Instructor: Piero Fenci
Email: pfenci@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-554-689
Office: Office 153 (located in art studio 150A)
Office Hours: Appointment Only
Department: Department of Art
Class meeting time: T/R 2:00pm – 4:40pm
Class Location: Art Studio 150A

Course Description:
This course will stay away from the pottery wheel and focus on the hand-building techniques. The student will create ceramic sculptures using different methods of hand-building such as coil building and slab building. Advanced ceramics will gain knowledge on firing kilns and diving deeper into the chemistry that is found in glaze making and clay mixing.

Course Objectives:
• Students will become familiar with hand-building techniques such as coil and slab building
• Expand problem solving and critical thinking skills through the challenges given by the hand-building assignments
• Gain awareness of contemporary artists who are using clay and hand-building as a means of artistic expression
• Experiment with the many different hand-building techniques to create forms both common and unique
• Research and create ceramic glazes
• Experiment with glaze layering and application
• Learn and fire their work in the kilns

Course Outcomes:
At the completion of this course students will be able to:
• Understand and appreciate the importance of the ceramic object
• Apply their critical and thinking skills to their future disciplines and future art courses
• Give constructive feedback on peers work

Text and Materials required:
No text required for this course
• Sketchbook/Journal

Assignments:
This course will focus on ceramics away from the pottery wheel and more on hand-building techniques. Along with hand-building included in the instruction will be a comprehensive review of 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. There will be three critiques equally spaced over the semester based on three assignments:

Project One: Two Large coiled built Vessels
Project Two: Slab Building
Project Three: Three Vessels combining coil, slab, casting, and thrown elements

*Students who have taken this course before will choose what their path of focus such a throwing or hand-building. This class will act as more of an open studio class for experimentation and exploration.

Course Calendars:

**THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

This class will be split into three units and each section will focus on one project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 → Aug 23 – Aug 27</th>
<th>Syllabus and introduction to 1st Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 → Aug 30 – Sep 3</td>
<td>Project 1 Work day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 → Sep 6 – Sep 10</td>
<td>Project 1 Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 → Sep 13 – Sep 17</td>
<td>Project 1 Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 → Sep 20 – Sep 24</td>
<td>First Critique/Introduction to 2nd Project</td>
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<td>Week 6 → Sep 27 – Oct 1</td>
<td>Project 2 Work Day</td>
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<td>Week 7 → Oct 4 – Oct 8</td>
<td>Project 2 Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 → Oct 11 – Oct 15</td>
<td>Project 2 Work Day</td>
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<td>Week 9 → Oct 18 – Oct 22</td>
<td>Second Critique/Introduction to 3rd Project</td>
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<td>Week 10 → Oct 25 – Oct 29</td>
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<td>Week 11 → Nov 1 – Nov 5</td>
<td>Project 3 Work Day</td>
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<td>Week 12 → Nov 8 – Nov 12</td>
<td>Project 3 Work Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 → Nov 15 – Nov 19</td>
<td>Final Days for Bisque Firing &amp; Glazing Work</td>
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<td>Week 14 → Nov 22 – Nov 26</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong> (no classes)</td>
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<td>Week 15 → Nov 29 – Dec 3</td>
<td>Final Critique</td>
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<td>Week 16 → Dec 6 – Dec 10</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
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**Grading Policy:**
The final grade will be a letter grade that is determined throughout the semester by the three critiques. Each student will be assessed based on the quality of their work, attitude, participation, behavior, work ethic, and attendance.

- A → H.Q.E (High Quality Endeavor)
- B → Q.E (Quality Endeavor)
- C → N.M.W (Needs More Work)
- D/F → H.F.C (Hurtin’ For Certain)

Students are expected to keep a journal/sketchbook that will be used to document the hours worked outside of class (sketches of your progress), and notes taken during demos.

**Studio 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 where the student is 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.

When mixing clay and glazes a respirator must be worn at all times.

**Clean up**
Please wash hands often, especially before and after you touch any equipment
Thoroughly clean wheels, tools, glaze area, and work stations when finished using

**Clothing**
- **NO OPEN TOE SHOES**
- Refrain from wearing long sleeves and loose fitted clothing as there is a risk of getting caught in the machinery
- Long hair tied back to prevent it from getting caught in machinery
- Also keep in mind that ceramics is a dirty activity be prepared to get dirty and maybe bring extra clothing

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.
Students using a clay mixer must be accompanied by another student. Along with being accompanied by someone there needs to be a graduate student present in the studio.

**Studio Access Policy:**
There is an open studio policy where students in ceramic classes have access to the studio 24/7 at any hour, day or night, to work. After 12th class day your school ID passes will work on the main front door of the building.

No working in the studio during other class times.
When coming into the studio after hours students may not invite non ceramic students (no family, friends, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.)

**NO drugs or alcohol in the studio especially when using the studio equipment**

**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.

**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.

**Academic Integrity (4.1):**
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 when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a 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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf).

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5):**
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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**Students with Disabilities:**
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/.

**Mental Health and Wellness**
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFA Counseling Service
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401