

# Syllabus

Ceramics 2 Art 162

Three Rivers Community College

Tuesday and Thursday  
12:30– 3:15 PM  
Ceramics Lab D Wing RM 100

Paula McNally  
Home: 860-774-8901  
[pmcnally@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:pmcnally@trcc.commnet.edu)  
[plmcnally@charter.net](mailto:plmcnally@charter.net)  
Office Hours: T & R 12:00-12:30  
Or by appointment

Open Studio Hours:  
TBA

Fall 2019

## **Course Description:**

### **This course is designed to teach the student:**

- Experimentation and risk-taking with new conceptual ideas and technical challenges;
- Better compositional skills and greater utilization of design principles in ceramics and clay sculpture;
- Increased originality of personal creative expression in clay;
- Expanded competency in clay construction methods, surface treatments, and glazing Techniques,
- Increased analytical skills in the discussion and critical analysis of art;
- Individual independent research and discussion of historical and contemporary ceramics and clay sculpture;
- Professional presentation of finished work for exhibition.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### **Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have:**

- Demonstrated new conceptual ideas and technical accomplishments in individual clay work;
- Demonstrated understanding, utilization, and discussion of design and compositional Elements In both functional and sculptural aspects of clay;
- Demonstrated originality of personal creative expression in individual clay work;
- Critically analyzed and discussed the functional and sculptural aspects of ceramics, Including independently researched and discussed historical or contemporary ceramics.
- Demonstrated professionalism in the presentation, discussion, and exhibition of finished ceramic work.

### **Academic Expectations:**

- Attend all classes.
- Care about the work you are doing in class. Visit the ceramic studio between classes to monitor the drying process of your clay projects.
- Help others in class to succeed, by sharing your knowledge with other students and by keeping the studio clean.
- Follow class health and safety regulations.
- Complete all assignments to prepare a ceramic portfolio showing progress in the medium for a final grade.
- Assignments are graded on planning and idea development, craftsmanship, creativity, visual impact, personal investment, personal exploration, the ability to constructively critique your work, and exploration of the medium.
- All work must be signed and submitted for a grade.
- A Ceramics Notebook is required for chronicling the development of their ideas, inspirations, trials, successes, and critical reflections of the work they produce in clay.

**Attendance:**

A major part of this class relies on consistent attendance since 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. Clay projects must be done in class because unfired work is fragile and easily damaged in transport.

You can take one 15-minute break during class. When you are working on a project, you will intuitively know when is the best time for you to take a break. Do not take your breaks when a demonstration is planned. I will let you know at the beginning of the class when demonstrations are to occur.

**Lateness:**

It is essential that students come to class ON TIME. Important information will be given during the first few minutes of each class.

**Work outside of class hours:**

Students are required to finish all assignments in the assigned time. This is very important because if your work is not done in time your project will not be dry and may have to miss a firing, which will set you back. You will need to spend time in the open studio time slots outside of class hours. Your success in developing studio skills will be directly proportional to the time spent in the studio in and outside of scheduled class time. This means coming into the studio outside of class to finish projects, and cover or uncover work to control the drying process.

**Ceramics Notebook**

Students are required to keep a Ceramics Notebook. Its purpose is to document your ideas and artistic development. This notebook will be a useful tool in helping to work out your ideas and plans before starting a project. You will also use it to document problems, successes, and reflections on, and critiques of your work.

Much of the notebook will be handed out to you the first class. It will contain the syllabus, vocabulary, assignments, rubrics and other helpful information. This portion of the notebook will not be graded. But you will need to refer to these when starting new assignments.

A second part of your notebook will be graded and will include:

Your inspiration sheets, sketches of your ideas, and your assignment reflection papers. The inspiration sheets and sketches are due before you start your project and the Reflection paper is due when you hand in your assignment for a grade. Your notebook serves as a documentary of your development in the class. The notebook papers are 3-hole punched so it can be kept in a loose-leaf 3-ring binder, and so that the appropriate pages can be taken out and handed in with your assignment. A 3-ring binder can be purchased in the TRCC bookstore.

**Rules for handing in late paperwork are as follows:**

The following rules apply to the inspiration sheets and the sketches of your ideas, and do not apply to the Reflection Paper, which gets handed when you are ready to get your assignment graded.

