ART 3210 HANDBUILDING CERAMICS I
Instructor Vanessa Romo
M&W 9:40 AM – 12:40 PM SCULPT 187
Office Hours by Appointment
Email: V.Romo@utah.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course in ceramics. It provides the basic technical, historical, theoretical, and hands-on experience needed to understand and make ceramic art. Throughout this course you will experiment with different processes and materials associated with clay. This is an ART course and you will be asked to reconsider stereotypes about ceramics. To better understand the creative process aesthetic evaluation, technical skill, and development of ideas will be emphasized. This course demands your attendance and participation; there are demonstrations, slide lectures, quizzes, tests, readings, presentations, and in class discussions. **IN CLASS IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS!** I cannot and will not help students achieve their goals if they are not present in class physically and mentally.

REQUIREMENTS

STUDIO PROJECTS
(60 TOTAL POINTS)

1. **PINCH POTS - GETTING TO KNOW THE CLAY**
   (10 PTS.)
   - Using the pinch pot method build 5 well crafted vessels
   - Use these to explore what is possible with wet, plastic clay
   - Test the clays ability to stretch; the possibilities and limitations
   - These pinch pots will serve as test pieces for glazes, oxides, and other various surface treatments that will be explored in the green-ware and bisque stage

2. **STAMPS - CREATING TEXTURE**
   (5 PTS.)
   - Create a variety of stamps (6 minimum)
   - Gather found objects from home, nature, or a thrift shop. Be sure to choose items that are not heirlooms and can be made dirty by the clay, and or broken. Think lace, pinecones, fabrics, kitchen items, toys, etc. Objects will be embedded and peeled away from clay to further explore surfaces (6 minimum)

3. **SOFT SLAB PROJECT - ENGOBE TECHNIQUES**
   (10 pts.)
   - Create 2 small to medium size trays with handles (15”x15” Maximum)
   - Trays will be constructed using the soft slab method
   - You will use engobes, along with other surface techniques demonstrated, to investigate decorative possibilities
   - Submit a brief proposal and sketch before beginning assignment
4. **COIL PROJECT** (10 pts.)
   - Use coils to construct a figurative (fictional, animal, human) bust or decorative vessel. Begin with a manageable size to ensure that technique is executed properly and with skill (15”x15” Maximum)
   - This piece is more technically demanding and requires your attention and care
   - Submit a brief proposal and sketch before beginning assignment

5. **HARDEDGE SLAB FORM** (10 pts.)
   - Use leather-hard slabs to create a hard-edged, up right, free standing rectangular cabinet (15”x15” Maximum)
   - Keep in mind that excellent craftsmanship is required to manage drying, eliminate cracks/breaking, and join stiffened pieces successfully
   - Submit a brief proposal and sketch before beginning assignment

6. **COMBINATION FINAL PROJECT** (10 pts.)
   - Create an imaginatively rooted proposal for your final project
   - Turn in proposal and sketch before beginning assignment
   - Execute idea using the various techniques taught throughout the semester
   - This project is designed to support personal expression and showcase your ability to synthesize techniques in a successful and challenging way

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!!**
I will NOT accept sub-par work! 100 poorly made projects will NOT equal a high grade...
A or B grades mean your work is **above average**! Do not compromise this opportunity to become better. Don’t be afraid to start over, and try again, its good for you! Bring the WOW out of yourself. Trust your intuition and have confidence.

**EVALUATIONS**

**EVALUATION METHODS AND CRITERIA**

*Studio projects will be evaluated in critiques throughout the semester based on these considerations:*

- **Level of Challenge.** How far did you go beyond the minimum requirements of the assignment in complexity, numbers, or scale? How thoroughly and in how many variations did you explore the required concepts and techniques?
- **Aesthetics/Concept.** How far did you reach beyond the obvious solutions? How effectively did you use principles of design discussed in class? Can you justify your decisions and tell me why?
- **Craftsmanship.** Is your construction sound? Did you finish and resolve surfaces, joints, edges, and other details? Have you managed moisture and drying effectively?
- **Proposal/sketch quality and thoughtfulness**

I will meet individually with students throughout the semester. We will discuss your progress in the class along with technique, grades, and future intentions. During critique you will be expected to use
visual vocabulary to describe your work. Art is a subject area that requires you to take risks. Critical analysis and problem solving lead to pleasant unexpected solutions.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS • QUizzes • READINGS • TESTS (30 POINTS)

READINGS (3 PTS.)
Reading assignments are posted on canvas under files. The readings introduce ceramic vocabulary, ceramic materials, images, and historical references. This information is invaluable and I expect you to read them thoroughly.

VISUAL LANGUAGE QUIZ (5 PTS.)
I will provide a list of vocabulary words via Canvas. This will be an introduction to visual and technical vocabulary. It’s required that you learn their meaning and how to use them in class and during critique.

