

Ceramics I

Arts 2346.001

Schedule: M-W 2:00pm - 4:50pm

Location: Art Annex: Ceramics/Sculpture Building room 00102

Instructor: Gregory Tegarden

**Contact: Office: FAB 010, 432-837-8405 or Art Annex, (Studio): 432-837-8280
gtegarden@sulross.edu. Please put "Ceramics I" in the subject heading.**

Office Hours: 8:30am – 9:30am M/T/W/TR or by appointment.

Final Exam/Critique: Wednesday, December 10 @ 3:00pm. The time might change but the day is set in stone! All students must attend. No exceptions.

Text: None required.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to fine arts ceramics. The student will learn the skills of handbuilding processes, which include pinching, slab constructing and coil building. However at the end of the semester the student will get on the wheel for a short introduction to throwing. There will be approximately six major projects, most of which will require the student to make more than one object. Most work will be fired in high-fire reduction or (maybe) a high fire soda kiln. Bonfire/Pit, and Raku firing processes may also be included if time is allotted. Each student will mix clay at least once during the semester. Students will learn to unload/load bisque and glaze kilns, and how to maintain kiln shelves. A simple glaze-making project may be assigned. Students will learn how to apply even coats of glaze in appropriate thicknesses. Significant out class time will be required. Students are required to be familiar with material on the safety agreement and may be tested on it at any time. A midterm test will be given on techniques, vocabulary and safety in the studio.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will use clay and a variety of slips and glazes in order to gain knowledge of the medium as a whole.
2. The student will become competent in basic hand building and glazing techniques.
3. The student will gain the sensitivity to be able to gauge the appropriate wetness of the material for a particular process.
4. The student will begin to learn about using the potter's wheel.
5. The student will successfully work with form, proportion and surface in three-dimensional ceramic objects.
6. The student will begin to learn about loading and firing kilns.
7. The student, through working with all the processes of the medium, will attain the critical thinking skills required to finish a work of art.
8. The student will learn communication and teamwork skills in the studio environment.
9. The student will learn empirically through demonstrations on each project while quantitatively gaining an understanding of functional ceramics through the repetition of forms in each project.

10. The student will become aware of the scope of historical and contemporary ceramic art.
11. The student will learn teamwork skills through working in groups making clay, loading/unloading kilns, and “Quick Fire Challenges”...group projects.
12. The student will begin to gain a broader understanding of the scope of the medium with an introduction into philosophical issues surrounding the field.
13. The student will begin to gain an understanding of personal and social responsibilities in a studio environment.

Evaluation:

You will be graded on participation (which includes work related in the upkeep of the studio and in class discussions), 8 projects (Greenware completion,) a midterm test and the final critique (all finished GLAZED work). Details and demos on each assignment will be presented when assigned.

Participation: 15%

Projects (Greenware Critiques): 30%

Midterm Test: 15%

Final Critique: 40%

Participation:

- I expect all students to participate in discussions, and if you rarely or never offer thoughtful comments or questions, you will only get half credit for your participation grade. If you aren't comfortable speaking in front of the class, please come talk to me.
- I also expect you to work well with others and to help each other out while maintaining the studio. This will be the other half of your participation grade.

ASIDE: There will be opportunities to earn extra credit by attending art events.

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

- ¶ Students will be expected to have a sketch/notebook every day in class with a writing implement. The sketch/notebook will hold all class handouts student's notes and sketches. Students arriving without a notebook may be recorded as absent. We will not wait as students go to get sketch/notebook or pencils. Taking careful notes during demonstrations and using them will greatly improve a student's success. Sketching is also a good practice for a student to implement into their making process.
- ¶ Completion of all projects assigned. See grading sheet.
- ¶ There will be a critique given after each project- attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend class on critique days is excusable only in cases of dire emergency i.e., severe illness or a death in the family. Students missing the final exam should expect their grade to be lowered a full grade.
- ¶ **All work must be marked with a student's initials or stamp.**

