

## **Advanced Ceramics 51039**

### **ART F401 - FXA**

Summer 2021 3 credits (1+4)

In Person with online content

Meeting times: MTWR 2-4:30pm

Fine Arts Bldg room 415

Instructor: Teresa Shannon

Phone: 907-378-0966

Email: [tdshannon@alaska.edu](mailto:tdshannon@alaska.edu)

Office hours by appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Emphasis on developing as aesthetically perceptive and technically proficient ceramic artist. Individual and group projects include kiln firings. May be repeated for credit with permission of instructor. Prerequisites: ART F301. Lecture + Lab + Other: 1 + 4 + 0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Continuation of ART 301 Intermediate Ceramics. This course provides opportunities for the advanced student to develop as an aesthetically perceptive and technically proficient ceramic artist.

**COURSE GOALS:** Advanced students are expected to be developing their own direction in clay and a dedication to spending the necessary time and energy on their work.

#### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be have:

- Improved their proficiency in the technical aspects of ceramics
- Developed a strong aesthetic sense of their work and ceramics in general
- critically discuss their personal artwork and the work of others
- Experience firing kilns either individually or as a group
- successfully mixed studio glazes

**COURSE READINGS:** There is no required textbook for this course; however, as advanced students you should be developing your own reference library. Books to start with: 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.

I will provide required reading materials for each project via google drive. I will post suggested readings to the "links" section of the class website

#### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Students must have regular access to a computer and the internet. Students must be able to use Zoom, Google Drive, Google Slides, Blackboard and a basic web browser. Students will be expected to download course material and upload photos and assignments to google drive. All reading materials and assignment sheets will be provided via google drive. Demonstration videos will be posted to a class website.

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/uafceramics/>. Grades and feedback will be posted to Blackboard. All announcements will be sent to your alaska.edu email address. Due Dates will be posted to google calendar.

#### **MATERIALS/SUPPLIES**

Basic Pottery tool kit; Serrated rib 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.

Many basic art supplies can be purchased at the UAF Bookstore, local craft stores or online

<https://www.theceramicshop.com>. Buckets, sponges and plastic can be found in the hardware section of Fred Meyers or at any hardware store. There are also many tools available for purchase in the ceramics studio through the Student Ceramic Arts Guild.

Your lab fee for this class covers a reasonable amount of clay, glaze materials and firing. If I determine that you are using more than your lab fees worth of materials you may be asked to pay an additional fee.

**\*\* You will be making clay and glazes as a class; no special/personal clay bodies or glazes will be mixed without the instructor's permission.** We will have a class bin of clay; you are not to take clay from other student's/class's bins. Clay is only to be mixed during class time or with prior approval from the instructor.

When you finish mixing you must thoroughly clean out the mixer and mop the floor.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:** This class will include in-person and pre-recorded lectures and demonstrations; in-person and asynchronous on-line group and one-on-one discussions; in class exercises and studio work; and short reading/viewing assignments related to the larger project assignments. Students should expect to spend time out of class completing assignments

This class consists of several sections at one time (201,301,401)

In general, lectures/demonstrations/discussions for each group will be on alternate days. I will be available for questions from both groups every class period, but on each group's off day, students should consider it a work day and work independently on their assignments. We may adjust this as the semester progresses.

In the event that campus closes due to COVID-19 response (or other reason), this syllabus will be modified for distance learning to include pre-recorded lectures and demonstrations; synchronous video and asynchronous discussions; modified reading, written and ceramic assignments.

Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf/uaf-students?authuser=0>

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

The Art Department and/or the Ceramics studio may implement new policies regarding COVID-19 as deemed necessary. I will send an email to your alaska.edu account with any updates. You should check your alaska.edu account regularly.

## **ATTENDANCE**

This is a studio art course and there is a direct relationship between your attendance and your success in this class. You have to put in the time to get the work done. I will be taking attendance during class, but, due to covid precautions, I will not be counting attendance toward your grade this semester. If you feel ill, stay home. If you do miss class time, contact me as soon as possible. You should keep up with any readings, lectures, discussions and all online content. You are responsible for keeping up with your assignments. If you do miss class, you will be responsible for completing your assignments and communicating with me on your schedule.

**AFTER-HOURS STUDIO ACCESS:** you can access the building on evenings and weekends with your PolarExpress card at the front door of the building(facing the fine arts parking lot) You can be in the studio 24/7, but the key access shuts down between midnight and 7 am.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Advanced students are expected to be developing their own ideas and directions with their work. You should 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. Students should submit via email a proposal by the third day of class regarding the direction they want to take this semester.

