

Fall 2020  
Art 2379: Beginning Ceramics  
M/W 8-10:45AM  
ARC 139  
Professor Gifford  
Contact: [jgifford@uttyler.edu](mailto:jgifford@uttyler.edu)  
Office Hours: M/W 11-12PM or remote by appointment  
Department website: [uttyler.edu/art](http://uttyler.edu/art)  
Required software: Canvas

## **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**

#### **TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY**

The student will develop and assemble a technically proficient body of artwork 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.

#### **CONCEPTUAL PROFICIENCY**

The student will develop and assemble a conceptually proficient body of artwork 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.

#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

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

#### **CONTEMPORARY TRENDS**

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

#### **WRITTEN ANALYSIS**

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

## **VERBAL ANALYSIS**

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

### **Assignments**

5 technique-based assignments will be given during the semester. Assignments will cover basic hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Each assignment will have multi-faceted requirements. We will review these via demonstration and class discussion. Be sure to read the assignments thoroughly on Canvas to ensure you do not miss any crucial information.

- **Techniques will cover:**
  - Pinch
  - Coil
  - Slab
  - Wheel
  - As well as other important clay and art related skills.

### **Evaluation**

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

- Completion of all requirements in 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
- Overall growth and development (improvement in skill)
- Ability to communicate concepts and process, verbally and in writing
- Experimentation
- In class and Online participation

## **Supplies, Tools, and Materials**

All glaze materials and firings are supplied by the UT Tyler Department of Art & Art History. Many of the below supplies can be purchased at a hardware store or online. When you purchase from Trinity, please visit their website for their procedures and protocols. Their store may be closed to walk-in shopping, however they do take payment over the phone for pick-up or online for shipping.

***Trinity Ceramic Supply***  
***9016 Diplomacy Row (Take the Regal Row exit off Hwy. 183)***  
***Dallas, TX***  
***214-631-0540***  
***<https://trinityceramic.com/>***

- Clay
  - 100-200 pounds Trinity White or Red Stoneware, with or without Grog
  - Students must purchase their clay from Trinity Ceramic Supply and are responsible for picking this clay up. On the first day of class the students should communicate and arrange, if possible, a group pick-up.
    - Trinity is open M-F from 8-5, and the first Saturday of each month (unless it's a holiday or another circumstance.) Please check their website before traveling to pick-up.
  - **NO OTHER CLAY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO STUDIO, UNLESS APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR!**
- Tool Box with lid
- Brushes (various sizes, natural hair recommended)
- Kemper tool kit or equivalent
- Serrated rib
- Red Mudtool rib
- Sketch book
- Painters tape
- Packet of regular sharpies
- Plastic 1gallon bucket
- 1 box of cheap white kitchen trash bags.
- 1 box of gallon size Ziploc bags.
- Plastic or metal ruler
- Apron or studio clothes

- Lock for locker
- Small container with lid
- Large bath towel
- Small hand towel
- Paring knife

### **Canvas**

It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly and thoroughly.

The following will be posted on Canvas:

- Tests
- Course Calendar
- Discussion boards (this counts towards your participation grade)
- All assignment and presentation information
- All announcements pertaining to this class, including cancellations and test dates
- Grades for critiques, tests, pop quizzes, and group presentation
- Extra Credit opportunities
- Information about Gallery visits

It is your responsibility to submit the necessary materials through Canvas by the posted due date.

### **Required Technology and Proficiency**

Minimum Technology Requirements: Students will need access to a computer with a camcorder and high-speed internet connection. IMPORTANT: IP and hardware problems are not excuses for missing deadlines and submission of assignments. Students can access Canvas on the UT Tyler campus in the Computer Lab and Library.

Minimum Student Skills: This course utilizes digital resources in Canvas. Students must know how to use Microsoft Word and Canvas. Students must be able to download and upload complete files (doc, docx, or pdf) with text and images, attach documents to emails or discussion postings, and download and upload documents to the assignment tool.

Be aware that not all functions of your Canvas course may be available on smart phones or tablets. You must have a computer and know the software to complete the course. Look at the links about CANVAS in the "Start Here" Module of this course for further help.

## **Research Paper and Presentation**

Each student will choose one artist over which to write and present. A list of artists will be provided. Guidelines for the paper and the presentation will be provided. Presentations will be conducted via Zoom during the final week of class. 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. You will work on one version of your artist statement throughout the entire semester. Current version of artist statements are due with each critique. The final statement for this class will be due at the final critique.

## **Critiques**

We will have individual and group critiques throughout the semester.

Critiques are a time when work is presented by all students for the purpose of receiving formal and critically elevated responses to their work, as well as a time to develop a vocabulary to effectively communicate your ideas to others. Each required clay 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.

Each student will have an opportunity to present their work both visually and verbally. Presentation and preparedness matters. Further guidelines for critiques will be provided via Canvas.

