

CERAMICS I | ART1750/CRN 80074 | FALL 2024

Credit Hours/Contact Hours: 3/3

Instructor: Pavel Amromin

Credentials: MFA from University of Florida

Office Hours: : M, W 1:30 p.m. –2:30 p.m., T, R 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Room 120 (AC)

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Catalog Description

This course covers basic concepts of ceramic design. Experience in process of forming, decorating, glazing, and firing pottery.

Course Content

Ceramics 1 is an introductory course, which will primarily focus on producing utilitarian objects using the potter's wheel. This class will also cover clay mixing, firing of kilns and a number of glazing and other surface decoration methods. Emphasis will be placed on design, aesthetics and the ability to convey ideas through a visual form.

The student will be expected to learn and implement the basic principles of design as they apply to two and three-dimensional form, use these concepts to communicate ideas, and develop a beginning understanding of historic and contemporary ceramics.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic working knowledge of processes and materials relating to ceramics.
- Solve technical problems that commonly arise with the material of clay.
- Understand the basic fundamentals of design concepts.
- Interpret, the meaning of structure, spatial design, surface design, color, proportion and composition, function and content.
- Utilize a vocabulary necessary to discuss ceramic materials and processes, and to explain aesthetic decisions.
- Demonstrate habits that promote original and creative work, such as disciplined work ethic, willingness to take risks, and the routine of recording ideas in a sketchbook.

Text

There is no text for this course.

Course Outline

Please refer to the class calendar for an outline and important deadlines.

Class Structure and Requirements (In class)

This is a studio class, which means that the majority of class time will be spent making the actual work. The student must show up on time and is expected to work hard for the duration of the class. The rest of the “in class” time will be used for demonstrations, presentations and critiques.

Class Structure and Requirements (Out of class)

Each student is expected to spend at least 4 hours per week in addition to class time to have any real success in the class. If the students schedule does not permit such a time commitment he/she might find the class to be difficult and unrewarding.

We welcome and encourage the student to use the open lab hours we provide. These hours are exactly that, lab hours, uninstructed, however they provide the student with the valuable time he/she will need to complete the projects required in the class. Lab hours will be posted on the door.

Critiques

Open forum critique sessions, with small and large groups, will be held to critically evaluate and discuss student's work. Conceptual, formal and structural aspects of the project will be addressed. Critiques are vital to the student's development, and are never to be missed. On the day of the critique, all work must be finished and staged for a formal presentation. If it is not it will be considered late and graded accordingly.

The student is strongly encouraged to take active participation in class discussions and critiques. Critiques are a vital tool in the development of the student, however without student participation it becomes a painful, drawn-out exercise of staring into space. Your opinion counts, let's hear it!

Project Evaluation

Projects will be evaluated for fulfillment of the assignment requirements. Such as resolving design problems, concept development, craftsmanship and meeting building, firing and glazing deadlines. Grades will be assigned not for merely completing the project but on the quality of the students work, specifically:

- **Level of Challenge** (How far did student go beyond the minimum requirements of the assignment to produce more numerous and challenging pieces? How thoroughly did the student explore the required techniques?)
- **Aesthetics/Concept** (How original and personal is the students solution? How far did the student reach beyond the obvious? How effectively were principles of design employed?)
- **Craftsmanship** (Is the construction sound? Did the student take time to finish and resolve surfaces, joints, edges, and other details in an appropriate manner for the design?)

Grading Scale

“A” project (100% — 90%)

- Explores the assigned techniques in depth, clearly beyond the class norm (such as exceeding the minimum requirements in numbers, complexity, and/or size)
- Applies highly original ideas, in concept and/or design
- Shows exceptionally effective application of the design principles discussed
- Shows excellent craftsmanship and attention to detail

“B” project (89% — 80%)

- Exceeds the minimum requirement for the assignment
- Moves beyond the most obvious design solutions
- Shows sound understanding of design principles discussed
- Shows good craftsmanship.

“C” project (79% — 70%)

- Satisfies the minimum requirements for the assignment.
- Craftsmanship is of a level that does not obviously detract from the overall effect or survival of the piece.

“D” project (69% — 60%)

- Serious flaws in craftsmanship and/or fails to satisfy the minimum requirements for the project.

“F” project (59% — 0%)

- Shows no evidence of a genuine attempt to complete the assigned problem.

Reworking Projects: If you submit a studio project on time, you may attempt to improve your grade on any project by redoing it. You should submit the original grading sheet and the work from your first attempt, along with the new work.