- ¶ Participation in preparation of clay and glazes for class use; students will be assigned a mixing partner or partners and will mix clay or glazes as necessary at least once during the semester. Do not waste work; avoid putting usable clay in slop barrels.
- ¶ Participation in loading and unloading of class kilns
- ¶ All project work and outside work to be graded must be available for review at the end of the semester. Due to space limitations fired finished work may not be stored in the ceramics studios. If work will not fit in lockers, students must make other arrangements for safe storage- i.e., take work home, etc. Again, all work must be available for review at semester's end.
- ¶ Studio Safety and Hygiene: we will read, sign, and hand in the student agreement, attached. All students are required to clean up their work areas before leaving the studio and do other studio cleaning as necessary. At the beginning of the semester all students must be checked off before leaving class.
- ¶ All work, tools and other belongings, must be removed from the studio the last day of finals week by noon. (In the summer session by the end of the day of finals). The studio will be cleaned and remaining personal belongings and clay work may be thrown out.
- ¶ **BREAKAGE, LOSS, FIRING ACCIDENTS:** Ceramics is fragile; firing is difficult and full of unknowns, especially in a group situation. It is inevitable that some pieces will be lost, broken, or misfired. While losses are regrettable they will happen. The faculty and Sul Ross State University cannot be held liable for such accidents. Students should handle work carefully and as little as possible. All work must be marked with a student's initials or stamp.

LOCKERS: See me to reserve a locker in the dog run. You will need one.

STUDIO HOURS:

You may use the Ceramics Lab any time when the studio is open except during class time for the other sections of Ceramics or during floor cleaning. We will try to work on the buddy system... if some is using the studio you are welcome to be in there...the last person out shuts all doors and turns out lights. If the studio is locked you are out of luck. **You may not use any power tools (except glaze mixer drill) while unsupervised by your professor. You may not load, unload or fire a kiln with out professor's approval.**

This class will involve work in the studio **outside** of class time.

- ¶ The building will be open nights and weekends. Check on the front door or with me for more details.
- ¶ **CALENDAR:** Ceramics is a time sensitive medium. Allowing projects to dry slow and even makes work less prone to cracking and easier to manipulate. Consequently work completed late in the semester will have a greater chance of cracking in the drying process. It is often possible to finish a piece in a small fraction of the time it would take to do it in one week if you spread the work out.

- Occasionally there is too much work to fire in the last week. If the work was glazed before the last day to glaze and it was on the racks to be fired before the last day for them to be placed there it will be graded as if it was glaze fired. Work still needing firing may be brought back into ceramics at the beginning of the next long semester for firing. It may not be left in the studio between semesters. Work left in the studio between semesters will be thrown away.

Attendance:

- ▮ Nine absences result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of “F” as per university policy. Upon the 4th unexcused absence you will be dropped one letter grade. Upon the 6th unexcused absence you will be dropped another letter grade. And upon the 8th unexcused absence you will be dropped yet another letter grade. Plain and simple... attendance is crucial to your survival in this course.
- ▮ If you must miss a class for a school-related activity, the absence must be discussed (and arrangements made regarding coursework) prior to the absence. If you must miss a class for an emergency or illness, please contact me by email or phone as soon as possible and provide documentation (such as a doctor’s note). Late work will not be accepted, unless you have contacted me about extenuating circumstances before the due date. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- ▮ **Arriving to class on time is essential. Being late three times will count as an unexcused absence.**
- ▮ **Students are expected to attend the entire class time unless they have made prior arrangements with me in advance. Students who leave early or get up and leave class for any other reason without notifying me will be counted as absent for that day.**
- ▮ There will be no “make-up” work allowed unless your name appears on the explained absence list. It will be the student’s responsibility to contact the professor and make the necessary arrangements.
- ▮ Plagiarizing, cheating, or any other dishonest behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. Rules and regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook. A student found to be engaging in these activities will be penalized to the full extent of university policy.
- ▮ My recommendation about cheating, is **DON’T** do it. It is not worth it! In my opinion, academic honesty is of the utmost importance. My personal policy is to give you a failing grade in the course if you are caught cheating on an examination or plagiarizing in a paper. My advice to you is to do the best you can on your own. When in doubt about how to reference information from outside sources, please ask my advice. I am more than happy to help you.
- ▮ **Interruptions due to electronic devices will not be tolerated...this includes text messaging! Turn phones OFF! The only exceptions will be emergency personnel and official university business.**
- ▮ **Earbuds are not allowed during class time for safety reasons.**

