Instructor Travis Erxleben
erxlebenta@jacks.sfasu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment only

Phone: 281.923.8486
Rm 150A

Course Description:

This is an undergraduate level course designed to introduce students to the traditional methods of producing handcrafted ceramic vessels.

Materials Needed:

- Potters’ throwing tool kit (can be purchased from the department for $15)
- Large bowl (Plastic only)

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate mastery of form and composition skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.
2. Students will exhibit mastery in the use of materials, techniques, and media.
3. Students will demonstrate mastery of understanding contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving, and creativity.
4. Students will define, state knowledge of, and analyze art historical precedents.

Student Learning Outcomes: (referencing Bloom’s Taxonomy of Learning Domains)

Cognitive Learning Outcomes

Knowledge-Students will be led to understand and demonstrate basic skills using the potters’ wheel.

Synthesis-Students will use information delivered in this course to broaden their understanding of the handcrafted arts, create thought provoking functional works, and explore new methods of self-expression through clay.
Analysis and Evaluation: Through the process of working critiques, one on one guidance from the instructor, final critiques, and studio visits from visiting artists, students will learn valuable lessons of critical thinking, problem solving, and time management. These skills will enable the student to better evaluate their own work in the future, and lead to growth in studio efficiency.

Affective Learning Outcomes:

In addition to producing functional works of art, students will participate in group discussions and lectures on the traditional uses of ceramics in both artistic and utilitarian settings. These presentations will serve as examples enabling students to effectively communicate their ideas and accomplishments.

Psychomotor Learning Outcomes:

Students will utilize the ceramic skills of throwing on a potters’ wheel, glaze application, and various firing processes. These skills will exercise ideas of creativity and teach the student to manipulate the ceramic media in a multitude of ways.

Recommended Texts and Readings:

The following texts are recommended but not required:


***Additional readings may be supplied by the instructor throughout the semester***

Course Requirements:

Your overall grade for the course will be dependent on completion of the following:

- Completion of four major projects to be assigned throughout the semester
- Participation in department wood kiln firing
- Demonstration and understanding of basic pottery skills
- Respect for the facility, equipment, and materials provided
- Class attendance with additional 3-6 hours of work outside of class each week
Attendance and Participation:

- **Attendance to this course is mandatory!** Each student is allowed up to two unexcused absences without penalty. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by one letter.
- **Punctuality** Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late for class or leave class before being dismissed by the instructor will be issued a tardy. The accumulation of three tardies will constitute an absence.
- **Participation is required!** Students are expected to participate in class dialogue, contribute by raising questions and concerns about relevant topics, and respect the diverse opinions, beliefs, and skillsets of other students.

**Studio Attire:**

The throwing process can get messy, so it is recommended (not required) that you bring a change of clothes to use while throwing. Restrooms are available for changing and students are supplied with a locker to store personal items during class time. Close-toed shoes are required at all times while working in the SFA Ceramics Studio. Headphones and/or earbuds are prohibited in the studio during class time hours.

**Studio Safety:**

Fire extinguishers are located by the entry to the clay storage room as well as in the kiln room and glaze room. An emergency phone is located in the front foyer of the building. The phone line is linked directly to University Police and will connect with the dispatch office automatically when the receiver is picked up. Students are allowed to have up to one guest accompany them while working outside of class time. Guests who are not ceramics students are prohibited from touching department equipment and materials. If this rule is violated, the student will lose the privilege to work in the studio outside of class time.

Any and all materials utilized in the studio must be stored in non-glass containers. Any container previously used for food or drink items are also prohibited for storage uses.

**Studio Availability:**

The SFA Ceramics Studio is open for students to utilize for outside class work at any time when classes are not in session, and the cleaning crew is not on duty. Cleaning takes place Mon-Fri from 7pm-8pm (This time is subject to change throughout the semester). The studio can be accessed via a student ID card swipe at the front entrance of the building.
Evaluations:

Grades for this course will be determined on a 100 point scale. Your grade will be based on participation in class discussions and critiques, attendance, demonstrations of program learning outcomes, and the quality of works completed. A grading rubric will be issued with each assignment to clearly express the expectations and criteria required for success. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

A (90-100)  B (80-89.9)  C (70-79.9)  D (60-69.9)  F (0-59.9)

Withheld Grades:

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.
Accommodation of Disabilities:

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Spring 2016-Art 250.002-Important Dates to Remember:

January 19-Classing Begin

Feb 16-Assignment I Due

Feb 24-Visiting Artist Public Presentation

Feb 25-Visiting Artist Demonstration

Feb 26-Woodfire

March 10-Assignment II Due

March 14-18-Sprin Break

March 24-25-Easter Break

April 7-Assignment III Due

April 26-Assignment IV Due-**Last day to work with clay**

May 10-Final Exam 1pm-3pm

May 14-Graduation
Welcome to the Program:

College is designed for students to explore possibilities and indulge in fulfilling experiences. I understand that some students progress at different rates than others, and will grade each student impartially on their individual growth and dedication to the course. Don’t hesitate to ask for help if needed.

In signing this document the student agrees to have read and understood the course expectations, policies, and requirements herein stated.

__________________________________________________                   __________________
Student Name (Printed)                                          Date

__________________________________________________                   __________________
Student Signature                                          Date