Art 2379: Beginning Ceramics  
6:00-8:40pm M/W, Spring 2018  
Professor-Gary Hatcher  
Instructor-Joanna Gifford, Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Contact: jgifford@patriots.uttyler.edu  
Alternate Contact: ghatcher@uttyler.edu/ 566-7486 (office)  
Office Hours: By appointment only

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.

Required Text:  
*This book is out of print, however, it can be found online at an inexpensive price. Order this now as there are required readings and assignments that will center around this text.

A Course Calendar will be provided with important due dates, demos, and workshops listed.

Clay Assignments:  
5 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

Effort and improvement are key aspects in determining your grade.

Research Paper and Presentation:  
A list of artists will be provided on the first day of class. Each student will choose one artist to write and present over. Guidelines for the paper and the presentation will be provided during the first week of classes as well as a presentation schedule. Additional readings will be provided as well via Canvas. Guidelines must be strictly adhered to or the resulting grade will be a zero.
**Artist Statements:**
An artist statement is a crucial component for every artist. It 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 three artist statements during the course of the semester. Each draft should express progressive and evolving thoughts on the work and process. Guidelines and examples for each statement will be provided during the first week of class. One artist statement is due with each critique. The final iteration of the statement for this class will be due at the final critique.

**Vocabulary Tests:**
Three Vocabulary tests will be given during the semester. A clear list of terms and definitions will be provided to you and we will discuss these as a class. The dates of the tests will not be provided, however, if you miss a test due to an unexcused absence, you will not be allowed to retake and thus will receive a zero for that test.

**Critiques and Final Critique:**
We will have schedule two formal critiques and one final critique. 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 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 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. In short, clean up after yourself, do not expect others to do it for you. To ensure that everyone knows how to properly clean the studio and where the cleaning supplies are located, we will be cleaning the studio during the first, and possibly second, day of class.

Do not sweep or dust without a dust mask on! Appropriate dust masks will be provided for this first cleaning, but you are expected to buy your own subsequent masks (of the same or comparable quality as the ones provided).

**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.
Final Grades:

- 75%  Critiques: Body of Work and Artist Statements
- 25%  All other assigned work:
  1. Research Paper and Presentation
  2. Vocabulary Tests
  3. Individual/Community studio space maintenance and cleanliness

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

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 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 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.

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, UNLESS APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR!
- 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 roll plastic sheeting (3-5ml thickness)
- dust masks (see provided dust mask to know what to purchase)
- plastic or metal ruler
- apron or studio clothes
- lock for locker
- small yogurt container with lid
- large towel
- small hand towel
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 is not allowed in the art studios.**
- Violations of the agreement will result in loss of art studio access.

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.

* This syllabus is subject to change.