

Art 2379.001: Beginning Ceramics  
M/W, 8-10:50 AM  
ARC 139  
Professor Jessica Sanders  
Contact: jsanders@uttyler.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

## Welcome to Beginning Ceramics!

### 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.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

During the course students will demonstrate:

**Technical Proficiency:** Students will be able to create technically proficient works of art.

**Conceptual Proficiency:** Students will be able to create conceptually proficient works of art.

**Interpretation of Artworks:** Students will be able to explain how formal or conceptual elements function in works of art.

**Historical Context:** The student will be able to contextualize works of art in relation to art history or contemporary practices.

**Document Works:** Students will be able to document works of art for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

**Disseminate Research:** Students will be able to disseminate research through exhibition participation.

### Canvas:

It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly and thoroughly.

The following will be posted on Canvas:

- Course Calendar
- All assignment and presentation information

- All announcements pertaining to this class, including cancellations and quiz dates
- Grades for critiques, tests, quizzes, and group presentations
- Information about Gallery visits

It is your responsibility to submit the necessary materials through Canvas. If you have questions, let me know.

### **Clay Assignments:**

5 technique-based projects will be assigned during the semester. Assignments will cover basic hand building and wheel throwing techniques.

### **Evaluation:**

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

- -Completion of the assignments 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

### **Research Paper and Presentation:**

A list of artists will be provided. Each student will choose one artist to present over. Guidelines for the presentation will be provided as well as a presentation schedule. Guidelines must be strictly adhered to or the resulting grade will be a zero.

### **Artist Statements:**

An artist statement is the way in which we further communicate about and understand our work. Each student will begin working on formulating the written language around their work and process by writing multiple drafts of their artist statements during the course of the semester. Each draft should express progressive and evolving thoughts on the work and process. Examples

of artist statements will be provided. Artist statements are due with each critique. The final statement for this class will be due at the final critique.

### **Critiques and Final Critique:**

Critiques are a time when 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. Students are expected to actively participate in the critique process and are graded not only on work presented but also on participation.

Each student will have an opportunity to present their work both visually and verbally. Presentation and preparedness matters. Further dates guidelines for critiques will be provided during the first week of class.

### **Individual/Community studio space maintenance and cleanliness:**

This is a shared, community space. Each student is expected to maintain tidiness of this space. Clean up after yourself, do not expect others to do it for you.

**Do not sweep or dust without an appropriate dust mask on! Please purchase a dust mask that has N95 rating with an attached filter. You will not be allowed in the studio during cleanup day if you do not have the appropriate PPE. If there is nothing suitable for you to clean in another area of the ceramics studio (kiln pad or glaze room), your final grade will reflect that you did not participate in the cleaning.**

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the beginning of every class. You are allowed 3 absences on days without demonstrations or critique. If you miss a critique you will earn a zero for that critique. Demonstrations will not be repeated.

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Absence, your grade will be reduced as follows:

4 absences: final grade lowered 1 letter

5 absences: final grade lowered 2 letters

6 absences: final grade lowered 3 letters

7 absences: You will receive an F in this course.

If you need to leave early, for an excusable reason, please let me know before class begins. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late or leave early without approval, you will be counted tardy. Three late arrivals and/or leaving early will count as one full absence. After that, each late arrival/leaving early will count as full absence days.

If you foresee that you will need to miss a demonstration or critique day due to an approved excuse of absence (religious holiday, mandatory university event) you must

notify me via EMAIL by the SECOND class date. If you must miss a demonstration or critique due to an emergency (medical/tragedy) you must email me promptly and provide suitable documentation of said emergency. I *may* provide accommodations for such instances on a case by case determination.

### Final Grades:

- 70% Body of Work
- 30% All other assigned work:
  - Research Presentation
  - Quizzes
  - Critiques
  - Artist Statements
  - Individual/Community studio space maintenance and cleanliness

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

\*Missed cleanup days will result in a full letter grade deduction. If you have an excused absence, you may be granted a makeup cleanup duty. This is per the instructor's judgment.

**Grading Scale: Remember, these grades are not given, they are earned.**

A= 90-100    B= 80-89    C= 70-79    D= 60-69    F= 50-59

### Firing:

Only work that is completed will be fired. Cracked, poorly constructed, and poorly glazed work will not be fired. I will be strictly adhering to this policy. 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 at the end of the semester unless otherwise approved by class instructor.

Students must RAKU fire their own work, and only under the supervision of the Instructor or an approved supervisor. Procedures will be demonstrated in class.

**Storage/Lockers:** Each student will choose 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.

### Tools and Materials:

All glaze materials and firings are supplied by the art department at UT Tyler.

- Clay- 100-200 pounds Trinity White or Red Stoneware (Students should buy their clay from Trinity Ceramic Supply. Address below.) **NO OTHER CLAY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO STUDIO.**
- Tool Box or Bucket
- brushes (various sizes, natural hair recommended)
- Kemper tool kit or equivalent
- serrated rib
- plastic Mudtool rib (optional)
- 3-ring binder for class handouts, filled with blank copy paper for sketches.
- plastic 1gallon bucket
- 1 box of cheap white kitchen trash bags.
- 1 box of gallon size Ziploc bags.
- 1 roll plastic sheeting (3-5ml thickness)
- dust masks (N95 rating)
- plastic or metal ruler
- apron or studio clothes
- lock for locker
- small yogurt container with lid
- large towel
- small hand towel
- paring knife

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

### **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 student work, and be respectful to the work of other students and their spaces. Leave everything in better shape than when found! Keep all cell phones 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 & 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 headphones (not during class).
- A first aid kit is located in the studio.

### **Facility Access & Studio Lab Safety and Mechanical Safety Training**

Facility access is for enrolled students only. Students are required to use appropriate safety equipment (PPE) and practice safe operation procedures when using any hazardous equipment or materials. All students must successfully complete the lab safety training and mechanical safety training and quizzes on Canvas and complete an Art Safety Agreement before after hours access to the complex is granted. Failure to adhere to the terms of the Art Safety Agreement will result in the loss studio facility access.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

For your safety, you must follow all safety requirements established by the department and university. It is required that you provide your own Personal Protective Equipment for use in studio areas. This equipment includes: dust mask with at least a N95 rating and attached filter, safety glasses, ear protection, gloves, close-toed shoes, and appropriate clothing. Failure to use this equipment while working may result in the loss of studio privileges.

### **Materials and Chemicals**

Any additional materials or chemicals not included on the course material list must be approved by the faculty member in charge of the area where the chemical (material) will be used prior to the material/chemical being brought into the studio. Students are responsible for notifying the studio technician of any new materials/chemicals the day they are brought to the studio in order to insure that the appropriate Safety Data Sheet is on file and in the SDS binder. Labels for any new, approved chemicals brought into the art studios must include the following information when they are transferred to a new container or if the original chemical label is damaged: Name of Chemical, Date chemical was opened, and any basic hazards associated with the chemical. Labels are located in each studio and must be filled out and adhered to the container immediately.

### **Student Resources and University Policies**

Please see the Getting Started & UTT Syllabus module in Canvas for a full list of student resources and university policies.

\*This syllabus is subject to change

\*\*Please see UT Tyler's academic calendar for all important academic deadlines and dates. Important dates for critiques and assignments will be posted on Canvas, announced in class, and stated on handouts. There are no required fieldtrips for this course.

\*\*\* A separate list of all required materials and supplies will be provided.