SFA School of Art  
ART 550 section 001  
CRN: 22006  
Spring 2020  
Instructor: Piero Fenci  
Course Time - TBA, & Location - Ceramics Studio, Upper Art Building  
Office: Ceramics Studio (I don’t have a traditional office with a door)  
Phone: (936) 554-6895 (cell)  
Credits: 3  
Email: pfenci@sfasu.edu  
Course Description:  
3 semester hours, 6 hours studio, 6 hours independent study per week. MFA level study of clay as an artistic medium.  

Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:  
This course will teach graduate level techniques in working with clay as an artistic medium. The emphasis will be on whatever direction the student chooses, including wheel thrown forms, hand built forms using slabs, coils, and/or molds, or any combination of the above. The student in this course will devote their time to developing their own voice, personal investigation in an individual focus, research into historical and contemporary ceramics in the art world, and development of a conceptual direction in the medium, concentrating on making a body of work, including a graduate level understanding of clay body formulation, glaze chemistry, and kiln firing, all under my supervision.  

A. Program Learning Outcomes:  
1. The student 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.  

Course Assignments:  
The student will develop a body of work which is inventive, personal, and aesthetically at an MFA candidate level, as determined by the graduate faculty and the head of the ceramics area.  

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.  

Criteria  
- Participation. You are responsible for your success and you will play a pivotal role in the growth of your peers. 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  
  - 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. Materials should be returned
in better condition than when they were picked up.

- **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. 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.

**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 latter 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 safety, 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/](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](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 two times you will fail the class.

**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.

**Readings, Required Text Books:**
o Val Cushing’s technical Manual

**Materials:**
The material’s fee you paid at the beginning of school covers the clay, glazes, and kiln firings costs.

**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.