I. Course Description:

ARTS 5346. 3 semester hours, 6 hours studio, 6 hours independent study per week. Advanced 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 courses, which will prepare them for advanced coursework in their chosen field.
2. Graduate students will exhibit proficiency in the application of technical and problem-solving skills appropriate to their designated concentration, as well as developing individual creativity.
3. Graduate students will compare their progress against models of excellence in the visual arts, which are provided through high quality extracurricular and extramural art activities.
4. Graduate students will design and implement art activities for the larger art community appropriate to their designated field.

III. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Graduate students will demonstrate proficiency with various ceramic techniques, including coils, slabs, slip casting, and wheel throwing as well as basic knowledge of glaze chemistry.
2. Graduate 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. Graduate students will demonstrate the ability to construct functional and sculptural work.
4. Graduate students will be able to understand the basic properties of clay, glazes, and firing processes.
5. Graduate students will demonstrate the capacity to apply critical thinking skills to analyze and critique their own and their peers’ ceramic works.
6. Graduate 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
- Ceramic Science for the Potter, W.G. Lawrence
- Ceramic Glazes, Cullen W. Parmelee
- Mastering the Potter's Wheel: Techniques, Tips, and Tricks for Potters, Ben Carter
- Simon Leach's Pottery Handbook, Simon Leach
- The Ceramic Process, Anton Reijnders
- The Arcanum, Janet Gleason
- Copper Red Glazes, Robert Tichane
- Those Iron Blues, Robert Tichane
- Industrial Ceramics, Singer, Felix and Singer, Sonja S
- Glazes and Glass Coatings, Eppler and Eppler
- Rocks and Minerals, Charles Sorrell
- The Potter’s Palette, Christine Constant and Steve Ogden
- A Handbook to Pottery Glazes, David Green
- The Chemistry and Physics of clay and other ceramic materials, Alexandre Brongniart
- Ceramic Colors and pottery decorations, Kenneth Shaw

V. 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

Updated: January 2024
Projects Grades:
60% of your grade will be divided amongst all class projects.
Participation* = 20%
Cleanup/good studio practices = 20%
Total = 100%

Graduate Students enrolled in ARTS 5346 will be expected to complete a more rigorous program of study than undergraduates in the parallel ARTS 4346; this will include more intensive examinations and a research based on their personal artistic production in the studio.

*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.

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 for 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.

Student Syllabus Resources
Visit this URL for additional policies and information: https://www.sfasu.edu/student-syllabus-resources

Information on the following is available at Student Syllabus Resources:
- Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)
- Academic Integrity (HOP 04-106)
- Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (HOP policy 02-206)
- Students with Disabilities and Disability Services
- Student Wellness and Well-Being
- Additional Campus Resources
- Crisis Resources

Updated: January 2024
VIII. 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.