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ARTZ 231A.02: Introduction to Ceramics

Trey W. Hill

University of Montana - Missoula, trey.hill@mso.umt.edu

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Introduction to Ceramics
Fall 2013 – 3 Credits
School of Art - Ceramics 1 – Art 231A-02
Art Annex 128

PROFESSOR: Trey Hill
EMAIL: trey.hill@mso.umt.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 10:00-12:00 also by appointment
PREREQUISITES: Art 103
CLASS MEETING TIME: Tuesday & Thursday: 11:10 – 1:00

Note: All artwork must be picked up by 10 am on the Friday of finals week.

Course Description: Ceramics 1 – Introduction to clay as a historical and contemporary art-making medium. Basic methods of building with clay with an emphasis on handbuilding: elementary solutions to glazing and surface treatment.

- Two thirds of the semester will be an introduction to basic hand building techniques such as coil building and slab construction. These techniques will be used to fabricate ceramic sculpture throughout the semester. The other third of the semester will be spent on the pottery wheel throwing vessels and learning the skills of the wheel.
- Some of the ideas we will discuss include: form, tension, balance, texture, glaze and content.
- The majority of the class' scheduled meeting times will be yours to work on your pieces with the exception of demo's and slide lectures and field trips.

Course Objectives:

- Begin to develop a thorough understanding of the material and its possibilities.
- Develop a vocabulary that will enable students to discuss their work.
- Become aware of contemporary ceramic artists and their work.
- Begin to develop an individual aesthetic with clay.

Text: None required

Grading Policy:

Three factors will be considered in the determination of grades.

- 1) The quality of the product, including inventiveness, sensitivity to materials, technical comprehension, compositional effectiveness, and idea development in relation to the assignment.
 - 2) The quality of the learning process, including risks taken, range of ideas explored, contributions to class, attendance, effective use of class time, enthusiasm and the amount of work done.
 - 3) Professional demeanor in ceramics as evidenced by clean work habits, the proper treatment of equipment, attention to the studio space, and participation in the weekly studio clean up
- A = Excellence in all assignments, highly motivated, extremely innovative solutions to projects
B = Above average in all work, demonstrated technical growth and visual maturity
C = Completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation
D = Below average quality in work and/or Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation

F = Poor quality of work and/or Incompletes on many projects, poor class participation, several absences.

Critiques: We will have major critiques following the completion of each assignment. You will also participate in brief critiques at the leather-hard stage to discuss glazing options.

Late Work: I will accept late pieces however you will be penalized one letter grade. I understand that special circumstances arise and this will be taken into consideration.

Work Required Beyond Class Time: I expect you to work at least five hours a week outside of designated class time. This semester we will be firing the wood kiln and every student will be required to participate. You will get more details as we get closer to firing. The wood kiln is located approximately 30 minutes away in the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

While it is not required, I strongly recommend that each student take advantage and become involved in the University and greater Missoula art community by attending shows, lectures, etc. This will enable you to become more aware of what is happening in the contemporary art world as well as influence and improve your own body of work.

Attendance: Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three absences your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence, up to six absences when a failing grade is issued automatically. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to get any missed information from another student and contact me if you have further questions. Please keep in mind that you will be required to meet any deadlines set.

NOTE: If you know that you are going to miss more than one class, please notify me in advance. If you are falling behind, let me know so that we get you back on track.

Studio Clean-up: You are all required to clean up after yourselves. Additionally, you will be required to attend two clean ups that are scheduled on Wednesday nights at 7:00

Access/Special Needs: Students with special needs should see me after class.

Health and Safety:

The ceramics studio contains many potentially hazardous materials and equipment.

Throughout the semester we will go over proper use of essential tools and materials as well as safe use practices. Remember, if you have any questions or are unsure on how to use a tool or piece of equipment, stop and ask the instructor for help. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be read prior to using hazardous materials. All safe-handling procedures for both materials and equipment must be strictly followed. Personal Protective Equipment (ex. i.e. - gloves and goggles) must be used at all times in accordance with the safety demonstrations.

If you are working late nights keep the outside doors locked. Creatures and children (big or small) that are not currently enrolled in ceramics courses are not allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

Building Hours: Art Department building hours are for currently enrolled students only. Art studio use requires you to be currently registered in a ceramics course, as course fees facilitate specific supplies. Hours are 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M. Monday through Sunday.

Recommended tools:

Pottery Tool Kit	Metal Fork
Towel	Spray Bottle
Small Bucket	Brushes
Large Plastic Garbage Bags	