

Art 4380: Advanced Ceramics
11-1:40 M/W, Fall 2009
Merrie Wright, Assistant Professor
Office: 112 Art Studio
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Office Hours: M, T, W 10-11 and by appointment

Purpose/Objectives: To aid development of ideas, forms, clay bodies, glazes and techniques supportive of using ceramics as a fine art material. This course is the logical continuation of ceramics 2379, 3379 and 3380. Assigned projects and ceramics works undertaken in this class should be a continuation of the students growth towards an individual visual and conceptual statement using ceramics as the primary medium.

During the course students will demonstrate:

1. Technical proficiency

The student will develop and assemble a technically proficient body of art work that demonstrates technical proficiency within his or her chosen concentration (2D or 3D), as well as general proficiency in the greater arena of all mediums.

2. Conceptually proficiency

The student will develop and assemble a conceptually proficient body of art work that demonstrates conceptual proficiency within his or her chosen concentration (2D or 3D), as well as general proficiency in the greater arena of all mediums.

3. Historical context

The student will develop an understanding of how his or her work relates to art history.

4. Contemporary trends

The student will develop an understanding of how his or her work relates to current trends in contemporary art.

5. Written analysis

The student will engage in written critical analysis of their artwork.

6. Verbal analysis

The student will engage in critical verbal analysis of their artwork.

Recommended Text: *Clay and Glazes for the Potter*, Robin Hopper
Val Cushings Handbook

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.

Statement of Intent: As advanced students you will engage in directed study. I expect students to create a large amount of work. The more you make, the clearer your focus becomes. Concepts and technique only become refined through practice. You will submit a typed statement of intent by **Wednesday, September 2** describing what you intend to focus on this semester in addition to class assignments. We will discuss your

goals and use the statement of intent as a starting point for a dialogue that will continue throughout the semester.

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. There will be 4 formal group critiques during the semester at which each student will present an ambitious amount of finished work (glazed, fired and installed as intended). Your final grade will be lowered 20% for not having work to present at a critique. Students are expected to actively participate in the critique process and are graded not only on work presented but also on participation.

Assignments: In addition to your directed study work, we will engage in a series of clay and glaze material investigations. At the end of the semester you are required to turn in a class notebook including: all class handouts, your research material for the semester, your statement of intent, an artist statements for each formal critique, and your clay and glaze material results. This should be a compilation of your semester research and should be turned in in a notebook that is organized and cohesive.

Timely Artist Statements: You will hand in a timely artist statement at the beginning of each critique. A timely artist statement is a format for you to write a personal statement about where you are at in your studio work right now. Do not use an old statement as a basis, start fresh, and keep it current.

Things to Consider:

- What have you been making, researching and thinking about recently?
- What changes have occurred in your work or in your thoughts about your work?
- You may write about how your work has been influenced by the classes you are currently enrolled in.
- Who/What are you looking at and investigating?
- What are you curious about? What/Who would you like to learn more about and why?

This statement should be 1 page, double spaced and typed. The statement, while more informal than an artist statement, should be cohesive, personal, and thoughtful.

Kiln Certification: As an advanced student you are required to fire all of your own work AND be experienced in all firing processes used in the UT Tyler ceramics studio. By the end of the semester you must be certified to fire both electric and gas kilns.

Firing: As advanced students you need to take an active part in firing, loading and unloading kilns, kiln maintenance, material preparation, etc. You should be prepared to spend a substantial amount of time outside of class helping with processes and procedures related to the running of this studio. I am here to teach, guide, and help you, not to serve as your employee to prepare your clay and glazes and fire your work. This is all part of the learning process- you must do it to learn it.

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.

Mixing Clay and Glazes: You should buy, mix and pug your own clay. The studio will provide the feldspar, silica, and grog or sand, but you must buy your own fire clay and ball clay. You may also use any premixed stoneware or cone 10 clay from Trinity Ceramic Supply. **No other clay will be used or brought into the studio without permission.**

You are welcome to mix tests of glazes you are interested in after approval. Never mix more than 500 grams for a test. If the glaze works and you intend to use it, you may mix a larger batch upon approval. See the *Clay and Glaze Mixing* instructions and follow them carefully.

Glaze Assignment: During the semester you will test at least 10 different glazes for your work. At the end of the semester you will turn in your test recipes and a test file for each.

Exhibition Entries: During the semester you are required to submit 3 entries for 'calls to exhibit'. The work you submit should be ceramic oriented, but the exhibition does not have to be. Please include the exhibition call and response in your class notebook.

Final Exam: A final exam will be given that covers vocabulary and information pertinent to running a ceramics studio. The final exam will cover information given in handouts, lectures and demonstrations.

Class Notebook: At the end of the semester each student will be required to hand in their class notebook. This notebook should be all inclusive and meticulously organized. It should contain the following materials in the following order:

1. Statement of Intent
2. Semester Artist Statements, clearly dated
3. Resource Material
4. Sketches
5. Glaze Research Project Recipes (a copy for the studio to keep)
6. Exhibition entries documentation
7. All handouts for the semester
8. CD of your portfolio for the semester

Evaluation: Your artwork will be evaluated by assessing the following:

- Completion of an ambitious body of work
- Technical skills
- Design skills
- Quality of the finished work
- Effort
- Craftsmanship
- Overall growth and development (improvement in skill)
- Experimentation
- In class participation

Remember, you will be working two to three times as much outside of class as in class. Your final grade for the course will be based upon completion of the following:

- 70% Completed Assignments, body of work created
- 15% Artist Statements, Glaze Research Assignments, class notebook
- 5% Final Exam

- 10% Overall Participation

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

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 12th 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.

* This syllabus is subject to change