

BEGINNING CERAMICS
ART F201 F71 CRN 51017
Summer 2020
3 credits(1+4)
Meeting time: M-Th 2-5pm
Fine Arts Bldg room 415



Instructor: Teresa Shannon
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Beginning Ceramics provides an overview of the medium of ceramics and its possibilities through the study of clay forming methods, glazing and firing.

This class will focus on the basic methods of hand building construction: pinch, coil and slab.

Through my demonstrations and lectures you will become familiar with basic methods of construction, decorating, glazing and firing techniques. At the end of the semester students should have a working knowledge of various ceramic forming techniques and an understanding of visual elements and principles of design. You will also learn of the safe usage of materials and equipment in the studio.

TEXTBOOK: There is no required textbook for this course. **There is a required tool list:** see below. If you want to have a good basic book on ceramics, I recommend one of the following: Working with Clay by Susan Peterson; Craft and Art of Clay by Susan Peterson; or Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight.

I recommend following <https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/> This website is a great resource for techniques and concepts

I may at times direct you to different web sites for videos and/or articles and for some projects you may be required to do some research either on the internet or at the library.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be five graded assignments throughout the semester. When I introduce each new assignment I will give you an assignment sheet explaining my expectations.

#1 Basic Forming Techniques. This assignment is split into 3 small projects that will introduce you to some basic forming and decorating techniques. This will be the foundation for all your other projects

The remaining assignments will focus on your visual reference for the project. Each one can be interpreted in many ways from very functional pottery to purely sculptural, depending on your interest. On the day that I introduce each of these assignments I will provide you with a handout explaining my expectations for the project. For each project you must plan out your ideas in your sketchbook and go over those ideas with me before you begin. You can utilize any combination of the basic forming techniques to complete these projects.

#2 Historical Ceramic Reference: For this assignment you will reference an historic vessel or sculptural object. You will make two objects: a replica and an interpretation of your chosen historic object.

#3 Natural Reference: For this assignment you will find a natural object and make a piece inspired by that object. This could be anything from a sculptural interpretation to images on a vessel.

#4 Architectural Reference: For this assignment your inspiration will be architecture. You can reference a whole building or small details.

#5 Free Choice- for your final project, I will work with you to design your own assignment.

SKETCHBOOK: For each of these assignments I expect you to devote some time to brainstorming ideas in your sketchbook. Sketch out what you are thinking. These sketches do not have to be great drawings; they are just a way to help you organize your thoughts. **Before you start each assignment**

I will want to see your sketches.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURES: For each assignment I will be demonstrating techniques and/or giving lectures on relevant information. These demonstrations and lectures will usually take place at the beginning of class so it is important that you arrive on time. If you miss a demonstration or lecture it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS: I have set up a private Facebook group for this class. You will be required to photograph your projects and post them to this group in order to receive a grade for the project. Most of you should be able to do this directly from a smartphone. If you do not have a smartphone, you will need to have access to a digital camera and a computer. I will post notifications and links of interest to this group but any required information will either be presented during class time or via email.

A google calendar has been set up for the class. This will be updated throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to check the calendar for important dates.

You will be receiving an email invitation for both the Facebook group and the google calendar.

All emails will be sent to your official alaska.edu e-mail account.

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 rule

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 been 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.

ACADEMIC & BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR COURSES OFFERED THROUGH THE UAF ART DEPARTMENT

This is a college level course and although UAF welcomes and celebrates students of a wide range of ages and life experiences, a certain level of intellectual, emotional, and behavioral maturity is expected of students who participate in this course. Please read through the following list of expectations. We encourage any student with questions to discuss the course with their instructor.

Imagery: Sexuality, nudity, violence, and war have been central themes in the visual arts for over 40,000 years. Artwork featuring these topics will most likely be included and discussed in this class.

Nude Models: Nude models are part of many drawing and painting classes. Students are expected to follow the departmental guidelines and exhibit the utmost respect for models at all times, failure to do so will result in permanent dismissal from the course.

Topics and subject matter: Artist frequently make work about difficult and challenging topics. Students often have strong feelings and opinions about the topics that come up in discussion. The classroom needs to be an emotionally safe environment to explore ideas and students are expected to debate and discuss these ideas in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

Ability to sustain attention: Many studio art courses meet for a significantly longer period of time than what students may be familiar with in high school. Students are expected to participate fully in the entire duration of the course session, to work on assignments outside of class time, and to independently manage course deadlines with minimal reminders from the instructor.

Critical thinking: Students are expected to think critically about their own artwork and examine their own practice as developing artists in the context of written reflections, individual critiques and group critiques. Students are expected to provide and receive constructive feedback as part of the course. Students are expected to think for themselves and not to simply recite answers they've gotten from a textbook. Students will need to examine their own observations and go beyond simple statements such as "I like it" or "I don't like it".

Time and work ethic: Most art assignments at the college level require a significant investment of time. Students are expected to work independently outside of class and to manage their time on extended projects.

Written and verbal communication: Students are expected to write and speak about their own artwork and the work of others.

Creative risk taking and experimentation: Students are expected to challenge their technical and intellectual abilities and to try new working methods and materials. Students are expected to identify areas of weakness in their artistic ability and seek opportunities to develop new skills to expand into those areas.

Responsibility for health and safety: Many of the studio areas work with tools or materials that have the potential to be dangerous. Students are expected to practice safe and responsible studio practices at all times to protect themselves and others from harm.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to Student Code of Conduct. (<http://uaf.edu/usa/student-resources/conduct>)

DISABILITIES SERVICES: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and ensures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. UAF is obligated to provide accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student who has a disability. Please identify yourself to UAF Disability Services by applying for accommodations. To be considered for UAF Disability Services accommodations, individuals must be enrolled for at least one credit as a UAF student. For more information contact Disability Services at uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu, 474-5655 or by TTY at 474-1827.

TITLE IX PROTECTION AND DISCLOSURE OPTIONS

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

1. 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043
2. 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599
3. 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721

For more information about disclosure options for victims of sexual violence please see

<http://www.uaf.edu/files/oeo/Victim-Disclosure-Options.pdf>

RESOURCE & ADVOCACY CENTER: The Resource and Advocacy Center at UAF provides advocacy and resource referral to students, staff and faculty survivors of power-based personal violence. The office is staffed by a confidential Advocacy Services Coordinator and volunteers. The center provides a confidential resource on campus for survivors. The coordinator is a full time staff member of the [Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living](http://www.iacnvl.org/). <http://www.iacnvl.org/>

Location: Wood Center 130

Phone: 907.474.6360

Email: uafadvocate@iacnvl.org

Website: <https://uaf.edu/woodcenter/services/rac/>

The Resource and Advocacy Center and the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living provides confidential support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence and can help with the following:

- Support through exploring options, safety planning, crisis intervention, providing referrals, accompaniment to appointments etc.
- Emergency shelter is available to survivors (and their children) who are in need of safe housing. Emergency transportation is also available.
- Assists with applications for housing, public assistance, etc.
- The following support groups are available: [H.O.P.E.](#) (Hold on Pain Ends), a student led support group for survivors at UAF
- Title IX information and support, advocates are not mandated reporters to the Title IX office but can provide information about the Title IX and support survivors who want to go through the process.