SFA School of Art  
Graduate Ceramics - ARTS 5346 001

Fall 2023  
Instructor: Erik Ordaz  
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Phone: 936-244-2256  
Office: Ceramics studio  
Office Hours: M/W 9:00 – 11:00 am @ Ceramics studio (by appointment)  
Class meeting time and place: T/R 2:00 – 4:40. Upper Art Building  
Credits: 3

I. Course Description:

ARTS 5346. 3 semester hours, 6 hours studio, 6 hours independent study per week. Hands-on practice and study of clay as an artistic medium with emphasis on advanced ceramic techniques. A thorough study and understanding of ceramic materials to create and design well crafted, thoughtful artworks.

This course introduces students to fundamental and advanced techniques in ceramics. Through a series of hands-on projects and demonstrations, students will develop essential skills in working with ceramic materials. The course emphasizes creativity, craftsmanship, and problem-solving in the context of functional and sculptural pottery.

You will not only learn how to manipulate clay, but you will also gain advanced understanding of clay body formulation, slip and glaze uses, 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.

II. Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Graduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.
2. Graduate students will exhibit a high level of proficiency in the use of materials, techniques and media.
3. Graduate students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving and creativity.
4. Graduate students will define and state their knowledge of Art Historical precedents.

III. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate proficiency with various ceramic techniques, including coils, slabs, slip casting, and wheel throwing.
2. Students will be able to create various basic and complex forms and employ different surface decoration and glazing techniques to enhance the aesthetic appeal of their work.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to construct functional and sculptural work.
4. Students will be able to understand the basic properties of clay, glazes, and firing processes.
5. Students will demonstrate the capacity to apply critical thinking skills to analyze and critique their own and their peers' ceramic works.
6. Students will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural context of ceramics.
IV. Text and Materials (All books are suggested, not required)
• Clay and Glazes for the Potter, Daniel Rhodes
• The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques, Frank and Janet Hamer
• Mastering the Potter's Wheel: Techniques, Tips, and Tricks for Potters, Ben Carter
• Simon Leach's Pottery Handbook, Simon Leach
• Rocks and Minerals, Charles Sorrell
• The Potter’s Palette, Christine Constant and Steve Ogden

V. Course Assignments:
See projects sheet on D2L
Note: the projects may shift gears a bit to accommodate the individual personality of the class

VI. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):
Your grade will reflect your professional attitude in the studio, attendance, research, assignments, participation in class discussions, and finished work graded during critiques.

Participation. You are responsible for your own 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 consideration when evaluating your comprehension and effort. The assignments should be completed according to the structures of the project and presented in a professional manner. Don’t expect a full grade for unfinished work. Sketchbooks will be kept for specific assignments, preliminary work, and thumbnail sketches.

Workdays. 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). Critiques will occur at the beginning of the class as marked on the studio calendar. It is your responsibility to show on time and prepared.

Plan on at least 6 hours of out of class work each week.

Studio Habits. Good studio habits are necessary to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy working environment. The last 20 minutes of class will be reserved for cleanup. The tools should be cleaned and cared for in a professional manner. Cell phones must be turned off during class. Headphones are not allowed 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:
60% of your grade will be divided amongst all class projects.
Participation* = 20%
Cleanup/good studio practices = 20%
Total = 100%

*This includes and is not limited to research, reports, short presentations or essays, being present and engaged during visiting artists demos and talks, taking part in wood-firing activities, sketchbook, etc.

Updated: August 2023
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. 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 and won't be able to recover those points.

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 ensure your good health, there is a risk in the class of exposure to materials that could prove harmful to persons at risk. Please contact the professor should you have questions or concerns. Closed toe shoes are required to work in the studio. No headphones are allowed during class.

Academic Integrity
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Updated: August 2023
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub” Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

• Health Services
• Counseling Services
• Student Outreach and Support
• Food Pantry
• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub -- 936.468.4008 -- thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Updated: August 2023
VII. Tentative Course Calendar:

See annex.

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. This is a list of the basic things you will need:

• Sketchbook
• Towel(s)
• Work Clothes (including closed toe shoes)

You will be informed in advance about exact calendar dates and deadlines. Remember, the clay studio is a communal workspace. The last 20 minutes of every class will be reserved for clean-up. We will also have a mandatory clean up before each critique and a final clean up at the end of the semester. The instructor reserves the right to change, delete, or add to the course requirements and schedule at any time.

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.