ART 430.01: Advanced Research in Ceramics

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Investigation of ceramics with emphasis on student proposals, including specific technical and conceptual aspects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course will have three components.

I: Studio work:
Students must propose two half a semester long (7 ½ weeks) bodies of work. Each proposal will take the form of a written statement, a series of three or more sketches, a plan for firing and surface treatments, clay body choice and Xerox images of visual inspirations. You might want to give yourself some personal deadlines (like, three figures built by Feb. 15, glaze tests done by Feb. 21, etc.) First proposal due: Jan 30 beginning of class. I expect a serious single proposal for your each half-semester’s work. Keep the focus NARROW AND DEEP not wide! At midterm, I’d like you to write an artist statement about the work you completed so far. We will assess the progress of the work and you will submit a second proposal. The second proposal can be a continuation of the first or something completely different. You will need to do most of your studio work on your own time!!!!!

II: Research:
Based on your proposals I will suggest a ceramic artist or a specific period of ceramic history to investigate. Each student will make a brief presentation to the class on his or her artist. The report should be drawn from magazines, books and the internet, and should encompass a broad spectrum of the artist’s career. Please prepare a five to ten minute slide show using traditional slides or digital media.

III. Field Trips/ Lectures/ Demonstrations and exposure to the real thing!
Part of learning about your own work is seeing other artists’ work and watching them work. There will be at least three visiting artist lectures as a mandatory part of the class. In addition I hope to include at least three field trips this semester:
Jan. 25: Thursday, Joe Pintz from the Archie Bray Foundation, exhibition at the UC Gallery, slides 4pm, 3rd floor UC, Opening 5-7pm
Jan. 30: field trip to Ann Shaner’s home to see her late husband David Shaner’s work.
Feb. 28: Judy Fox, visiting artist slide lecture, SS 356 5pm
1st Week of April: Patrick Coughlin. Slide lecture and demo to be announced.
April 24: Ayumi Horie, visiting artist demo 2-4, slide show, Ceramics 7pm
To be announced: all day field trip to the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, with visits to the studios of Richard Notkin, Richard Swanson, Sara Jaeger and others as time permits.
Important Due Dates:
Jan. 30: first half semester proposal due
Mar. 13: First half project critique. Fired, finished work and artist statement due
Mar. 20: Second half semester proposal due

COURSE POLICIES:
N.A.S.A.D. requires at least five hours studio “homework time” per week in addition to the scheduled class time for this course. You will need at least this amount of time to get the projects done. The studio will be open daily from 7am to 11pm. (You may work during another class if you get permission from the instructor, but priority for wheels and work space will be given to the class in session.)

Lockers: Two or three to a locker. Label your locker with name and semester, and provide your own lock.

Grading: Grading will be based on quality of work, attendance, participation in class and clean up. Criteria for assessing quality will be idea, formal resolution, craftsmanship and originality. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Any unexcused absence can affect your grade. THREE unexcused absences amounts to a losing full grade. TWO "extremely late" or "leaving classes early" marks equal an unexcused absence.

Health and Safety notes: Many of the materials used in the ceramic process are toxic or harmful. There is a materials data notebook (blue binder) attached to the glaze area. We will be discussing health hazards during the first class. No food or open beverage containers are allowed in the art department facilities when art making is in progress. CLEAN UP IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. YOU WILL NEED 10 MINUTES TO CLEAN UP AT THE END OF EVERY CLASS, AND ONCE EVERY SEMESTER WE WILL DO A MAJOR STUDIO CLEAN UP. IF YOU COME IN AFTER HOURS CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!!!!!!! Your clean up practices will also affect your grade!!!!

No children or animals in the classroom.

End of semester clean up: All work must be taken home at the end of the semester. We will have a studio “throw-out” at the end of the semester. (time and date will be posted towards the end of the semester) Lockers must be cleaned out by this date unless you are registered for summer session, in which case lockers must be labeled accordingly.

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/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321