

Charlie Olson, Prof.
Office: 1037CA
Phone: 472-1318
Office hours: Posted
Email: olsonc@uww.edu

Ceramics III (110-353)
Ceramics IV (110-454/654)
Ceramics V Research (110-455/655)

Course Content

These three levels of advanced ceramics are usually combined and taught together during the same class period. Students at all levels will be involved in various methods of clay manipulation. Demonstrations and specific assignments will be presented for Ceramics III students. However, assignments and expectations for Ceramics IV and V students will be determined after consultation between the Professor and student.

Areas covered throughout the semester for all levels may include:

- Advanced handbuilding/throwing techniques
- Teapot sets
- Plates/platters with turned feet
- Covered vessels
- Dinnerware sets
- Two (or more) piece combined forms
- Distortion/alteration of form
- Throwing off the hump
- Mold-making
- Slip casting
- Hump molds
- Press molds

Advanced glaze and clay formulation, as well as glazing techniques specific to various firing atmospheres will be discussed.

Some of these areas may include:

- Copper reds
- Celedons
- Chuns
- Shinos
- Raku glazes
- Low fire glazes
- Underglazes
- Lusters
- Salt glaze effects
- Terra sigillata
- Vitreous engobes

Flashing slips
Wax and latex rubber resist
Spraying and airbrushing
Sandblasting
Special clay bodies

All students are required to be actively involved in clay and glaze experimentation, as well as kiln loading and firing. The level of participation in these activities will be part of a student's final grade.

Methods of firing artwork is left to the discretion/interest of the student. Possibilities include gas reduction firing, oxidation firing, salt/vapor firing, pit firing, sagger firing, raku firing and possibly wood firing.

It is assumed that students enrolled in this course have started to realize a personal direction relating to their involvement in the ceramic arts. Refinement of the student's creative skills and critical thinking will be addressed throughout the semester.

Critiques and grading of projects/research will be conducted every two weeks throughout the semester.

Prereq: 110-352, 110-353, 110-454/654, respectively.

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. 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 variable and 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

Clay and Glazes for the Potter, by Daniel Rhodes

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.