Some Project ideas:

**Complex forms:** 3 forms created from various forming techniques. e.g. thrown parts and hand-built parts combined together like oval forms with lids.

**Sets or groupings:** 3 or more objects that relate. This can be sets of mugs, place settings or a sculptural grouping. Historical Ceramics or Art movement interpretation: work that is inspired by a historical object or tradition.

**Current events:** work that is inspired by current events. could be political but not necessarily.

**Self-portrait/personal narrative:** a piece that is inspired by you and your life.

**PECHA KUCHA STYLE PRESENTATION:** All advanced students must give a short presentation (20 slides/20 seconds each) about any ceramic related topic. It could be your work, an artist you admire, a historic time period, technical aspects, etc. These will be scheduled in the second half of the semester.

<https://www.pechakucha.com/>

**FINISHING/FIRING 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.

**SKETCHBOOK/RESEARCH:** You are required to keep a sketchbook/notebook for this class. For each assignment your sketchbook should contain notes on demonstrations, sketches and ideas for forms and imagery, glaze notes and a self evaluation of your success with the project. You must have your sketchbook ready to show me on the day of the critique. For some assignments I will assign a specific research direction that will be part of your sketchbook.

**IN PROGRESS/DISCUSSION IMAGES** Each week students will be expected to post to a group Google Slide. I will start each week with a discussion prompt. Posts will be due by Monday at 6pm and by Wednesday 6pm, you must comment on at least two other students posts. The new discussion prompt will start each Wednesday.

**CRITIQUE IMAGES:** On Assignment due dates, students will be required to submit images of work and a short statement to a shared Google Slide. Students will be required to comment on at least two other students' posts.

**COURSE OUTLINE(subject to change):**

**Consult class google calendar for important dates for the semester**

**Week one:** intro to studio; intro project one; group discussion

**Week two:** critique 1; intro project two; intro to glaze lab; group discussion

**Week three:** critique 2; intro project three; intro to kilns; group discussion

**Week four:** critique 3; intro project four; group discussion

**Week five:** critique 4; intro project five; group discussion

**Week six:** final glazing; Final Critique; studio clean up; raku firing?

## EVALUATION

**CRITIQUES:** We will have 4-6 group or individual critiques throughout the semester. You will be notified of any changes in critique times well in advance. 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. Students will photograph all work presented at critique and submit those images (to the group google slide document) before receiving a grade for the project.

**GRADING:** Assignments will be graded during scheduled critique times. Each project will be evaluated on the following criteria: Completion of assignment; technical skill; progress in skill; effort; creativity; and sketchbook

**FINAL GRADE:** Each project/assignment will be given a point value. At the end of the semester your grade will be based on the total available points. (Work presented at Critiques is about 80% of final grade with the remainder made up with group discussions, images of work and classroom participation)

**A: 93-97%; 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: 73-76%; C-: 70-72%** Indicates an average level of performance and completion of all assignments.

**D+: 67-69%; D: 63-66%; D-: 60-62%** Indicates work of below-average quality and performance

**F: 59% and below** Indicates failure

“C-” (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course. A minimum grade of “C” (2.0), however, MAY be required by specific programs for prerequisite and/ or major / minor courses. Please consult specific program listings in the UAF Catalog.

<http://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/grading-system-gpa-computation/>

**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 a point. 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 10 participation points for an “A” then StudentB with only 7 participation points would have earned a “C”. Class participation can include any ungraded in-class activity

#### **COURSE POLICIES/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 the 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 and load kilns 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 6 additional hrs a week
- If at any time you do not understand an assignment, expectation or use of equipment, it is your responsibility to contact me.
- Absolutely no clay, glaze materials or equipment can be removed from the building without express permission from the instructor.
- Only currently enrolled ceramics students have access to the ceramics studio. This means no kids, spouses or friends.
- No cell phones during class time.
- No headphones during class time: you must be able to hear me at all times during class time. You may listen to your headphones on work days as long as you can still hear if I make an announcement. No headphones during critiques, demonstrations, lectures or any time I am presenting information. If I feel that it is becoming an impediment to the class I will require that you put them away.
- 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>
- **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.**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:** In the ceramics studio there are materials and tools that may be hazardous if not handled properly. Most notable general clay dust. Every student is expected to help keep the studio clean. All clean up should be done with a wet sponge and water (no dust brooms). Everyday, leave the studio cleaner than you found it. MSDS sheets for all materials used in the studio can be found in the glaze mixing area.

The instructor will instruct you in the safe use of all materials and equipment. This includes mixers, pugmills, kiln, wheels, extruders, drills, grinders, dremel tools, etc. Do not use any equipment that you have not been instructed in the proper and safe use of by the instructor. All appropriate safety equipment must be worn.