## **Final Critique and Documentation**

This class does not have a final exam. Instead we will have a final critique over the course of 3 class days. Each student is responsible also responsible for submitting their final documents via Canvas by the final class day at midnight. Guidelines for the final critique and documentation will be provided via canvas.

## **Final Grades**

- 70%: Body of Work, Critiques, and Artist Statements
  - You will be graded both on the Quality and Quantity of work as well as other factors of effort and artistic integrity and investigation.
- 30%: All other assigned work:
  - Research Paper and Presentation
  - Pop Quizzed, Tests

- Presentations
- Discussions
- 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

\*How to earn an A: Create an elevated body of work that is explorative and exhibits both care for quality and quantity. Go above and beyond in everything you do for this class. Practice self-responsibility and creative exploration. Complete all assignments on time. Be on time and do not leave early. Do not miss more than 3 classes.

How to earn a B: Create an elevated body of work that is explorative and exhibits both care for quality and quantity. Complete all assignments on time. Be on time and do not leave early. Do not miss more than 3 classes.

How to earn a C: Complete all assignments on time. Be on time and do not leave early. Do not miss more than 3 classes.

### **Firing**

*Only work that is completed will be fired. Cracked poorly constructed, and poorly glazed work will not be fired. This policy is strictly adhered to. All work must be clearly signed to be fired. Failure to follow these procedures will result in your grade being lowered by 1 letter.*

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 will RAKU fire as a group. Procedures will be demonstrated in 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. 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, whether in person (or online when appropriate) is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. You are allowed 3 absences without consequence 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.

### **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.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Developing and maintaining honest, open communications between professor and student as well as student to student requires social agreements. It is important to respect each other; respect others working space and materials. Our interactions will set an important tone to the studio environment, as well as promote respectful open dialogue among all of us. Please adhere to the following:

- Keep cell phones put away and on silent.
- Do not text/call during class hours unless it's an emergency. Please make any phone calls outside of the studio space.

- When wearing earbuds, keep the volume at a decent level. If you miss an announcement because you could not hear, that is your responsibility.
- No computers.
- No sleeping.
- If you are contagious, stay home.
- If you have a dispute or complaint, please bring it to the instructor **before** it escalates.

Inability to follow etiquette guidelines will result in you being asked to leave. If you are asked to leave, it will count as an absence.

### **Email and Communication Policy**

Preferred contact: Canvas or [jgifford@uttyler.edu](mailto:jgifford@uttyler.edu)

I am here to help you learn and engage with this class and the material. If you do not communicate with me, I cannot help you. I will do my best to reply within 24hrs, unless it is a weekend, in which I will not respond until the following business day. Please be aware: I will not send sensitive information, such as grades or student ID's via email.

- **Email Guidelines**
  - Use only your UT Tyler Patriot Email Address. I will not respond to emails sent from any other provider.
  - Check Canvas for the information BEFORE you email me. If your question can be answered via Canvas, I will not respond to your email.
  - Include a subject line with pertinent information. If you do not have a subject line, I will consider your email spam and delete it.
  - Do not use slang/text/emoji language in your email as they can cause misunderstandings and is not appropriate professional practice.

When referring to any faculty member, please remember that they should be referred to or addressed as "Professor" or "Dr.". In any academic situation, sticking with "Professor" is the safest path, until you have been invited to address your professors otherwise, even then, be aware of the propriety of doing so depending upon the situation (private conversation vs. professional event).

Likewise, engagements with university/departmental staff members should be equally respectful. Please understand that the staff members are critical partners in the department. Please refer to them as Mr./Mrs./Ms.

### **COVID-19 Policies and Procedures**

Please visit the following sites for up to date information on the UT Tyler COVID-19 response, policies and procedures.

<https://www.uttyler.edu/reboot/>



### **Studio Safety/Access**

- For access and use of the art studio at The University of Texas at Tyler after hours, each student must have on file a signed Department of Art and Art History Safety Agreement and follow all requirements and guidelines stated in the safety agreement.
- After completing the safety training and delivering your safety agreement to the art administrative assistant you will be placed on the list to access the studios after hours.
- You may work in the studio at any time during the semester you are enrolled in a ceramics class. A record of those entering the building will be recorded when you enter the building.
- Do not use power equipment if you have not been properly trained by myself or Ms. Quijano. If you are not sure how to use a tool or material safely then do not use it.
- A list of safety rules and guidelines are provided and are to be strictly followed. There is an SDS on every chemical in the studio located at the back of the studio in a yellow binder.
- Make sure you leave the building locked and follow all rules as provided and posted in the art studios.
- **Food/Drink are not allowed in the art studios.**
- Violations of the agreement will result in loss of art studio access.

### **Required Field Trips**

Required field trips, rehearsals, etc., scheduled outside of regularly-scheduled class time, along with any accompanying fees and tickets; and/or course procedures unique to the course that might cause students to reconsider their enrollment in the course should be discussed with the course instructor immediately.

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

Studio 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 through Canvas 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 or KN95 rating, 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.