SFA School of Art
ART 250.002 (CERAMICS I) 29008
Spring 2020

Instructor: Piero Fenci
Office: Ceramics Studio (I don’t have a Traditional office with a door)

Course Time & Location:
Mon/Wed 2:00 – 4:40 pm, Upper Art Building

Phone: (936) 554-6895 (cell)
Credits: 3
Email: pfenci@sfasu.edu

I. Course Description:
3 semester hours, 6 hours studio, 6 hours assigned independent study per week. Introductory study of clay as an artistic medium. Fall, Spring. No Prerequisites

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:
The goal of this class is to teach you the fundamentals of how to work with clay as an artistic medium. The emphasis will be on the potter's wheel, although off-the wheel methods such as slab building will be used in combination with wheel thrown forms. you will use both on and off-the wheel methods to create and design vessels that are well crafted, thoughtful, and poetic.

You will not only learn how to manipulate clay, but you will gain an understanding of clay body formulation, slip and glaze chemistry, glazing and kiln firing so that you can apply and use this knowledge in your own work.

We will continue our visiting artist program where a well known ceramist will visit for two days to lecture, demonstrate, and discuss ceramic issues with you.

The semester will be divided into roughly three equal segments followed by three graded critiques. The emphasis will be on “quality” and how to achieve it in your work. The assignments are not mere projects. Each of your assignments will be a month long, intensive investigation the result of which will be finished pieces of art that reflect the ideal of a “high quality endeavor.”

A. Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Undergraduate students will exhibit proficiency in the application of technical and problem solving skills appropriate to their designated concentration, as well as developing individual creativity.

B. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will be capable of unique expression, striving towards excellence in craft and attention to detail.
2. The student will develop technical competency in working with clay.
3. The student will explore clay as a medium of personal aesthetic expression.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability in working on the wheel to construct functional and sculptural work. Analysis of glaze formulation and glazing and firing techniques will be introduced.
5. The student will use the skills earned throughout the semester and will demonstrate the capacity to discern “quality” and how to apply it in their work. Quality is judged by the level of initiative, craftsmanship, intelligence, inventiveness, and dedication to the work being done for the class.
III. Course Assignments:

- Project 1: Working on the wheel make 15 cylindrical vases designed to hold flowers.
- Project 2: Make 3 sets of bowls and platters.
- Project 3: Teapots: Make two traditional and one sculptural.

Note: The projects may shift gears a bit to accommodate the individual personality of the class.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

Your grade will be a reflection of your professional attitude in the studio, attendance, sketchbook, research, homework assignments, participation in class discussions, and finished work graded during the three critiques.

Criteria:
- **Participation.** You are responsible for your success and you will play a pivotal role in the group dynamic of the class. Therefore, attendance, a strong work ethic, and active participation in all aspects of this course are essential.
- **Assignments.** All work must be completed on time and ready for critique. Preparatory work will be taken into account when evaluating your comprehension and effort. The assignments should be completed according to the strictures of the project, and presented in a professional manner.
- **Sketchbooks** will be kept for specific assignments, preliminary work and thumbnail sketches. Outside of class sketching is encouraged. Think of your sketchbook as a creative journal for experimentation and discovery.
- **Work Days** come to class prepared and ready to work. Be present and focused on your work during class time (your behavior is also considered as part of your grade). *Get your supplies outside of class time.
- **Critiques** will occur the day the project is due.
- Plan on at least **6 hours** of out of class work each week.
- **Productivity > quantity, time, effort > is key to your progress!**
- **Studio Habits.** Good studio habits are necessary to maintain a clean, safe and healthy working environment. The last 15 minutes of class will be reserved for clean up. The tools should be cleaned and cared for in a professional manner.
- **Cell phones and pagers, must be turned off during class.**

Grading:

Grades will be given on a standard scale:
- **A** 90-100 = Requirements met with excellent achievement, extra time and effort
- **B** 80-89.9 = Requirements met with good achievement and clear understanding of objectives
- **C** 70-79.9 = Requirements met with average effort and work
- **D** 60-69.9 = Requirements met with minimum effort and careless work
- **F < 60** = Minimum requirements not met, inadequate understanding of course material

Projects Grades:

- Project 1 = 20%
- Project 2 = 20%
- Project 3 = 25%
- Participation 12.5%
- Clean Up 12.5%
- Sketchbook / Notebook 10%

Total = 100%

The following will be considered when assessing your performance:
How well your assignments achieve their objective
Your understanding of the visual elements and principles, concepts and techniques covered in class, as shown in the work you produce
Creativity and conceptual innovation
Craft and presentation
Attendance and participation, including participation in critiques and discussions
Effort, ambition and initiative
Ability to work independently
Progress and growth

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

Weeks 1-5. First Project: Vases, introduction and workdays.
Week 16. Finals week.

VI. Readings

- Clay and Glazes for the Potter, Daniel Rhodes, Third Edition, (suggested reading, not required)
- Val Cushing’s technical Manual (supplied by the instructor, not required)

VII. Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the School of Art electronically evaluate courses taken within the COFA. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COFA faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the School of Art, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

Please note, evaluations and suggestions are welcome at any point throughout the semester, either through meeting, email, or anonymous comments left in my mailbox in the art office.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:

Attendance:

- The school of Art policy states that attendance is required.
- If a justifiable absence should occur, it is the responsibility of the student to make up all the work missed. A justifiable absence would be assigned MD’s excuse for an illness or a death in the family.
- More than two unexcused absences will cost the student a letter grade. Four absences and your grade will drop two letter grades.
- Three late arrivals (20 minutes) or leaving 20 minutes early will count as one unexcused absence.
- A student with 5 or more absences will fail the class.
- If a student misses a critique, it is the equivalent of failing an exam.

Studio Hours:
The studio is open 24/7 so take advantage of this open schedule. Students are required to work outside of class time to complete the assigned projects. **A minimum of SIX HOURS of outside work is expected.**

**Health and Safety**

The use of raw materials such as clay and glazes can be hazardous to your health. Proper use of the materials will be taught, but it will be up to you to follow the training in your daily practice.

If you are pregnant or should become pregnant while taking this course, or have a medical condition that could increase your sensitivity to chemical exposure, it is important for you to take all precautions concerning your own personal safety. While reasonable measures have been taken to insure your good health, there is a risk in the class of exposure to material that could prove harmful to persons at risk. Please contact the professor should you have questions or concerns.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students who need accommodations for certified disabilities should work through the Office of Disability Services and then your professor.

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Two strikes you are out of policy:**

The studio services many classes, so it is important to keep it clean, and the tools and your work in-progress in their proper place. If you abuse the privilege of using the studio once, you will be put on probation, and if you abuse it twice, you will fail the class.
Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

IX. Text and Materials:

Text (Optional)

Materials:
The material’s fee you paid at the beginning of school covers the clay, glazes, and kiln firings costs. The cost of tools will be reasonable, probably under twenty dollars.
- Pottery Tool Kit
- Spiral Sketchbook
- Plastic Bucket
- Big Sponge (for clean up)
- Clear thin Plastic.
- Spray Bottle.
- Scraper.
- Fork
- Towel (s)
- Work Clothes, including close toed shoes
- Hake Brush
- Lock for locker

X. Safety Rules.

- The equipment can be dangerous, and extreme caution must be exercised at all times. Before using any equipment you absolutely must be checked out by me or a graduate assistant. You must follow the rules, no exceptions.
- Closed toed shoes must be worn in the studio at all times.
- Wear a respirator when mixing glazes and when scraping kiln shelves.