MID-TERM TEST (10 PTS.)
Short essay questions on concepts and vocabulary from assigned reading and in-class notes. Test will cover your knowledge of basic chemical properties in clay materials/processes and your ability to apply these to solve technical problems.

PINTEREST (2 PTS.)
Create an account and follow board links sent through canvas. Board imagery will correspond with assignments. This is an excellent visual gallery, and a resource that I deeply encourage you to take advantage of. It is a great way to expose you to contemporary ideas, ideals, artists, and inspiration.

ART EVENT, MUSEUM, OR GALLERY PAPER (5 PTS.)
Visit an art museum or reputable gallery. Write a double-spaced 2 pg. paper using 12-point font on a particular work that interests you. Include what attracted you to the work, what conceptual or visual aspects you would take from the work and place into your own, and why. Also include what sensation/thoughts you were left with upon your exit from the space. You must see the work in person this semester. No online visits.

NOTEBOOK/SKETCHBOOK (5 PTS.)
All students are required to purchase a sketchbook. This book will be used throughout the class for the following:
1. Record new ideas that can be added to your work, sketches, glaze ideas etc.
2. Record what you have done to the work (what glaze did you use etc.) this is done so that a desirable results can be replicated
3. Notes from lectures and demos given in class must be included
4. Proposals

I will look over your notebook with you throughout the semester so I can see your progress, please use this to your advantage; a well-kept notebook/sketchbook/journal is an excellent resource.
PARTICIPATION AND CLEAN-UP
(10 TOTAL POINTS)

• Attendance/participation will be used when evaluating your final grade. Students are required to attend all classes, meetings, and demos. Students who miss three or more classes, therefore, are not participating in those activities. The result will be a reduction of your final grade. Tardiness, leaving early, and not contributing to studio maintenance will also affect your grade.

• OPEN LAB HOURS
I expect to see you working outside of class to complete your projects! You can get access to the building 24hrs a day! All you need to do is get your student ID card activated at the art office. Approach them and tell them what class you are registered for, then nicely request access to the building and voila you are in! Place your card on the sensor (of the most west door up the big stairs) and the front door will unlock.

• CLEAN-UP
It is necessary that work areas are cleared and cleaned before leaving the studio. Your effort is needed to maintain a healthy, happy, effective, and efficient environment. YOUR health and grade depend on it.

FINAL PRESENTATION AND CRITIQUE
Bring in all ungraded work on the last day of class

GRADING

CLASS PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN
STUDIO PROJECTS 60%
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS 30%
PARTICIPATION 10%

GRADING SCALE (What it takes…)

A Perfect attendance and outstanding participation in class; with ALL assignments/work completed and turned in ON TIME! Works created should showcase excellent execution of concept, as well as superb technical skill. A’s are not free! You must put in additional hours outside of class.

B Near perfect attendance and good participation in class. ALL assignments/work completed and turned in ON TIME! Works should show creative thought, effort, and ability to control materials. You must put in additional hours outside of class and I should see you around the studio.

C Near perfect attendance no more than three absences and average participation in class; with most assignments/work completed. Understanding and use of ceramic techniques taught in class and attempts at creative problem solving. You must put in additional hours outside of class and I should see you around the studio.

D No more than four absences, and poor participation in class. Provides far less than what is required on projects and assignments.

E Grade will be given if you fail to meet minimum requirements or “You forgot to drop the class”
Take Risks and break away from normative routine; reach higher! If you are interested in a higher level of success you must always exceed the requirements. Push yourself further than you think you can go. Have confidence! It is important to trust your instincts and innovate.

REVISING YOUR GRADE

- You may redo and resubmit one studio project in an attempt to improve your grade (provided you originally submitted it on time).

LATE WORK

- I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS! YOU WILL RECEIVE ZERO CREDIT...
- Late work may be accepted if there has been an excused absence due to an emergency. With that said, assignments must be turned in a week from their original due date. 10% will be reduced from the grade for being late. Keep in mind that these assignments will also be graded, making them vulnerable! After one week from original due date they WILL be counted as a ZERO!

