Course Goals: To provide the student with an understanding of the process and possibilities of various mold making techniques in ceramics

Course Description: Molds have been used as a tool for working with ceramics from prehistory through the industrial revolution. From creating texture on individual pieces to allowing the production of thousands of multiples, molds can be a useful tool for the ceramic artist. This class will cover various mold making techniques used to create ceramic forms. Beginning with stamps and ending with multipart slip cast pieces, students will learn to use molds creatively.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester the student will be able to:

- Create molds from a variety of materials, including stamps, sprigs, extrusions, slump/hump molds and multipart molds for slip casting
- Mix and utilize casting slips
- Integrate mold making into their work process.

Required Textbook: The Essential Guide to Mold Making & Slip Casting by Andrew Martin
Instructor may also provide articles or direct students to websites for certain projects.

Required tools:
- Basic pottery tool kit (about $15 at UAF Bookstore or Michael’s)
- Sketchbook ($5-$10 at UAF Bookstore or Michael’s)
- Various tools for carving ($5-$10 at Michael’s)

Materials: Lab fee covers a reasonable amount of clay, glazes and firings for the semester.

Method of Instruction: This class will include lectures, demonstrations and studio work. Every day the class schedule will include approximately 1 to 2 hours of lecture followed by demonstrations, and discussion. The remaining class time will be spent working on assignments with instructor feedback. Some days may have more lecture and some days may be more assignment-focused. Outside of class time, students should complete readings and work on sketches/plans for the next day’s assignment. If assignments are not completed during class, students will need to spend some time out of class time to complete them. Student should expect to spend about two hours a night plus several hours a day over the weekend. The studio is open 24 hours a day for students to work outside of class time.

Assignments: There will be five graded assignments for this class. Each assignment will build in complexity and will utilize skills and ideas developed from previous assignments. The instructor will provide assignment sheets detailing the expectations for each new project.

#1- Slump or Hump mold bowl using stamps – due May 19th
#2- Extruded form with extruded handle – due May 19th
#3- Tile mural – due May 21st
#4- Two-part mold for slip casting – due May 23rd
#5- Multi-part slip casting – due May 23rd

Evaluation of Assignments: Each assignment will be evaluated on completion of project (50%), craftsmanship (25%) and creative use of the technique (25%). Projects will be evaluated at the leather-hard stage. Work will be bisque-fired after it is evaluated by instructor. Students will have the opportunity to glaze their work but the focus of the class will be on developing techniques and ideas and not on glazed work.
**Attendance:** Attendance is required in this class. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. More than one unexcused absence will result in the final grade for the course dropping one full letter. It is the student’s responsibility to find out what they missed.

**Course Calendar:** (tentative)

Each day will begin with the instructor’s lecture or demonstration. Students will then work on the assignment for the remainder of class time. Toward the end of each class, the instructor will discuss the plans for the next day so that students can prepare their sketches. Students should complete assigned readings prior to the day they will be discussed. Students are expected to come to class with their sketches/images and a plan for what they want to do with the assignment for the day. If students complete their day’s assignment, they may work on completing previous assignments during class time.

**Week 1**

**Monday:** Intro to class; lecture on Mold-Making in the History of Ceramic Art (pre-industry)

- **Stamps and sprigs - creating texture with molds**
  - Instructor will give demonstration of carving stamps and casting sprigs in plaster.
  - Students will make simple stamps and sprigs in class.

**Tuesday:** Slump and hump molds – creating simple forms with molds

- Instructor will demonstrate making simple slump molds from cardboard and simple hump molds from clay. Instructor will provide examples from art history and contemporary artists.
- Students will make either type of mold and, utilize stamps created on Monday, will make bowls or plates from molds.

**Reading:** Martin: Chapter 1 “An Overview of Mold Making”

**Wednesday:** Extruder – Using the extruder to create handles/additions and hollow forms

- Instructor will demonstrate use of extruder and creating own extruder dies. Instructor will provide examples from contemporary artists.
- Students will utilize the extruder to create simple hollow forms with extruded additions.

**Reading:** “Homemade Extruder Dies” by David Hendley

**Thursday:** Tile – press mold

- Lecture: History of Tile Making
  - Instructor will demonstrate creating a prototype low relief tile from clay and make a plaster mold of that tile.
  - Students will make a tile prototype and plaster mold.

**Reading:** watch short videos “How to Make a Ceramic Tile Model with Relief Decoration for a Plaster Press Mold” at [http://ceramicartsdaily.org](http://ceramicartsdaily.org) and “Glazed Moroccan Ceramic Tiles” at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqEOt36ja0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqEOt36ja0k)

**Friday:** Students will use mold made on Thursday to make multiples and create a small mural with at least 4 tiles.
  - Instructor will introduce assignments 4 and 5 so students can work on sketches and prototypes over the weekend.

**Homework for the weekend:** students should work on sketches and prototypes for assignments 4 and 5.

Students will have access to the studio to work on assignments 1 to 3.

**Week 2**

**Monday:** At the start of class students will present Assignments 1 and 2 for review and critique.

- **Two part slip-cast molds**
  - Lecture: Mold-making and Industrial Ceramics
  - Instructor will demonstrate casting a two part mold.
  - Students will prep mold and cast first half in the afternoon.

**Reading:** Martin; Chapter 6 “Multi-piece molds”
Tuesday: Mixing casting slip
Students will cast second half of mold at the beginning of class.
Instructor will talk about properties of casting slips and the class will mix a batch of casting slip. Students will present Assignment 3 for review.

Reading: Martin: Chapter 7 “Slip Formulation”

Wednesday: Multipart molds and combining forms
Instructor will demonstrate combining forms from multiple castings.
Student will begin work on final project.

Reading: Martin: Chapter 10 “Artist who Slip-cast”

Thursday: Work day. Students will spend the day working on final project.

Friday: Students will have time to work on assignments in the morning.
In the afternoon Students will present Assignments 4 and 5 for final critique. Assignments should be leather hard and ready to start drying for the bisque kiln.

Grading: The final grade for the course will be based on completion of five assignments. Instructor will be evaluating progress daily. There will be two review days and a final critique during the semester. Each of the five assignments will comprise 20% of the overall grade.

A: (93-100%) A-: (90-92%) An honor grade; indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required.
B+: (87-89%) B: (83-86%) B-: (80-82%) Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance.
C+: (77-79%) C: (70-76%) C-: (70-72%) Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance and completion of all assignments.
D+: (67-69%) D: (60-66%) Indicates work of below-average quality and performance
F: (59% and below) Indicates failure

General Expectations:
- Everyone must read the “UAF Ceramics Studio Guide”
- You will be expected to help mix clay during the semester
- We will be firing kilns as a class; you are expected to assist in loading and unloading of kilns.
- If at any time you do not understand an assignment, expectation or use of equipment, it is your responsibility to contact me. Do not use any equipment that you have not been instructed in the proper and safe use of by the instructor.
- No clay, glaze materials or equipment can be removed from the building.
- All work and personal tools must be removed from the class by the end of your scheduled final.
- Only currently enrolled ceramics students have access to the ceramics studio. This means no kids, spouses or friends. Your friends and family can visit you outside of class time, but they cannot use any materials or equipment.
- No cell phones during class time.
- Respect your fellow students.
- You are expected to comply with the UAF Student Code of Conduct.
  http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html

Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.