Syllabus  Art 3230  Low Fire Ceramics  Maryann Webster

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Office Hours: Any time after class or by appointment. Contact me by E-mail any time.

This is a course in drawing and painting on clay. Methods and designs for creating forms that integrate with these decorative techniques will also be explored. Clays and surface treatments will cover the very lowest kiln temperatures to mid-range firings.

Requirements and Responsibilities: This is a studio class. Art Dept. specifications for work outside of class stipulate that students should expect to work 6 hours outside of class for every 3 hours spent in class.

Attendance: Attendance is used in grade evaluation and is critical to success in this course. Students are required to attend all class meetings. Students who miss three or more classes could have a whole grade reduction. Missing more than ½ hour of class by leaving early or arriving late could be counted as an absence. An excused absence would be illness, with a doctor’s note, or death in your immediate family. Any other circumstances, check with me.

Clean Up: It is necessary that work areas are cleared and cleaned before leaving the studio. Your effort is needed to maintain a healthy and effective environment. Grades are subject to evaluation based on appropriate participation and clean up. Leaving messes for others or not following kiln or studio procedures properly will result in a failure on the participation grade.

For a passing participation grade: Be very certain your work is not found melted in a glass puddle on the expensive cone 10 kiln shelves. Temperatures are much lower in low fire and mid-range glaze firing. We will be working with clays that fire from cone 06 (1830) to cone 6 (2100) DEGREES. Cone 10 ware fires at about (2381) degrees. This difference can be enough to completely melt low fire or mid-range clays. We are largely using the electric kilns, and students are expected to mark the firing temperature on their various clays, and keep lower firing work separate from cone 10 glaze ware. We will have a low fire bisque shelf. In addition we will be using china paint or vitreous enamels that fire at cone 019, or about (1230) degrees. Bisque firings need to be programmed for the electronic kilns.

Individual and critique assessment: Studio projects will be assessed individually through critiques. Students are required to participate in and contribute meaningfully to critique discussions. Students are required to be respectful of the person speaking, no cell phones can be used in critiques or lectures, and do not talk while someone is speaking to the group.

Grading: If you are interested in a higher level of success you must exceed the requirements and break the norms. Your success depends on your willingness to explore and search out a new approach, and on the depth of your involvement and productivity. Grading will be based on your ability to demonstrate technical skills in accomplishing well-designed personal responses to course assignments. Ongoing critiques are teaching sessions as well as evaluations.

Assignments: Assignments are designed to cover specific techniques and 3-D design problem solving as they apply to low fire and mid-range ceramics. Technical details are critical to success, and advanced students are expected to have these skills, and develop more through the course work. Work that is made at home cannot be accepted for a grade. In addition to clay work, there will be one oral presentation with visuals to be determined later, and students are expected to present their current work to the group. In general, something will be due every 3 weeks.
Classroom: Students are allowed to work in the studio any time there is not a class being taught. If there is another class being taught and if there is room, check with the instructor for permission to work. The plaster room might be used at one time. All rules of that room are posted, and students are expected to comply and to also comply with requests from other 3-D faculty.

Materials Management: Since the studio clays are cone 10 clays, and this course is specifically designed to use low fire clay, there is a risk of contamination to work of other students in all the other classes, with our low fire clay. Clay work that fires at 2381 degrees that is contaminated with bits of clay that fires at 1940 degrees can destroy the work, and damage the kiln. For this reason, low fire students are under strict warning to not leave any clay bits or residue on the work areas. Our work will be stored on the low fire shelves in the kiln room. Students will receive instructions on electric kiln use, that are to be followed completely. Do not leave out molds or low fire materials for beginning students to mis-use. Students will have canvas boards available for low fire work.

Assessing personal progress: Students who are concerned about their performance should schedule a time to meet with me during the semester to review their work, and discuss their growth in technical and personal intentions. In critiques, you will be expected to verbalize the visual and technical language. As artists it is expected that you are already doing this, particularly as it pertains to your work.

Office hours are arranged by checking with me after class. It is required that students be aware of and responsible for all information included in the syllabus and materials for this course. I reserve the right to make changes in assignments according to the needs of the class.

Please be aware of the dates for these deadlines:

Last day to drop/add class
Last day to withdraw from term length class

Students should be aware of the University student code of conduct. It contains information on what is expected of students at this school. For example, students who furnish false information or work to an instructor are subject to discipline from the University. etc.

The University of Utah Department of Art and Art History seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disability Services. (http://disability.utah.edu/) 152 Olpin Union Bldg., 801 581-5020

Wellness Statement: Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc. can interfere with a student’s ability to thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center For Student Wellness, www.wellness.utah.edu 801 581 7776