#### **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 may be included and discussed in this class.

**Topics and subject matter:** Artists 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 to 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.

**UAF Incomplete Grade Policy:**

Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:

"The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C- or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

For more information, see the UAF regulations regarding grades.

**Extended Absence Policy**

Extended absences are defined as missed classes or course work by students beyond what is permissible by the instructor's written course policies. Students may need to miss class and/or course work for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to: bereavement, personal illness or injury; serious illness of a friend, family member or loved one, military obligations, jury service, other emergency or obligatory situations. For more information, go to the student handbook or the Center for Students Rights and Responsibilities

**Academic Honesty:** The University of Alaska Fairbanks policies are in effect in this class. Academic honesty is required of all members of a learning community. Unethical behavior such as plagiarism or using others' work without appropriate acknowledgement in presentations, papers, or other course assignments is not tolerated. Research must be conducted in a professional manner; this includes all research-based assignments. Students who fail to follow academic integrity policies may be given failing grades. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language or ideas of another person and presenting them as one's original work. If you are uncertain about proper documentation of sources or citations, please discuss this with me. If you quote or paraphrase someone else's ideas, opinions, theories, evidence, or research you must give the source credit.

**Student Protections Statement**

I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. 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. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker, 907-474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities [uaf.edu/disability/](http://uaf.edu/disability/)

UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX).

Faculty members are designated as responsible employees, which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: <https://www.uaf.edu/handbook/>

**Title IX**

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 report 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 reporting include:

- 1) You may access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 907-474-7043;
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 907-474-6600;



3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 907-474-7721.  
<https://uaf.edu/oeo/civil-rights/aa-eo/>

Any UAF employee or volunteer who reasonably suspects or observes minor abuse or maltreatment is required to report the incident. Reporting procedures are available on the UAF Protection of Minors. Violation of this policy by employees shall be reported as well.

### **Equal Opportunity Employer**

The University of Alaska (UA) is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. UA does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination.

For more information, contact the UAF Department of Equity and Compliance.

### **Library**

Contact the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at UAF reference desk for help with research. [library.uaf.edu](http://library.uaf.edu) or 907-474-7481

### **Student Support Services**

The Student Support Services (SSS) program, located in 514 Gruening Building, provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards successful completion of their degree program.

Students have access to services if they meet any of the three eligibility requirements: a) limited income, b) documented disability, or c) first generation college student. Students receive intensive advising, one-one-one tutoring, technology check-outs, free printing and copying, computer lab space, and many other services. Additional information is at <https://www.uaf.edu/sss>, or contact them directly at (907) 474-6844.

### **Rural Student Services**

Responding to student needs by providing quality services to Native and rural students who expend positive effort in the pursuit of higher education and its opportunities. Please see: <https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>. Additional student support services can be found here: <https://www.uaf.edu/ruralss/tutoring-services/>.

### **UAF Help Desk**

Go to <https://alaska.edu/oit/> to see about current network outages and news. Reach the Help Desk at: [helpdesk@alaska.edu](mailto:helpdesk@alaska.edu) or 907-450-8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1-800-478-8226 (outside of Fairbanks).

### **Effective Communication Resources**

UAF Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [speak@uaf.edu](mailto:speak@uaf.edu), Gruening 507)

Writing Center (Contact info, including scheduling an appointment, can be found at <https://uaf.edu/writing-center/>, or go to Gruening 801)

UAF Math Services, [uafmathstatlab@gmail.com](mailto:uafmathstatlab@gmail.com), Chapman 305 (for math fee paying students only)

Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120).

Developmental Math Lab, Gruening Building, Rm 406

For more information and resources, please see the academic advising resource list:

[https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM\\_364e19011717281.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf)

**Veteran and Military Support Services**

UAF is committed to all veterans and military students—active duty, reserve, guard, separated and retired—as well as their dependents who are exploring UAF's academic opportunities. Staff members in Financial Aid, Admissions, Career Services, Veterans' Services and the Veterans' Resource Center are here to help you with any challenges you encounter while working while in or transitioning from a military to an academic environment. Please contact the Veterans Resources Center, 907-474-2475, <https://uaf.edu/veterans/> in room 111 in the Eielson Building.

**Emergency Notification Plan**

Students will receive emergency notifications via phone or email. Please check your uaonline account to confirm your emergency notification settings. for more information, please refer to the student handbook. While in class, in cases where you do not have access to your devices, as your instructor, I will take responsibility to relay any emergency notifications.