ART F401-F71  
ADVANCED CERAMICS  
Summer 2015, 3 credits  
Meeting times: M-Th, 9am - 12pm  
Fine Arts Bldg room 415  
Instructor: Jed Williams  
Office hours by appointment  
Phone: 907-322-8076  
Email: jwill134@alaska.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Advanced Ceramics provides opportunities for the student to develop as an aesthetically perceptive and technically proficient ceramic artist. Throughout the semester, I will give demonstrations and lectures appropriate for each assignment and as requested. As advanced student you are expected to be developing your own direction in clay and a dedication to spending the necessary time and energy on your work.

**TEXTBOOK:** There is no required textbook for this course; however, as advanced students you should be developing your own reference library. Books to start with: *Working with Clay* by Susan Peterson; *Craft and Art of Clay* by Susan Peterson; *Hands in Clay* by Charlotte Speight; *Functional Pottery: Form and Aesthetic in Pots of Purpose* by Robin Hopper; *A Potter’s Workbook* by Clary Illian; *Ceramics* by Phillip Rawson.

You are **required** to sign up for an email list from [http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org/](http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org/). They send out several emails a week with tips on techniques and artists. This website is a great place to start exploring clay on the internet.

I may at times direct you to different web sites for videos and/or articles.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Advanced students are expected to be developing their own ideas and directions with their work. You will be expected to have **5 main projects** for the semester each of them due on the scheduled critique days. For each new project you must work out your plans in your sketchbook and meet with me before you begin. On the second day of class I will discuss with each of you individually your plan for the semester and together we will develop a set of assignments. **Graduate students** are expected to be self-directed and are expected to produce more thoughtful work.

**Artist Statement:** in order to create art that is truly your own it helps to be able to discuss your ideas in a coherent manner. To this end you will write a one page artist statement. This statement can be about one specific piece or about a whole body of work. **Graduate students** will also give a 15 minute presentation based on their work at the end of the semester.

**DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURES:** Advanced students are welcome and encouraged to sit in on all demonstrations and lectures. I will also be presenting demonstrations specific for the advanced students as appropriate to your projects.

**SKETCHBOOK:** You are required to keep a sketchbook for this class. This should contain idea development, drawings and technical info. Do not begin a project without working out ideas in your sketchbook first.

**FINISHING/FIRING YOUR WORK:** Firing and Glazing are an integral part of ceramics. The more control and understanding you have about the firing process, the more successful your work will be. As advanced students you will be responsible for firing all your own work including bisque and glaze firings. At the beginning
of the semester we will discuss proper kiln firing techniques. My role is to guide and direct you through this process, not to fire your work for you.

If you have never fired a kiln before, don’t worry: I will instruct you in the firing of the kilns and by the end of the semester you should have a basic understanding of how each kiln is fired. The gas and wood kilns are generally fired as a group.

**CRITIQUES:** We will have critiques at the start of class on Mondays. You should present your best work from each assignment. Critiques are when I grade your work; they are the equivalent of an exam. **Do not miss critiques.** It is your responsibility to know when critiques are to be held. You should have your assignment finished and ready for critique at the start of class on critique days.

*If you miss a critique your grade for that work will drop one full letter grade and it is your responsibility to contact me about evaluating your work.*

**GRADING:**
Assignments will be graded during 5 individual or group critiques held every Monday. Each project will be graded on the following criteria: Production level and/or completion of assignment: technical skill: progress in skill: effort: creativity and sketchbook.

Your final grade for the class will be based on:
- 80% Work presented at critique
- 20% Class Participation.

A: (90-100%) 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: (80-89%) Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance.
C: (70-79%) Indicates an average level of performance and completion of all assignments.
D: (60-69%) Indicates work of below-average quality and performance
F: (59% and below) Indicates failure

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Ceramics is a community activity. Through mixing clay and glazes to firing kilns, you will rely on each other to complete your projects. This part of your final grade will be graded in relation to your fellow students. Each time you mix clay, glazes, load kilns, etc. you will earn 5 points. At the end of the semester those with the most participation points will receive an “A” in participation with everyone else being graded in relation to them. For example, if StudentA has 100 participation points for an “A” then StudentB with only 70 participation points would have earned a “C”

**ATTENDANCE:** This is a studio art course and there is a direct relationship between your attendance and your success in this class. **Attendance is required.** I will be taking attendance at the start of each class. If you are late or leave early you will only get half credit for that class. If you have 3 unexcused absences your final grade for the course will drop one letter. Excused absences include only illness with a doctor’s note or official university functions with a note. If you miss a significant number of classes, even if they are excused, you will find it difficult to pass this class. If you do miss class it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. I will allow you to make up 2 absences by attending approved art related functions and writing a 1 page (200 word) response

**TOOLS REQUIRED**
- Tool packet from the bookstore
- Serrated rib (available at bookstore) or fork
- Variety of brushes
- Small bucket for water
- Large sponge to clean up
- Clear plastic to cover your work.
- Sketchbook
- You may need to purchase additional tools for some projects.
- You might want to have an apron, towel and ruler.
MATERIALS: Your lab fee covers a reasonable amount of clay, glazes and firings for the semester. If you use an excessive amount of clay you may be asked to pay an additional fee.

Mixing Clay: Clay is only to be mixed during class time or with prior approval from instructor. You must fill out the mixing log posted by the mixer each time you mix clay.

**You will be making clay as a class; no special clay bodies will be mixed in this class.**

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- Clean up when you are finished. This means cleaning off the tables with a sponge, sweeping up the floor if necessary, and putting your work away on the shelf. Make sure to cover clay bin. Do not put clay down the sink. Do not leave your work on the tables.
- **Leave the studio cleaner than when you found it.**
- Everyone will be expected to help mix clay during the semester.
- You are expected to work hard and show progress. To complete the projects you will need to work outside of class time. Expect to spend at least 8 additional hrs a week.
- You will have 24hr access to the studio. Use it.
- 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 instructed in the proper and safe use of by the instructor.**
- Absolutely no clay, glaze materials or equipment can be removed from the building.
- 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.
- iPods: you must be able to hear me at all times during class time. You may listen to your iPod on work days as long as you can still hear if I make an announcement. No iPods during critiques or demonstrations. If I feel that it is becoming an impediment to the class I will require that you put them away.

On the final day of class all work must be removed from the studio and lockers cleaned out. Work and tools left in the studio after this date will be thrown away.

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.