Graduate Ceramics  
ARTS 5346 Section 1

Instructor: Piero Fenci  
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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

Class Description:
This course is a self-disciplined studio class that stresses advancement in technique, visual expression, and aesthetic aspects of ceramics as an art form. Students will focus on their personal visual exploration and experimentation in ceramics. Students will participate in studio upkeep and clay production for undergraduate students. 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.

Course Objectives:
- Students will become familiar with studio and kiln upkeep and maintain
- Expand problem solving and critical thinking gained from personal experimenting and exploration
- Glaze and clay exploration and formulation
- Gain and expand skills in research
- Knowledge in the history of the ceramic object, glaze and clay formulation

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 peer work
- Maintain and run a ceramic studio

Text and Materials Required:
Graduates will be provided with texts:
- Clay and Glazes for the Potter by Daniel Rhodes
- Val Cushing’s workbook
Materials
- Sketchbook/Journal

Grading Policy:
The final grade will be a letter grade that is determined throughout the semester by the 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.

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](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/](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](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401