MATERIALS

For the convenience of the student most materials are sold through the bookstore. Clay must be paid for through the University cashier in the student services building. Proof of payment (clay receipt) must be given to receive clay. Coming to class unprepared is considered non-participation and will also affect your grade.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Lab Fee, paid with registration (Lab fees are used for raw materials, equipment maintenance, and Lab Tech)
- Clay $7.00 per 25lb bag (paid at student services, bring me receipt)
- Kemper Tool Kit (sold in bookstore)
- Notebook/ Sketchbook (unlined)
- Rubber ribs -- Hard Black, Soft Blue (sold in bookstore)
- Lock
- Japanese brushes

OPTIONAL (Please see Canvas for Links to Online Ceramic Stores)

MATERIALS FOUND AT HOME (ALSO REQUIRED)

Small/Med bucket (about a gallon), Metal Fork, Large Sponge, Plastic Bags (large garbage bag is best Unscented!!!!!!) Inexpensive paintbrushes’ (NO plastic bristles)

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKS</th>
<th>MONDAY’S</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY’S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;January 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Locker Sign-up&lt;br&gt;Getting to know you!</td>
<td>Introduction&lt;br&gt;Demo: Exploring clay&lt;br&gt;Distribute materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 2  | January 16 & 18 | **NO CLASS**  
**MLK DAY** | **ASSIGNMENT 1**  
Demo: Pinch pots  
Work in class |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Week 3**  | January 23 & 25 | Continue exploration of pinch pots  
Slide presentation  
Introduction to contemporary ceramic artists. | Basic Ceramic terms QUIZ  
Work Day  
Finish pinch pots over the weekend! |
| **Week 4**  | January 30th & February 1st | Introduction to second assignment  
STAMPS AND TEXTURES DEMO  
WORK DAY | WORK DAY  
FINISH STAMPS  
INTRODUCTION TO 3rd ASSIGNMENT  
Soft Sab (Pinterest) |
| **Week 5**  | February 6 & 8 | 3rd assignment proposal and sketch DUE  
DEMO  3rd Assignment SOFT SLAB | WORK DAY SOFT SLAB  
SURFACES DEMO  
(Engobes) |
| **Week 6**  | February 13 & 15 | WORK DAY SOFT SLAB  
GLAZING DEMO! | WORK DAY  
INTRODUCTION TO 4TH ASSIGNMENT(Pinterest)  
COIL PROJECT  
GLAZING  
Finish assignment 3 |
| **Week 7**  | February 20 & 22  
Monday  
NO CLASS | **NO CLASS**  
PRESIDENTS DAY  
GLAZING  
Finish assignment 3 | Assignment 4 proposal and sketch DUE  
DEMO 4TH ASSIGNMENT  
WORKDAY  
GLAZING |
| **Week 8**  | February 27th & March 1st | WORK DAY assignment 4  
CERAMICS LECTURE  
(Prep for midterm) | WORKDAY assignment 4  
GLAZING |
| **Week 9**  | March 6 & 8 | WORKDAY assignment 4 (finishing up)  
MID-TERM TEST  
GLAZING  
INTRO TO ASSIGNMENT 5 (Pinterest) | 5th assignment proposal and sketch DUE  
Demo assignment 5  
GLAZING |
| **Week 10**  | SPRING BREAK  
NO CLASS | SPRING BREAK  
NO CLASS  
GLAZING  
Work on assignment 5 | SPRING BREAK  
NO CLASS  
GLAZING  
Work on assignment 5 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>March 20 &amp; 22</th>
<th>WORK DAY</th>
<th>INTRO TO ASSIGNMENT 6 (Pinterest)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ART EVENT PAPER DUE ON CANVAS</td>
<td>Finish assignment 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>March 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>6th assignment proposal and sketch DUE</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINISH ALL GREENWARE!!!! FINAL DAYS TO MAKE WORK...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINISH ALL GREENWARE!!!! FINAL DAYS TO MAKE WORK...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>April 17 &amp; 19</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINISH ALL GREENWARE!!!! FINAL DAYS TO MAKE WORK...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Monday April 24th</td>
<td>FINAL GLAZE FIRING</td>
<td>WORK DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASS</td>
<td>FINAL GLAZE FIRING!!!!</td>
<td>GLAZING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANDATORY CLEAN UP!!!!</td>
<td></td>
<td>FINISH ALL GREENWARE!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GROUP FINAL CRITIQUE</td>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL DAYS TO MAKE WORK...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINALS WEEK</td>
<td>April 27th May 3rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL CRITIQUE: TBA (By appointment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** This schedule is not set in stone. Be strong enough to bend. Dates and assignments may change due to how the class is progressing, firing schedules, the alignment of the planets and the Chaos Theory. ***

**ADDING OR DROPPING**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

It is the responsibility of the student to enroll in the class by the add deadline (http://www.sa.utah.edu/regist/pages/Deadlines.html). The Department will not sign late slips. It is also the responsibility of the student to make sure that dropping or withdrawing from the class has been officially completed in the Registrar’s office.
ADA Notice
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in the course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Service.

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

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>Monday, January 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add without a permission code</td>
<td>Friday, January 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add, drop (delete), elect CR/NC, or audit classes</td>
<td>Friday, January 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to withdraw from classes</td>
<td>Friday, March 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to reverse CR/NC option</td>
<td>Friday, April 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes end</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>Wed, April 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam period</td>
<td>Thurs-Wed, April 27-May 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>