ADA NEEDS:

- ¶ It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If a student would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator in the Ferguson Hall, room 112 or call (432) 837-8691. Please relate all requests for special accommodations to the instructor by the third class period.

Tools: Mark all tools with a permanent marker.

- ¶ This list is intended only as a guide- you may find you need or want other tools.
- ¶ Potters tool kit.
- ¶ Serrated rib
- ¶ 1 gallon bucket (minimum.) The bucket should be big enough to really clean your hands but not so big that it is too tall to get your hands inside of.
- ¶ Thin plastic drop cloths (.03 mm) for covering work.
- ¶ Rubber gloves available for glazing.
- ¶ Work clothes: You might want to keep a change of clothes that you can get very dirty in your locker, also closed top, sensible shoes. You cannot mix clay or use potter's wheels wearing sandals or high heels or loose clothing or hanging jewelry.
- ¶ Hair control devices: long hair must be tied back when using potter's wheel, mixing clay, using the grinder, or firing kilns.

LAB FEES

There is a \$100.00 lab fee for Ceramics I. This fee will cover clay, glaze materials and firings of work done for class only. All lab fees must be paid into the Art Stores Account at the Cashier's office in Lawrence Hall and a receipt provided to the professor no later than Wednesday, September 3, 2013.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

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Students will work periodically in groups to make clay, mix glazes, and load/unload kilns. TEAMWORK PEOPLE!

WEEK 1 Introduction:

9/25 Syllabus review and **Quick Fire Challenge!**

9/27 First pinch pot introduction.

WEEK 2 Pinch pots and slabs.

9/1 Labor Day

9/3 Studio work...Demo lids for pinch pots.

WEEK 3 Slab plates with feet 5, Slab Vases 2.

9/8 Greenware critique on first pinchpots 8, Slab demo.

9/10 Studio work, Make Clay Group 1...slab plates, Slab Vase demo.

WEEK 4 Slab Vases, Moche Pot (coil building)... tradition and history of the ceramic form. Joining the culture of potters from the dawn of man. OWN IT!

9/15 Critique slabs w/feet 5.

9/17 Studio work, Make Clay Group 2...vases, coil building demo.

WEEK 5 Moche Pot, Teapot with 2 Tea bowls

9/22 Critique Slab vases 2. Glazing Demo.

9/24 Studio work...Moche Pot. Teapot demo

WEEK 6 Tea pot, 2 extra hand built projects of students choice.

9/29 Critique Moche Pot.

10/1 Studio work, Make Clay Group 3...

- WEEK 7** **Throwing**
10/6 Critique Teapot.
10/8 Studio work, Make Clay Group 1...Throwing Demo.
- WEEK 8** **20 Cylinder prints.**
10/13 Studio work, Make Clay Group 2...
10/15 Studio work...
- WEEK 9** **Cylinders into Tumblers.**
10/20 Make Clay Group 3, 20 Prints due...Throwing Demo "Finishing Skills."
10/22 Studio work...Tumblers 10
- WEEK 10** **Tumblers 10, Cups w/handles**
10/27 Studio work...Handle Demo.
10/29 Critique Tumblers 10
- WEEK 11** **Cups w/handles, Extra Throwing Project**
11/3 Studio work...
11/5 Studio work...
- WEEK 12** **Extra throwing Project**
11/10 Critique Cups w/handles. Studio work...
11/12 Studio work...
- WEEK 13** **Glazing, cleaning, and loading**
11/17 Critique Extra Throwing Project, Studio work...
11/19 Studio work...
- WEEK 14** **Glazing, cleaning, and loading**
11/24 Studio work...Clean!
11/26 **Last Day For Wet Clay!**
- WEEK 15**
12/1 Last day to glaze... Clean!
12/3 Mandatory Cleaning day! You miss this day you drop a letter grade.
- Week 16** **Finals...**
12/10 **Final Critique and Potluck! 3:00 p.m.**

