

## **Syllabus for Ceramics I – Spring 2010**

ART K161 #10426

Room D-100

Tuesdays - 06:30 pm- 09:15 pm

Duration - 01/21-05/19

Instructor - Sean Langlais

Email - slanglais@trcc.commnet.edu

*"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."*  
Scott Adams

*"Design is not the offspring of idle fancy; it is the studied result of accumulative observation."* John Ruskin

### **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 and evaluation:**

Work should be ambitious and creative. Craftsmanship will count so you should continually work to refine your projects. You will be responsible for timely completion of 4 class projects (including sketches and models). There will be a mid-semester review and a mid-semester grade; this grade will be taken into consideration during final grading (final critique). For the final critique, your 4 projects will be graded in completed form. The four assignments graded at final critique will be 80 percent of the grade. Participation in critiques and class discussions, as well as studio maintenance, will account for 20 percent of the grade.

Some of the things I consider when grading projects include craft, content, degree of refinement and completion, effort, evidence of working ideas out on paper (sketches), and through trial and error model making.

### **Office hours:**

To be announced in class

### **Important Information:**

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.

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

### **Disabilities Statement:**

If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom or test-taking modifications please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, you may choose to notify and consult with student disabilities.

**Inclement Weather:**

In the event of inclement weather, the student must check with the college to find out if classes are cancelled or delayed.

**Academic Honesty:**

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to (a) cheating on an examination, (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course, (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own, (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials, (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data, (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**Materials:**

There will be a verbal list of specific materials and equipment given at the beginning of the first class so be sure and take careful notes.

**Projects:**

In the event that your work could not be fired due to unusual circumstances, arrangements can be made to pick up the work the following semester. All work left behind after the last class for which no arrangements were made, will have to be disposed of.

**College Withdrawal Policy:**

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide written notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrars on all campuses. Nonpunitive "W" grades are assigned to any withdrawal requested before the various unrestricted withdrawal deadlines listed in the calendars published in front of each session's course listings. Withdrawal requests received after these deadlines must bear instructor signatures. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.

**Grading System:**

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F

Numerical Components

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

**Text Book:**

Ceramics a Potters Handbook by Glen C. Nelson and Richard Burkett (optional but highly recommended)

**Important:**

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. Adherence to all studio informational postings on safety, procedures, etc.
5. There will be various materials and equipment that will need to be purchased.
6. Always come to class prepared, that means, all necessary tools and materials and relevant discourse in regards to project critiques.
7. Always clean up after your self and keep a clean work area, locker space, etc.

**Suggestions:**

Seek out art related periodicals publications for reference. A short list is given below.

- Ceramics Art and Perception (Three Rivers Community College library subscribes to this publication)
- Ceramics Technical (Three Rivers Community College library subscribes to this publication)
- Ceramics Monthly
- Clay Times

**General Course Outline Ceramics I – Spring 2010**

(Subject to errors, omissions, and revisions)

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- January 26 First day of class, go over syllabus and materials list
- February 2 Introduction to the studio and getting started  
**Project 1 introduced** (working with coils, line, texture, slip and scoring techniques)
- February 9 Design principles and techniques discussed, also, discuss project 1
- February 16 Further design principles and techniques discussed and I will be working with individuals on ideas and concepts
- February 23 **Project 2 introduced** (working with slabs, negative and positive space)
- March 2 Design principles and techniques discussed and I will be working with individuals on ideas and concepts, also, discuss project 2
- We will be beginning to wheel throw, centering and pulling up walls**
- March 9 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
- March 16 **Project 3 introduced** (cylinders, open and closed forms)
- March 23 Discuss projects 3
- March 30 **Project 4 introduced** (bowl and plate forms)
- April 6 Instructor will be working with individual students on final project
- April 13 Discuss project 4
- April 20 Final Critique date will be announced
- April 27 **WARNING!** All work must be glazed and ready for the glaze firing!
- May 4 Issued pertaining to final critique discussed
- May 11 **LAST CLASS DAY**