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Ceramics I (110-251)

Content of the Course

The first four to five weeks of the semester will be devoted to hand building non-functional or sculptural pieces. Students will be introduced to the hand built techniques of slab rolling, pinching and coiling. Approximately two to three projects will be assigned before advancing to the potter's wheel. The remaining weeks of the semester will be devoted to using the potter's wheel, as well as learning about glazing and firing techniques. Students will be introduced to throwing traditional pottery forms. Approximately six quality pieces per assigned form will be expected each week.

Pottery forms may include:

- Cylinders
- Bowls with turned feet
- Cups and pitchers with pulled handles
- Vases and bottles
- Covered jars.

Kiln loading and firing is usually done by the professors or the advanced students. However beginning students are encouraged to learn about these processes if they are interested. Firing techniques include a variety of processes such as stoneware reduction firing, salt/vapor firing, pit firing, and raku firing. Slide lectures/video presentations regarding contemporary, historical, aesthetic, and technical topics will be offered throughout the semester.

Tool Supplies

Students can purchase a set of pottery tools in class using lab fee cards. In addition to the tool kit, students will need a large synthetic clean-up sponge, a towel, a plastic bucket, a padlock and a notebook. Lost tools may be replaced by purchasing single ones. A variety of additional tools not found in the tool kits are also available.

Clay

All of the clay used in the studio is blended and mixed from scratch. Ceramics I and Ceramics II students will mix clay as a group. Advanced students have the option to mix their own personal batches. Clay prices are announced at the beginning of each semester. Clay is purchased with lab fee cards.

General Lab Fee

All students enrolled in any level of ceramics must pay a lab fee. This fee allows the studio to purchase glaze materials as well as expendable items such as roll plastic, plastic bags, pyrometric cones, masking tape etc. The lab fee amount for this course is \$30.00 which is paid for through lab fee cards.

How to Purchase a Lab Fee Card

1. Go to the university cashier (check for hours of operation) and buy as many \$5.00 increments as needed. Inform the cashier that the money is for art department material fee cards. A receipt will be issued.
2. Present the receipt to the art department secretary. Specify that the receipt is for ceramics. Lab fee cards will then be issued.
3. Present the lab fee card(s) to either ceramic professor in order to pay for the ceramic lab fee or to purchase clay and/or tools.

You must have a lab fee card to purchase materials. NO I.O.U.'s.

Textbook

Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight.

This book is available at the textbook rental.

Library

There are many books and periodicals devoted to all phases of ceramics in the main campus library. The ceramics office also receives several magazines which can be checked out: Ceramics Monthly, Studio Potter, American Ceramics, ClayTimes, and Ceramics:Technical.

Grading

Final grades are established from the quality of work produced for each assignment. However effort,enthusiasm,willingness to help with various shop duties and attendance are also considered in determining final grades.

Handing in Assignments

All projects are expected to be completed on assigned due dates at which time a group critique of all student work will take place. Tentative grades will be entered for each project prior to the finished processes of glazing and firing. Final grades for each assignment will then be recorded upon the completion of firing.

Projects Handed in Late

Projects turned in late will drop one letter grade for every class period it is overdue.

Attendance

We follow the policy set by the Art Department. Classes meeting three times a week allows for three unexcused absences without penalty to the final grade. However every three unexcused absences thereafter will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter grade. Classes meeting two times per week allows for two unexcused absences. However every two unexcused absences thereafter will result in the lowering of the final grade by one letter grade. Excused absences may include health related problems, funerals, field trips, religious holidays, etc. Please call your professor if you anticipate an excused absence.

Finals

There is no final written exam. All work will be evaluated at the assigned exam period during finals week. Failure to show up for the exam time will result in an F for the final grade.