BEGINNING CERAMICS SYLLABUS

CLASS STRUCTURE
The focus of the class will be on the making of functional pottery using the potter’s wheel as a tool. There will be three critiques equally spaced over the semester based on three assignments, the making of cylindrical vases designed to hold flowers, the making of six lidded jars, and the making of six teapots. Live demonstrations and lectures will be presented on the first day of each week’s classes, and the second day will be devoted to focusing on making work.

The following subjects will be included as part of the instruction: Clay body formulation, glaze chemistry, kiln firing, and a survey of the history of ceramics with a comprehensive focus on the contemporary scene of the state of the art.

You will be expected to keep a journal documenting the hours you have worked outside of class, with sketches of your progress. The sketchbook/journal will be an important component of how you will be assessed at the end of the semester.

SYLLABUS NOTES
All art classes that were not previously online have been changed to the “Hybrid” format. This means that we will accommodate face to face instruction, insofar as we are able to do so safely, in combination with live-streamed remote instruction and contact with your professor and classmates. Your professor will let you know how this works for your class and your situation. This change will give us the ability to be flexible to changing conditions throughout the semester and will help us create a safe environment for students and professors.

SAFETY
Masks:
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.

wash hands often, especially before and after you touch any equipment

clean wheels, tools, and work stations after you’re done

no working while another class is in session

dress ready to work and get dirty, and no open toed shoes such as sandals

advanced class mask policy for clay mixing and glaze preparation – if you have a fitted mask from last semester, use it. Otherwise buy a particle filter mask that fits you properly.
Students must not touch any equipment – wheels, extruders, clay mixers, slab rollers, and kilns – without having been thoroughly checked out on that equipment by me or a graduate assistant.

If you are using a clay mixer you must be accompanied by another student so you’re not alone, and there must be a graduate student in the studio to make sure you are doing the job safely.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
You miss more than three classes without a doctor’s excuse and your grade goes down one level, from an A to a B for example. And for every class missed after that, you grade goes down one letter. Arriving to class late or leaving early will also affect your grade.

STUDIO ACCESS POLICY
I have an open studio policy where you can enter the studio at any hour, day or night, to work and to fire kilns. After 12th class day your school ID passes will work on the door locks at the front and the back doors of the studio. The one caveat is not to work in the classroom when another class is in session. Also, if you come into the studio at night, for instance, when there is no class in session, you cannot bring a friend or a family member. You must be clean and sober, and treat the area with the utmost respect.

GRADING POLICY
The final grade will have to be a letter grade, but during the semester at each of the three critiques I will give assessments based on the success of the student’s pursuit of excellence - HQE (high quality endeavor), QE (quality endeavor), NMW (needs more work), and HFC (hurtin’ for certain), factoring in the quality of the work, attitude, participation, behavior, work ethic, and attendance. Those assessments translate roughly to an A, B, C, and a D or an F.

D2L AND EMAILING
We will be using D2L for announcements, discussion, etc., and all emailing between the students and me will be done on the official class list emailing system.