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ARTZ 231A.01: Ceramics I

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Syl-S14-A231-02 –BL
ARTZ 231 Section 01, Ceramics I, 3 cr. Prerequisite ARTZ 108
Spring 2014
Professor Beth Lo Elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu tel. 243-5893
Office hours: M 12-1, W 4-5, Art Annex 129
Class meetings M W 10-12
Final Exam Friday May 19, 10:10-12:10
Art Dept Info <http://umartdepartment.wordpress.com/>

Course Description and Objective: The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with clay as an art-making material, and to introduce the fundamental techniques in the ceramic process. We will cover various methods of building with clay, including coiling, slab construction, carving, and wheel-throwing, and we will investigate surface decoration using slips, glazes and stains. We will experiment with different firing processes for each assignment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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 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 is session.) Assignments will be given periodically and class critiques will follow. Participation in critiques will help your grade! Assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Late assignments will be accepted for reduced credit.

CLEAN UP: ALL CLASSES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEAN UP. EACH STUDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO SIGN UP FOR TWO 7PM EVENING CLEAN UP SESSIONS.

VISITING ARTISTS AND CLAY EXHIBITIONS: There are several ceramics exhibitions and guest artists in ceramics in the university and community this semester.

Mandatory attendance: Tues; Mar. 11: Archie Bray Day, demos 10-12:30, 1:30-4:30, Lecture SS356 5:10-6pm

Clay Studio of Missoula, exhibitions, workshops
Archie Bray Foundation, exhibitions, workshops
Graduate Student exhibitions
Field Trips

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE:

Assignments will be given periodically and class critiques will follow. Assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Grading for each project will be based on fulfillment of the assignments based on the quality of work done. Criteria for assessing quality will be idea, formal resolution, craftsmanship and originality. Final grades will be also be affected by your energy (which includes attendance), thoughtfulness, participation and improvement.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Attendance, participation in critiques, attitude and your work energy will be major factors of your final grade. 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.

Materials Needed:

Bucket and sponge
Fettling knife and wooden knife
Cut off wire
Ribs, both plastic and metal
Trimming tools
Pin tool
Plastic drop cloth or garbage bags
towel
paint brushes, Chinese bamboo style

Other good things to have:

Respirator
Canvas
Propane torch, heat gun
Cotton sheet or lightweight cloth a
notebook for ideas
foam rubber

*Health and Safety notes: Many of the materials used in the ceramic process are toxic or harmful. There is a materials data notebook (yellow binder) next to Trey's office. We will be discussing health hazards throughout the semester.. **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!!!!!!** Your clean up practices will also affect your grade!!!!*

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. (Friday of finals week) Lockers must be cleaned out by this date unless you are registered for the next session, in which case lockers must be labeled accordingly.

Tentative class projects:

- I. Working solid, carving, hollowing out, stoneware, reduction fired
- II. Coil sculpture, terra cotta with white slip
- III. Throwing on the wheel: cups, stoneware, reduction fired
- IV. The big vase, slab coil handbuilding with white high fire clay, Anagama kiln
- V. Sculptural project: Kevin Snipes box assignment
- VI. Raku assignment: "Carbon"

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

Disabilities: Students with disabilities should speak with the instructor. See <http://www.umt.edu/disability>

RESOURCES

The Craft and Art of Clay, Susan Peterson
Hands in Clay, Charlotte Speight
Clay and Glazes for the Potter, Daniel Rhodes
www.ceramicstoday.com
www.archiebray.org
ceramicartsdaily.org

www.neue-keramik-de
www.ayumihorie.com
www.nceca.net
www.potters.org
www.ayumihorie.com links and
resources
www.montanaclay.org

CERAMICS STUDIO RULES AND POLICIES

1. Clean up after yourself! This includes wheels, splash pans, floor around wheels and tables, table surfaces, studio tools and bats, sinks.
2. Do not raise dust. Use sponges and scrapers rather than brooms. Turn on overhead fans when necessary.
3. Deal with your clay in an appropriate manner, conserving materials for maximum efficiency. Do not waste clay and glaze materials.
 - A. If your clay is a little too wet, dry it out with powdered clay and/or lay it out on a bat located **below** the wedging table or in the plaster drying trays in the clay mixing area. **DO NOT LEAVE THAT CLAY UNATTENDED. RETRIEVE IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE STUDIO.** Do not leave it on the wedging table surface!!
 - B. If your clay is a little too dry, slice it into ¼ " thick slabs and wet each slab thoroughly, wrap in plastic for several hours and then wedge it into a ball. OR: remix it in the pug mill with a little water and some class clay, pug it out and put it in the bin
 - C. If your clay is very hard, break it up into small bits, let it DRY and put it in the recycle slop buckets.
 - D. Place throwing slop and wheel trimmings in the appropriate slop buckets in clay area
 - E. If you open a bag of premix clay and do not finish it, LABEL the bag with the name of the clay and seal the bag tightly with a twist tie, or tape for reuse.
4. Never leave work out on wheels or tables. Remove it to a shelf. Always remove boards and bats from your work when it is dry. Wash them and put them back in their proper locations.
5. Never mess with anyone else's property!
6. Use dust masks when using any powdered materials (clays or glaze materials.) The dust masks are located next to Trey Hill's office and the First Aid Kit by the phone.
7. Use rubber gloves when handling toxic materials or if you have an open wound.
8. Use the kiln sign up sheets and abide by the time limits. Never take anyone else's kiln. If you choose not to use your kiln, remove your name from the chart!!!
9. Be aware of hot kilns! NEVER open a kiln unless you are sure it is cool. Use gloves when handling hot materials.
10. Clean your kiln and and kiln wash your shelves after use. Replace kiln furniture in proper places.
11. Wear protective eyewear when cleaning kiln shelves or using the grinder.
12. Plaster and Clay do not mix!!! When working or mixing plaster, always put down plastic sheeting on the tables or floor where you are working. If plaster chips get into the clay, it can cause your piece to explode either in the kiln or even after it's been fired. **NEVER ALLOW ANY WET PLASTER TO GO DOWN THE DRAIN.** When mixing plaster always have a rinse bucket nearby to wash your hands and tools in. Use a dust mask when using powdered plaster.
13. Use class glazes. Ask permission to mix your own glazes, and only mix as much as you can personally use.
14. Materials Hazard Book located in yellow binder, next to faculty offices.
15. No unattended children or animals in the classroom

KEEP IT NEAT, CLEAN AND SAFE