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ARTZ 231A.01: Ceramics I

Christopher A. Dufala

University of Montana - Missoula, christopher.dufala@mso.umt.edu

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Ceramics I, Artz 231 A

Instructor: Chris Dufala
Email: Christopher.dufala@umontana.edu
Office Hours: M-W 12:00-12:30 or by appointment
Office: Art Annex RM 130

Semester: Spring 2016
Class Times: M-W 10:10-12:00
Art Annex RM 128
Prerequisite ARTZ 108A

Course Description

Welcome to Ceramics I, ARTZ 231 A, an introduction to clay as a historical and contemporary art-making medium. Basic methods of building with clay, with emphasis on hand building; elementary solutions to problems of glazing and surface treatment.

This course is designed as a three-credit course in which the students will learn the fundamentals of ceramics through lectures, demonstrations, and critiques, the individual progression of creative concepts, and in class instruction. It will introduce the exploration of functional and sculptural approaches to creating clay objects, as well as its history of use, relevant art theory and basic aesthetics. Ceramics is a medium that requires constant effort, attention to craftsmanship, and a push for artistic expression to further student's capabilities.

Ceramic I, ARTZ 231 will focus on the development of:

1. The basic hand-building techniques of pinch, coil, and slab construction and basic wheel throwing
2. Clay, slip and glaze finishes and application
3. Contemporary and historical ceramic viewpoints

Course Objectives

The students will:

1. Understand and utilize basic technical, visual and analytical information to formulate and express an idea in clay
2. Develop an aesthetic awareness and sensitivity to basic design elements & principles as they apply to the form and surface of an object
3. Develop creative solutions to problem solving assignments
4. Interpret traditional and contemporary ceramic content to formulate and apply these viewpoints in their work

Instructional Format

1. Studio demonstrations, lectures and slide presentations (power-point)
 2. Minor research assignments on artists, conceptual philosophies, materials and techniques
 3. Group and individual critiques
 4. Required studio assignments in hand-building (3-4 projects) and wheel throwing (3-4 projects)
- *** It may be required to produce many objects and parts of objects throughout the learning process in an attempt to solve a single assignment that has been given, some of which may not get fired.

Lectures, demonstrations and presentations are usually given at the beginning or end of class

Work Required Beyond Class Time

You should expect to work at **least five (5) hours a week** outside of designated class time. This furthers your development and greatens your ability to achieve your goals and overall success. (Open studio hours will be posted outside the classroom door)

It is mandatory that you attend campus exhibitions held in the GVA Gallery. Times and dates of events will be provided. Additionally, I strongly recommend that each student become involved in the greater Missoula art community by attending shows, lectures, etc. This will enable you to become more aware of what is happening in the contemporary art world as well as influence and improve your own work.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for every class. After three (3) unexcused absences, your grade will drop by one (1) letter grade per absence. Three (3) lateness's will be the equivalent of one (1) unexcused absence. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to get any missed information from other students and contact me if you have further questions. Please keep in mind that you will be required to meet any deadlines set. Absence is **not an excuse** for unpreparedness.

***You must prove a legitimate reason for an excused absence (a written and signed doctors note, etc) and must be presented to the instructor during the next class.

Evaluation

Each project grade as well as the final course grade will be based on the professor's assessment of the following criteria:

1. Assignments (project/object completion)

A. Creativity/originality of idea:

The imaginative approach to the development of a personal direction to the various assignments. At each level there will be an increased expectation to go beyond the "standard" object that others have created in the past and arrive at your own interpretation of form, surface and idea. This involves exploring a variety of approaches and ideas in an effort to seek out the optimal solution; demonstrate a willingness to experiment and be open-minded; take creative risks and push the work being made.

B. Design:

The organization and relationship of the specific components and criteria that make up a coherent whole. The relationship between the object and the elements/principles of design.

C. Craftsmanship/technical execution:

How "well-made" an object is crafted. Refers specifically to technique. The skill, control and sensitivity exercised over the medium and the professionalism of presentation. The overall finished quality of the object.

D. Content:

The exploration of concept/theme within a work. Does the object reflect a concept or idea and is the content clearly understood by the viewer?

