

9-2013

## ARTZ 231A.01: Introduction to Ceramics

Sarah E. Tancred

*University of Montana - Missoula*

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The University of Montana, School of Art ARTZ 231A: Ceramics I, 3  
credits Prerequisite: ARTZ 108A (ART 103A) Fall 2013 M W  
10:10-12:00 Art Annex 128

*Nothing is a mistake. There's no win and no fail, there's only  
make. –John Cage*

Instructor: Sarah Tancred Email:  
sarah.tancred@umontana.edu Website:  
sarah.tancred.com Office: Art Annex, Graduate  
Studios Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:10-1:10 or  
by appointment

**Course Description (from UM Catalog)**

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.

**Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to give students the technical and conceptual abilities to execute his or her ideas through the use of the ceramic medium.

Students will become exposed to historical and contemporary ceramic artists, practices, and writings. The course will also focus on technical processes including, but not limited to: coil and slab building, wheel throwing, glazing, and surface techniques used with clay. Formal issues will be considered, but I am more interested in thoughtful execution of ideas through research, readings, and sketchbook assignments. **Suggested Text** *The Craft and Art of Clay* by Susan Peterson \*I will be posting some readings and information from this book onto Moodle, but it might be helpful for you to have your own copy. *Objects and Meaning: New Perspectives on Art and Craft*, Edited by M. Anna Fariello and Paula Owen

Sup  
plie  
s

bound sketchbook    fettling knife    needle tool    trimming tool    small  
sponge    small bucket    flexible metal rib    stiff plastic or wooden rib  
flexible smoothing rib    cut-off wire    brushes for slip decoration and glazing  
inexpensive brushes for wax resist use    shop apron or shirt    scissors,  
X-acto knife, ruler    Sur-Form rasp    \*most, if not all of these supplies are  
available at the UC bookstore

**Sketchbook/Journal Assignments** Keeping an active sketchbook is an essential tool in the creative process. You will be given sketchbook assignments in preparation for each project. I will meet with each of you individually to discuss your ideas and help you get started.

I will be posting readings on Moodle for us to discuss as a class. I will also ask you to write a 1-2 paragraph response to the reading in your sketchbooks to turn in before the discussion.

**Lectures/Community Events** The University of Montana and the Missoula community offer visiting artist lectures/workshops and other art related events. You will be required to attend 2 of these (lecture, workshop, exhibition, or event) and write a 2-3-paragraph essay about your experience. These essays are to be typed and double spaced with 12-point font. To find these opportunities, please visit:

The University of Montana School of Art Blog: [umartdepartment.wordpress.com](http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com) Missoula Art Museum: [www.missoulaartmuseum.org](http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org) University Center Gallery: [http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/uc\\_gallery/](http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/uc_gallery/) Montana Museum of Art and Culture: <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/> FrontierSpace Missoula: [frontierspacemissoula.weebly.com](http://frontierspacemissoula.weebly.com) The Clay Studio of Missoula: [theclaystudioofmissoula.org](http://theclaystudioofmissoula.org) The Brink Gallery: [thebrinkgallery.com](http://thebrinkgallery.com)

## **Attendance**

- It is beneficial to you and your creative process to attend every class
- Roll will be taken at the beginning of every class
- You are permitted 2 unexcused absences without penalty. Thereafter, your grade will be lowered 1/2 letter grade per subsequent unexcused absence. After the 6<sup>th</sup> absence, a failing grade (F) will be issued automatically.
- Excused absences such as emergencies or illness will require proper documentation
- Excessive lateness to class 3 times will act as one absence.
- Unless it is an emergency, I do not need to know why you missed class. Please do not email me asking what was covered in the class you missed. It is your responsibility to recover that information from your classmates. All handouts will be posted on Moodle.

• Please come to class! I love to see all of your smiling faces ☐

## **Required studio time outside of class time per week**

5 hours of studio homework time, in addition to the scheduled class time for every 3-credit studio art course.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on evaluation of student performance on the following assignments: Project 1 50 points Project 2 50 points Project 3 50 points Project 4 50 points Project 5 50 points Participation (sketchbook, community events, in class discussions) 100 points Total: 300 points A 90-100 B 80-89 C 70-79 D 60-69 F Below 60

## **Late Work**

15 points per day will be subtracted from all late work, unless it is the result of an excused absence or a kiln problem outside of the student's control.

## **Studio clean up**

Studio clean up in the ceramics studio is done weekly and is run by a graduate student. Each student taking a ceramics course is required to attend 2 of these per semester.

## **Health and Safety**

The UM Art Department uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance. **You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of each session in this classroom.** Use of the woodshop power tools is voluntary, and all users must complete a power tool orientation. No creatures or children will be allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times. No food or beverage containers will be allowed in the Art Department facilities when art-making is in progress. All artwork must be picked up by the Monday after finals week or it will be discarded.

### **Emergency Contacts**

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

### **Special Needs/Disabilities**

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 speak with me as soon as possible.

### **Withdrawing From Class**

The last day to drop a course with no grade is by the 15th day of the semester. During days 16-30 a course may be dropped with a "W" grade. On day 31 to the end of the semester courses may be dropped with either a "WP" or a "WF" by petition only. Please work closely with your advisor. Sometimes by error or design it is better to drop a course and retake it, then it is to risk failure. Please note: if a student is not in attendance on the 2nd day of the semester, the instructor may drop a student in order to open up a seat/place for another student.

**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 the 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](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321).**

### **Syllabus Changes**

The instructor reserves the right to amend any item found in these classroom policies and procedures taught during the semester. Implementation of any change will occur once all students of record have been notified.