- Handed in before starting the project (one class grace period) = Full credit (A=A)
- Handed in more than one class after starting your project = reduction of one full grade. (A=B)
- Handed in after your piece is leather hard = Reduction of two full grades. (A=C)
- Handed in after your piece is has fully dried = Failing Grade.
- These assignments are homework. You will need your class time for making your ceramic

pieces

### **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 and class work time. For this course you will need to be prepared to purchase 2 or more bags of clay at the TRCC bookstore. If you have financial aid, you can purchase all of your bags at once at the start of the semester during the time period designated for using financial aid funds in the bookstore. Lockers are available outside of the classroom, and can be obtained through security. This can serve as a clean place to keep your coat or place to keep an extra change of clothing if needed. There is also space in the studio reserved for clay and tools as well, but it is a communal space and the instructor and school are not responsible for the clay. Nor are we responsible for any valuables brought into the studio. The nature of the way we work in class lends itself to having to move around the room and leave belongings unattended. It is not a good idea to remove jewelry and leave it unattended. The same would be true for any other valuable item. Always write your name on your tools, clay bag, and the bags used to cover your work, with a sharpie marker. Before the second class you should have obtained the following from the school store:

25 lb. Clay  
Tools  
Three Ring Binder Notebook

### **Evaluations and Grading Policy:**

Your work and performance in class will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Your self-motivated, sustained, and thoughtful attention to your work, and the reflection of that attentiveness in the quality of your completed assignments.
- Your genuine commitment to the class and the course, as reflected in your:
  - Attendance and preparedness for each class,
  - Honoring of due dates,
  - Active participation in class work, discussion, and critiques.
- Evidence of involvement with the problems presented, and the artistic and creative originality of the resolutions.
- In the ceramic process, problems of aesthetics and design are inseparable from the craft techniques that express them. A well-crafted work by itself does not constitute a work of art, but a great concept cannot be expressed without the adequate technical skill, therefore, workmanship as well as an aesthetic awareness is an important part of the final grade.
- Proper handling of studio tools and equipment and correct safety and maintenance procedures are considered. Participation in studio maintenance and clean up is essential. This includes an end of the semester clean up session.
- Participation in the critiques and the capability to verbalize ideas and concepts are also important components of final grades.
- Maintaining an ongoing Notebook that includes the documentation of the development of your inspirations, sketches of your ideas, and a response paper for each project.

- All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template.
- **Projects will be graded after they are fired and submitted with the response paper, the inspirations and sketches will be handed and graded before starting the assignment.**

**Grading will be based on the following:**

**Assignments and Projects - 80%**  
**Reflection Papers 10%**  
**Studio Conduct and Participation- 10%**

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 both creatively and technically, consistently works above standard for the entire semester/always works above and beyond assigned requirements, genuine enthusiasm and engagement with course material, turns assignments in on time, develops strong creative ideas, takes creative risks, committed to development of creative ideas/ research in notebook through information both in and outside of class, follows through on ideas and development of ideas, high level of critical thinking evidenced in notebook entries as related to course material and executing creative ideas, arrives to class on time, excellent attendance record, independent self starter, willing to participate in class activities and critiques, always clean up after him/herself, proper time management skills.

B- Above average work, shows potential and adequate success in completed projects, evidence of moderate focus on developing creative clarity in work and moderate improvement in development of technique and craftsmanship, however not the same level as superior/A craftsmanship and creativity, improvement is evident at various points through each project and process, moderate investment in work is displayed, inconsistencies in craftsmanship revealed in various aspects of project/s, notebook entries modest in creativity and critical thinking.

C- Average – Student works with minimal enthusiasm or investment in project, insufficiency and inconsistency in creativity and craftsmanship, lack of creative exploration or engagement in process, not proactive/independent starter, work lacks attention to detail/ craftsmanship, or critical thinking. Notebook does not meet all guideline requirements, or completes all guideline requirements in a cursory manor, poor punctuality to class, poor attendance.

D- Below Average – assignments late, unfinished, incomplete, excessive absences, tardy to class, does not use class time wisely, unprepared for class, no motivation, unengaged in class, poor effort craftsmanship and critical thinking skills, leaves workspace dirty, leaves class early.

F- Failing – excessive absences, assignments incomplete and or missing, lack of effort in class, does not take pride in their work, careless use of equipment, failure to clean up, disrupts the learning environment.

N Grade -

The N Grade is assigned to students when there is no basis for a grade. This would apply to students who never came to class as well as to those who didn't attend or participate long enough to be graded. The N grade is used to distinguish between earned failures (F), official withdrawals (W) and students who stop attending or participating before there is a basis for a grade.

