

Art 708 – Introduction to Ceramics (Sec. 3350)
Fall 2013

Doug Blechner – Instructor
FA 105, MW 6:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Office Telephone: 310-287-4576
E-mail: blechnda@wlac.edu
Office Hours: 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

--NO CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS--
--No Headphone Devices and No Food--

Course Description:

This course provides a general introduction to the materials and processes of ceramic art. Instruction in basic hand construction methods of vessels is provided. Analysis of form, function and decoration emphasizing the proper use of materials and tools is presented. Focus is placed on developing skills in forming and decorating. The class will consist of lectures, demonstrations of traditional hand building techniques and surface treatment (decoration), studio work time, and critiques and discussion.

Course Objectives:

- To learn the fundamentals of ceramics.
- To become familiar with the different methods of ceramic construction, building techniques, and surface decoration.
- To introduce historical and contemporary ceramic art and gain an understanding of its cultural context.
- To challenge problem solving skills.
- To effectively apply the principles of civility as they pertain to the classroom, the instructor and your fellow students.
- To learn self-assessment through the critic of ones projects.

Student Learning Outcomes:

A student who earns a grade of “C” or higher will have:

- Secured the fundamental techniques of ceramic construction and decoration.
- Gained a greater understanding of cultural diversity through the study of art, historical and contemporary.
- Demonstrated an ability to think critically with an increased experience using problem solving skills.
- Shown a comprehension of ones civic responsibility through appropriate civil behavior as it relates to the community.
- Demonstrated an ability to self-assess through the analysis of ones art work.

Course Requirements and Personal Responsibility

Lab Fee: \$25.00 (Required payment to the bookstore)

The lab fee covers the expense of one 25-pound bag of clay, as well as glazes and firing for the semester. Prior to receiving clay to work with, each student must pay the fee to the bookstore. Additional clay may be purchased for \$7.00 a bag from the bookstore, when needed.

Attendance and Grading:

Attendance to all class meetings is required. Three late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. More than two unexcused absences may result in the lowering of your final grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in your being dropped from the class. Work will be evaluated on craftsmanship and on meeting the requirements of the assignments. Projects will be graded as they are completed. If there is ever a concern about your grade, please come and see me.

Student Behavior and Discipline:

It is my expectation that you conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times, behaving in a polite and courteous way to both the instructor as well as to your fellow students. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave class. Please refer to the **Code of Conduct** in the Class Schedule as well as the hand out “**College Policies and Standards.**” Each student is allowed one locker.

Clean Up:

It is important that all students participate and take responsibility in helping to maintain the cleanliness of the ceramics facility. **Clean up is mandatory.**

Clothing:

Be aware that this class involves the use of clay and other earthen materials. Wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty or take precautions to protect clothing. You must wear foot protection at all times.

Texts: (optional)

Nelson, Glenn C., Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook

Peterson, Susan, The Craft and Art of Clay

Speight, Charlotte, Hands in Clay: An Introduction to Ceramics

Tools needed for this class:

potter's tool kit / an oriental writing brush and a medium size nylon brush / a cleanup sponge / dry cleaner plastic bags or other plastic / 12" plastic ruler / serrated rib / small empty containers with lids / rolling pin / notebook

Assignments:

Five pinch pots

Two coil constructed pots:

1. 8" smooth, straight sided cylinder
2. A 12" vessel that is influenced by an historical ceramic piece

Seven slab constructed pots:

1. Slab mug with handle
2. Slab vase
3. Slab container
4. Four slab plates using four different slip decorating techniques

Extruder project

Final project

There will be one test and one written assignment during the semester

Final:

Monday, December 9, 2013, 6:45 p.m.-10:00 p.m. The final will be a time to discuss and critique final projects. All students are required to attend the final.

NO CLASS:

Labor Day Monday, September 2, 2013

Veteran's Day Monday, November 11, 2013

End of Semester Studio Clean Up

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 – The last scheduled class session is reserved for a comprehensive studio clean up. Mandatory for all students.