*Dates subject to change.

SAFETY RULES AND STUDENT AGREEMENT

The studio telephone may be used to call campus emergency. The number **8100**. The off campus emergency number **911** may also be used.

- ___ Read sign, date, and hand in one copy, keep top copy for your information.
- ___ Students will not glaze the interior of any object that can hold liquids with glazes marked "NEVER a liner".
- ___ Clay dust is hazardous. No brooms or brushes may be used to clean. Wet clean only. Do not trim bone-dry pots.
- ___ No chemicals, clays or glazes may be brought into the ceramics studio without the instructor's permission.
- ___ No kilns may be fired without the instructor's permission.
- ___ Students may not use dry glaze chemicals without the instructor's permission. Permission to use materials in containers without a black band must be obtained each time the material is used.
- ___ **Beginning students may use supplied dust masks for mixing dry clay and glaze materials. Graduate, Advanced and Intermediate Students are required to own and wear HEPA® quality respirators when handling any dry materials.** If you have a heart or respiratory condition, consult your doctor before using a respirator or dust mask.
- ___ No food in the ceramics studio. When using glaze materials students should wear gloves and wash their hands after using them. Clothes with glaze materials on them should be changed after class.
- ___ Safety goggles or face shield must be worn when using the grinder, looking in a kiln spy hole, or cleaning kiln shelves.
- ___ Long hair must be tied back and/or covered securely when using the clay mixer, grinder, or when firing kilns.
- ___ Clothing made from synthetic materials may not be worn when firing kilns.
- ___ Do not walk under roll door as it is opening or closing. Keep doors closed as much as possible. Do not roll the wet clay barrels outside.
- ___ Closed toe, low-heeled shoes... "sensible shoes", are required to be in the studio. Loose clothing, loose skirts and hanging jewelry are not safe when mixing clay.
- ___ Students are forbidden to put hands, tools, or any parts of their bodies inside the clay mixer when it is running.
- ___ No storage of personal belongings in the ceramics studio. Personal items in classroom may be kept only on shelves assigned to each student. It is recommended that students keep tools locked up. The instructor and the University are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Grad. studios and Louis' office may not be entered without permission.
- ___ Students will remove all of their work from the studio by the end of the last day of final exams. No materials will be left in the Ceramics studio between semesters. Any work or belongings left in the studio after 3:00 PM the last day of finals will be thrown away.
- ___ Children and visitors are never allowed on the kick potters wheels or in the glaze area. Visiting children must be closely supervised. No visitors may use the equipment or materials without special permission of the instructor.
- ___ No smoking in the kiln yard, sculpture scrap yard, or anywhere on campus except in

personal vehicles.

- ___ No drugs or alcohol allowed in the studio or on one's person at any time. If the professor smells or believes that a student is intoxicated in any form the professor reserves the right to send the student home regardless of work completed.
- ___ The instructor reserves the right to bar any student from use of any or all ceramic tools and materials mentioned if the student is seen using them in an unsafe manner, even if this prevents the student from meeting course requirements and results in a failing grade. Appeals are addressed by the Dean of Students, and the University Safety Officer.
- ___ I have read and understand all policies listed here, and agree to conduct myself accordingly.

X _____ DATE _____

Printed name _____