(In most cases there would be no basis for a grade for students who stop attending or participating before the 60% point.)

**Late work policy:**

Any assignment that is not ready for submission in accordance with the expectations of the assignments and syllabus will be considered "late" and late work will not receive credit. Extensions for time with respect to the submission of course assignments will require verifiable, appropriate circumstances. Each student's circumstances will be evaluated by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. All petitions for extensions must be in writing stating the specifics of the petition for additional time and must be *approved* by at least three days **BEFORE** the deadline for the assignment.

**Additional Notes**

Extra credit is accepted, (limit 2) keep in mind this is Extra Credit, not Instead of Credit. Extra credit will not be substituted for an assignment.

No pieces made entirely at home will be accepted for credit or fired.

No drug paraphernalia will be fired.

No work made in previous classes (outside of TRCC) will be fired.

**Studio Rules for Your Health and Safety:**

**DO NOT use machinery unless the instructor of the course has instructed you in its use.**

Please consider your well being and those around you when working in the ceramic studio.

Make all efforts to minimize the creation of clay dust.

Tie long hair back when using the wheel, grinder or other rotating tools.

Do not have long fingernails; they make clay very difficult to work with.

Do not put anything except unfired clay in the recycling buckets.

Access to the ceramics studio is allowed only to students enrolled in the class.

Do not use sand paper on raw clay.

Do not smoke, eat or drink in the ceramics studio.

Never touch kilns unless authorized by the instructor.

Do not talk or text on your cell phones during class. Phone use for class related research or music (with headphones) is permissible, but not during instructions or critiques.

**Cleaning Up:**

Always clean up at the end of class - do not leave without cleaning your workspace (table or wheel, tools and plastic containers etc.).

Each student will be responsible for cleaning personal and shared areas. You will need to put back all materials (stored in bins, jars, or bags) to their original storage area after use.

Floors need to be left free of objects so that the cleaning staff can clean the studio floor. All chairs need to be put up at the end of the last class of the day.

Do not put fired clay into the clay recycling buckets.

Do not let clay go down the drain. Please wash your hands, tools, etc. in the bucket provided in

the sink to remove clay from them before rinsing them again in the sink.

**If we all do this, we will have an efficient and safe place to work. A messy, dusty studio is a HEALTH HAZARD for everyone.**

Do **NOT** bring any friends into the studio during class or monitored outside class work times. No individual not enrolled in ceramics can use the lab or use the equipment or material in the studio. Please use appropriate language that is respectful.

**Classroom Attire:**

Please wear clothing that is appropriate for studio work. There is no guarantee that clay and glazes will come 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 is comfortable and does not restrict your movement.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has 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 or projects (weather 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 the 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.

**Disability Statement**

If you have a hidden or visible disability that may require class modification, Please notify me as soon as possible. Students with Learning or Physical Disabilities should contact Matt Liscum at 860.383.5240 or by email at [mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu). Or Elizabeth Willcox at 860-215-9289.

College Disabilities Service Provider	
Matt Liscum, Counselor  (860) 215-9265  Room A113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning Disabilities</li><li>• ADD/ADHD</li><li>• Autism Spectrum</li><li>• Mental Health Disabilities</li></ul>

<p>Elizabeth Willcox, Advisor</p> <p>(860) 215-9289</p> <p>Room A113</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Disabilities</li> <li>• Mobility Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disability</li> </ul>
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### **Inclement weather**

In the event of inclement weather, students should check the college website at [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu) there will be a message on the main page indicating whether or not classes are held. You can also call Information Services TRCC- 860-886-0177 or you can also enroll in the free service, "myCommNet Alert". MyCommNet Alert is a notification system that delivers critical information to students, faculty and staff of the Connecticut Community Colleges in the event of an emergency. The system delivers emergency messages through text messaging over cellular phones. Emergencies can include campus-related immediate health of safety situations and may also include weather related class cancellations. Log in to the myCommNet portal from <http://my.commnet.edu>. On the Home Tab's left column under the System Announcement Channel you will see the myCommNet Alert Channel. Click the "Create Account" link in the myCommNet Alert Channel. Then in the upper right-hand corner you will see the link to "Create Account", click the link to create your account profile.

### **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. Non-punitive "W" grades are assigned to any withdrawal requested before the various unrestricted withdrawal deadlines listed in the calendars published in front of each course listing. Withdrawal requests received after these deadlines must bear professor 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 class, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.

