

**Art 2379: Beginning Ceramics**  
**11-1:40 T/R, Spring semester 2009**  
**Merrie Wright, Assistant Professor**  
**Office: 112 Art Studio**  
**Contact: merrie\_wright@uttyler.edu / 903-566-7423 (office)**  
**Office Hours: M, T, W 10-11am and by appointment**

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**Purpose/Objectives:** This course is designed as an introduction to studio ceramics for the student with little or no ceramics background. It is intended that the course provide the student with fundamental knowledge regarding ceramic vocabulary, materials, tools, methods of construction, surface resolution and firing. The course is designed to broaden the students understanding of clay as a fine art material and extend the students capacity for practical application of 2D and 3D design considerations.

**Text:** *The Craft and Art of Clay*, Susan Peterson, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (recommended)

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. During the semester you are allowed 3 absences- excused or unexcused. Students who miss more than 3 classes will be dropped one letter grade for the course, each additional absence lowers the final grade another letter grade. If you are late or leave early it is counted as an absence. This class requires daily participation, which means you must be here. Please note that in class participation is a part of your final grade. Missed demonstrations and lectures will not be repeated. It is your responsibility to make up for any missed class time. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to religious observance should inform the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class. Faculty should initial the request to indicate approval.

**Evaluation:** Your grade for each assignment will be determined by the following criteria:

- Completion of the assignment given (this includes following the criteria of the assignment and turning the completed assignment in by the due date)
- Technical skills
- Design skills
- Quality of the finished work
- Effort
- Craftsmanship
- Overall growth and development (improvement in skill)
- Experimentation
- In class participation

Each assignment requires a **MINIMUM OF 4-6 HOURS** of work outside of class. Studio hours will be posted outside the classroom. Effort and improvement are key aspects in determining your grade.

\*Poor attendance/participation and non-adherence to deadlines will result in a lowered grade.

**Projects:** 5 to 6 projects will be assigned during the semester. Assignments will cover basic hand building and wheel throwing techniques.

**Firing:** Only work that is completed will be fired. Cracked or poorly constructed work will not be fired. All work must be clearly signed to be fired. It is your responsibility to do the best work possible and to participate in kiln loading/unloading. Finished and critiqued

work must be taken out of the studio. Any unfired bisque ware left in the studio will be discarded after the end of the following semester. Students must RAKU fire their own work, procedures will be demonstrated in class.

**Critiques:** Critiques are a time when completed work is presented by all students for the purpose of receiving formal criticism, as well as a time to develop a vocabulary to effectively communicate your ideas to others. Critiques of finished work are like tests- unfinished work will not be critiqued or graded. Each assignment not presented at a critique will be deducted a full letter grade. Students are expected to actively participate in the critique process and are graded not only on work presented but also on participation.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university.

For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12<sup>th</sup> day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule include, but are not limited to, the following: totally withdrawing from the university; being administratively dropped from a course; dropping a course for a personal emergency; dropping a course for documented change of work schedule; or dropping a course for active duty service with the U.S. armed forces or Texas National Guard.

Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's Office if you have any questions.

### **Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Classroom Etiquette:** It is important to keep the studio clean and to maintain a healthy working environment. Maintenance of the studio is a daily responsibility. It includes cleaning up your workspace, and all of the equipment used. Additional clean up will be required at the end of each class period. Please take care in moving other students work, and be respectful to other students work and space. Leave everything in better shape than when found! **Keep all cell phones, pagers and headphones turned off during class time!**

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and in extreme cases will result in the expulsion of the student from class. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, habitually arriving late or leaving early from class, talking during instruction and failure to listen to directions.

**Studio Safety and Maintenance:** Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. The student should only use these materials and equipment after the instructor has given instruction in the safe use of such equipment and materials. The instructor has the right and responsibility to suspend any art student from operating a piece of equipment if the instructor believes the student is incapable of operating the equipment in a safe manner. This is done so not to jeopardize the health and safety of the student or other members of the class.

- Students in studio classes are required to clean up and put away supplies that have been used during the class session.
- Children and non-registered students are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the studio at any time.
- Radio use in the studio is restricted to the use of personal headphone (not during class).
- A first aid kit is located in the studio.

Students will sign an Art Safety Agreement after completing a safety training course offered by the instructor and reading the attached Department of Art After Hours Studio Policy.

**Tools and Materials:** All glaze materials and firings are supplied by the art department at UT Tyler.

- 3-ring binder for class handouts, filled with blank copy paper for sketches.
- Clay- 50-200 pounds Trinity White or Red Stoneware (Students should buy their clay from Trinity Ceramic Supply. **NO OTHER CLAY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO STUDIO!**)
- plastic 1 gallon bucket
- plastic garbage bags
- sponge
- paper dust mask
- ruler
- apron or studio clothes
- lock for locker
- small yogurt container with lid
- small hand towel
- brushes (various sizes, natural hair recommended)
- Kemper tool kit or equivalent
- sharp knife
- serrated rib
- plastic Mudtool rib (optional)

Trinity Ceramic Supply  
9016 Diplomacy Row (Take the Regal Row exit off Hwy. 183)  
214-631-0540

**Storage/Lockers:** Each student will be assigned a locker with a partner. Due to space limitations clay and tools may not be stored in the classroom unless being used at the time. Any clay or tools found will be removed. You should store your materials in your locker or elsewhere, bringing to class only what you need to work with.