no motivation, non responsive to course, poor effort, leave workspace dirty
- F- Failing – excessive absences (over 4), assignments never completed, constantly turned in late, total lack of effort in class, never helps in class, behavior is disruptive to peers, misuse of studio equipment and tools, disregard to studio rules

(For each day an assignment is late, your grade will be docked one full letter grade)

Attendance

A MAJOR part of this class relies on consistent attendance as much of the course information/material is explained during 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. Please refrain from talking/texting/ipods during in-class demonstrations. Material from in-class demonstrations will not be repeated. During in-class demonstrations use your sketchbooks to write down questions to ask at the indicated question/answer time during the demonstration. If you miss class, remember that you are responsible for any material covered in class and all assignments/work due for that day. (An excused absence requires written verification, for example illness and/or injury) After 3 absences your grade will drop 5pts for each subsequent absence. After 3 late arrivals you will incur an absence(a late arrival is 5minutes after the start of class).

Classroom Attire

Please wear clothing that is appropriate for studio work. There is no guarantee that clay comes out of clothing, so please do not wear any article of clothing that is expensive or important to you. Please be sure to wear clothing that adequately covers your body and is comfortable to move around in as you will be sitting at the potter's wheel and this will require constant standing and sitting (also bending down to pick things up and cleaning), so it is important that your clothing allows you to move comfortably and covers your body adequately.

Nails: nails must be cut short in order to successfully work with clay. Acrylic nail tips will not allow you to successfully work with the material and hinder your ability to handle the clay that will directly affect your grade negatively and the enjoyment of working with clay.

Sketchbook

ALL students are required to keep a sketchbook solely for this course. **The sketchbook can be purchased in the bookstore and is a required book for the course.** Bring your sketchbook to every class. During class demonstrations you will be expected to take notes, as these notes will be helpful when working with clay and operating equipment in the studio and executing outside of class assignments. You will be graded on the sketchbook throughout the semester. Do not combine your ceramic course sketchbook with any other class. Your sketchbook will also be used for classroom and homework writing assignments.

Homework

Outside class time is no different than any other class. I expect that 1-2 hours per week of outside class time be used to work on class projects in your sketchbook or outside studio work time. Please manage your time wisely, use your sketchbook to organize your assignment time/activity, express creative ideas and create a checklist.

Supplies

Being prepared for class is important, therefore always having your clay, tools, sketchbook and other necessary equipment for class is essential to your progress and success in this class. Not being prepared will negatively affect 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-do not leave class without cleaning up. Please adhere to schedule of cleaning duties.

Studio Etiquette

Electronic Devices - School regulations require that all electronic devices be turned off in learning environments.

No Ipod's/mp3's(headphones) in class.

No cell phones or texting during class. If you must make a call, please leave the room and keep the phone call short – it is extremely disruptive and rude to talk on the phone in the main room while others are working and I am teaching. I understand with recent incidents on college campuses that we must remain connected – however, setting your phone on vibrate or occasionally checking your phone is acceptable as long as it does not disrupt your class time. Also, you should let me know that you are expecting an important phone call before the start of class.

If you are seen using your phone in class it will result in an automatic 5pt deduction from your overall grade and you will be marked absent. No exceptions.

You can take one 15 min. break during class- you can use this time to check your phone messages or email (outside of the class). Please inform me when you are taking your break, please do not just leave the studio without notice.

Do not bring any friends in to the studio or during class or during monitored outside class work times. No individual that is not enrolled in class can use the equipment or material, **no exceptions**. If this rule is broken this will result in a full letter grade drop or failure of the course.

Student Disabilities: Any student with a hidden or visible disability that may require classroom modifications should see me about his/her disability within the first week or two of class. I will ask you to see one of the learning disability counselors on campus so we can work together to implement an appropriate plan to meet your needs. For more information see <http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/EdResources/LearnDis.htm>

In the event of class cancellation:

Check the TRCC website: trcc.comnet.edu for weather cancellations.

Check Blackboard for class cancellation.

Check the class website for class cancellation/announcements.

(please let me know if you do not have computer access at home)

A notice will be posted outside the classroom door.

Sign up for MyCommnet Alert Warnings on the Commnet Homepage. (you will receive a text message notifying you of any closings or emergencies)