### **Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones should be set to vibrate. If you need to take an important call, take your break and leave the room. Headphones and MP3 players are allowed during studio work time, but cannot be used during lectures, demonstrations or critiques and should be kept at a low volume. Music cannot be played aloud during class. Setting your phone on vibrate or occasionally checking your phone is acceptable as long as it does not disrupt your or another student's class time. Phones may be used for class related research.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED, HOW YOUR ARE PROGRESSING, YOUR GRADES, OR ANYTHING ELSE, PLEASE SEE ME RIGHT AWAY.



## Ceramics 2 Class Calendar Fall 2019

Class 1. T. 8/27/19

Experience questionnaire, Review syllabus, purchase and label supplies. Start looking for inspirations and make sketches for jewelry assignment.

Class 2. R. 8/29/19

Share inspirations and sketches with the instructor, start jewelry assignment

Class 3. T. 9/3/19 continue jewelry assignment

Class 4. R. 9/5/19

Continue jewelry assignment

Class 5. T 9/10/19

Finish jewelry, Leave uncovered to dry. Introduce abstract figurative assignment,

Homework: find inspirational examples of historical and contemporary abstract figurative ceramic sculptures

Class 6. R 9/12/19

Start abstract figurative sculpture

Class 7. T 9/17/19

Continue Abstract figurative  
**Bisque jewelry**

Class 8. R 9/19/19

Continue abstract figurative sculpture

Class 9. T 9/24/19

Finish abstract figurative, leave uncovered to dry.

Homework:

Find inspirational historical and contemporary examples of ceramic environments that

you like and sketch a minimum of three ideas for this assignment.

Class 10. R 9/26/19

Glaze demo. Glaze jewelry, present your inspirations and sketches for the environment assignment to the instructor, review assignment sheet for ceramic environment.

Class 11. T 10/1/19

Start ceramic environment assignment

Class 12. R 10/3/19

Continue ceramic environment assignment

Class 13. T 10/8/19

Finish ceramic environment, Leave uncovered to dry, **bisque** abstract figurative sculpture.

Class 14. R 10/10/19

**Critique jewelry. Glaze** abstract figurative sculpture.

Homework: find 3+ historical or contemporary examples/inspirations of wheel thrown lidded containers shapes you like. Also include some ideas for decoration. Make sketches of possible shapes and decorations

Class 15. T 10/15/19

Demo; turning a cylinder into a base for a lidded jar, measuring using calipers. Throwing a lid. Begin throwing covered container assignment.

Class 16. R 10/17/19

Trimming lid demo, throwing a knob handle demo, decorate thrown covered jar.

Homework: Find 3+ examples of historical or contemporary thrown and altered you like. Make sketches of your ideas  
Continue throwing and trimming covered container.

Class 17. T 10/22/19 READING DAY

Class 18. R 10/24/19

Altered form demo. . Share your inspirations and sketches with the instructor. Begin thrown and altered assignment.

Class 19. T 10/29/19

Finish thrown altered form. Leave uncovered to dry.

Class 20. R 11/31/18

**Bisque fire** wheel thrown altered form, **critique** abstract figurative sculpture, **glaze** covered jar.

Homework: find 3+ examples of historical or contemporary examples of a teapot in the style of a famous artist, or a non-objective sculpture (your choice). Make sketches of your ideas

Class 21. T 11/5/19 Continue artistic teapot or non-objective sculpture

Class 22. R 11/7/19 Continue artistic teapot or non-objective sculpture

Class 23. T 11/12/19

Continue artistic teapot or non-objective sculpture

Class 24. R 11/14/19 Finish Teapot or Non Objective Sculpture

Class 25. T 11/19/19

Finish all work. **Last day of wet clay.**

Class 26. R 11/21/19

All work uncovered on bisque shelf to dry, **Critique** altered form assignment

Class 27. T 11/26/19

Glaze non-objective sculpture or artistic teapot. **Last Glaze Fire  
All Inspirations, Sketches Process and response Sheets due.**

**R 11/28/19 Thanksgiving**

Class 28. T 12/3/19

Glaze wheel thrown altered form, **Final bisque for all work**

**Critique non-objective or teapot.**

Class 29. R 12/5//19

All ungraded work handed in, .

Class 30. T 12/10/19

Last class; pick up work, clean room.

R 12/12/19 Make up day to be used if needed.