Assignments will account for 80% of a student's final grade

2. Class and critique participation, attitude/effort and observance of studio policies

Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times. This includes but is not limited to; paying attention during lectures/demos/discussions, following instructions, working safely, showing respect to peers, instructor and artwork, and being actively engaged in critiques. Cell phones are to be turned off during class.

Students should be prepared for each class. This means working only on Ceramic I assignments during class, using class/studio time wisely and in a productive manner, attending and participating in critiques and all class activities. Activities may include mixing and testing glazes, helping load kilns, studio maintenance and general clean up.

Clean up is extremely important in the ceramics studio! You will need roughly ten (10) minutes to clean up at the end of each class. There will also be monthly clean up sessions that each student will need to sign up for. (This will be addressed when the time comes) If you work on assignments during open studio hours, you must clean up after yourself!

3. Class attendance (See attendance policy)

Grading Scale

- A- Superior (Excellence in all categories and distinctive display of creativity)
- B- Above average (Success in most categories and moderate display of creativity)
- C- Average (Succeeded in completing the course and standard solutions)
- D- Below Average (Improvement needed in all or most areas)
- F- Failure

Projects not deemed appropriate to the nature of the course will not be fired.

Late Work

I will accept late pieces however you will be penalized one letter grade per class. I understand that special circumstances arise and this will be taken into consideration, **only if you speak with me in advance.**

Critiques

We will have major critiques following the completion of each assignment. **Student attendance and involvement is mandatory.** Work is required to be **complete** when presented at each critique with vocal and thoughtful participation by all students. You will be graded on your level of participation as well as the project you present.

General Studio Policies

The ceramics studio contains many potentially hazardous materials and equipment. Throughout the semester we will go over proper use of essential tools and materials as well as safe use practices. Remember, if you have any questions or are unsure of how to use a tool or piece of equipment, stop and ask the instructor for help. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be read prior to using hazardous materials. All safe-handling procedures for both materials and equipment must be strictly followed. Personal Protective Equipment (ex. i.e. - gloves and goggles) must be used at all times in accordance with the safety demonstrations.

****Creatures and children (big or small) that are not currently enrolled are not allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times.**

To prevent damage or theft, all glazed and finished work should be removed from the studio upon completion. Deadlines will be posted for the final day to work wet and for final bisque and glaze firings. All work must be completed by these deadlines. All work, tools and personal belongings must be removed by the **last Thursday of finals week**, or posted as such if a returning student. Anything left after this time will become the property of the Ceramics program and will be discarded/reused at the discretion of the instructor and department.

Emergency Phone located by the entrance on the wall

Campus Emergency	4000
Missoula City Emergency	9-911
Campus Security	6131
General Facility Emergency	4181 or 5704

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at

www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321

Access/Special Needs

If you have any access concerns, special needs, and/or learning disabilities, medical conditions, and/or physical impairments that may impede the successful completion of this course, please contact the office of Disability Services for Students (DSS) at x. 2243 (Lommasson Center 154) and see me after class.

Course Fee

You will be charged a \$122.40 lab fee for this course. It covers all glaze materials, firing, and clay. You are responsible for your own tools, which can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Lockers

One (1) locker may be used for every two (2) students. They are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the ceramics room. You are responsible for furnishing a lock. Please be aware that theft and vandalism are always a possibility and that you are responsible for your work and property. **Please label your locker with your name, instructors name, class name and semester.**

Studio Hours

Art Department building hours are for currently enrolled students only. Art studio use requires you to be currently registered in course, as course fees facilitate specific supplies. General hours are 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M. Monday through Sunday with the exception of another class occupying the room. **Speak with an instructor prior to class if immediate use is necessary.** The studio is closed on all major Holidays.

Supplies

Students are responsible to purchase all supplies necessary to complete course assignments, and the loss or negligent use (breakage) of studio equipment or tools.

1. Pottery Tool Kit (purchase at the University Bookstore)

*It should have the following: Needle tool, small sponge, wooden and metal ribs, cut-off wire, loop trimming tools, wooden knife

2. Plastic (.7 mil plastic drop clothe, dry-cleaner bags, trash/grocery bags)

3. Small plastic bucket (1 gal.)

4. Brushes (at least a small and medium)

5. SKETCH BOOK

*Possibly a small spray bottle and a “sure-form” tool