Late Work: Late work will receive a full letter grade reduction and may not be reworked for a higher grade.

Note: Overall effort and general attitude towards your work, and improvement during the semester will factor into your grade.

Studio Maintenance

During the course of the semester the student is responsible for mixing clay, loading and unloading the kiln, and washing kiln shelves. Each student must clean up after himself at the end of each class. This includes wiping down of the floor and the worktable, cleaning and putting away the tools into their proper storage, and making sure that all glaze and clay bins are tightly shut. Realize that you are sharing the space with your peers so please be respectful of the space. A studio-wide clean-up day will be scheduled at the end of the semester. All students are REQUIRED to attend this class. Failure to attend cleanup day will result negatively on your final grade.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

- Attendance is mandatory. One absence equals one percentage point off of your final grade (excused absences will not constitute a point drop). No more than four absences will be allowed for each student (excused or unexcused), regardless of circumstance. If the student has missed more than four classes he/she is too far behind to receive credit for the course. The only options left are to receive an "F", a "W"*, or an "I" depending on where the student is in class and/or assignments completed.
- It is the student's responsibility to communicate with his/her instructor regarding any absences. If a student misses a class it is his/her responsibility to find out what was covered in that class, and what is required for the next meeting.
- Attendance at critiques is mandatory. A missed class does not constitute an extension of an assignment. Projects not presented on or before the critique date will be counted late and graded accordingly.
- If you miss more than 4 class meetings you will be dropped from the class.

- The student is expected to show up on time. Three late arrivals will count as an absence.
- Early self-dismissals will count as one absence.
- Class time is for working not for gathering materials. Showing up to class unprepared will count as an absence.

Incomplete Grades: To receive a grade of “I” (for “Incomplete”) in a class, the student must submit a **written request** to the instructor prior to the last day of the course. The “Incomplete” option is only intended to help students who have an emergency arise in the last two weeks of the class that prevents them from finishing all work. The “Incomplete” provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an “F”.

Student Withdrawal: Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W”.

Consequences of Withdrawals: Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

NOTE: Students are allowed to repeat courses where “D” and “F” grades were earned in order to improve their grades. Students are limited to two (2) repeat attempts per course. The last grade earned is counted as the final grade.

Attending GCSC Events

Students are required to attend at least two of the GCSC sponsored “Art Events” over the course of the semester. These include; show openings, artist demos, and lectures. The schedule of events is available online and the announcement board.

Extra Credit

To receive extra credit the student may write a one-page review of the show they’ve attended. The review should be based on the material you have learned in the class. You may approach the work from a formal standpoint and talk about composition, elements of design, media, etc. Your review may include the whole show, a couple of

pieces, or just one piece that really grabbed your attention. (Please attach pictures of the work that you are describing.) Upload your paper to the “Extra Credit” folder found under the Lessons tab. A successful completion of this assignment will add two (2) percentage points to your overall grade. You may complete up to three (3) extra credit assignments over the course of the semester for a total of six (6) percentage points. Extra credit submissions, which fall short of a one-page minimum, or fail to address the subject in a manner that is relevant to the class, will not receive any points.

Grading

The final class grade will be based on the following factors:

Work: 80% of final grade

Participation: 10% of final grade

Studio Maintenance: 5% of final grade

Events: 5% of final grade

Materials

The lab fee covers most materials. These include clay, glazes, slips, tools, sponges, brushes, plastic buckets, clay boards and plastic bags. The student is responsible for purchasing a sketchbook. Each student must have a sketchbook specifically dedicated to the class. The tools, glazes and slips provided by the school are of the most common variety. If the student needs a special glaze, slip, or tool not offered by the school he is strongly encouraged to purchase it from the local art stores or from numerous ceramic suppliers online.

Recommended ceramic suppliers

AMACO www.amaco.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Axner Pottery and Ceramic Supplies www.axner.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Bennett Pottery www.bennettpottery.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Campbells Ceramic Supply www.claysupply.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Clayworld www.clayworld.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Dogwood Ceramics Supply www.dogwoodceramics.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Highwater Clays www.highwaterclays.com [Links to an external site.](#)

Please check with the instructor before ordering supplies. Some supplies may be incompatible with the studio stock.

Academic Integrity Policy

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F or zero grade for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

Recording Class Lectures

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>.

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Services. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Food and Drink Policy

NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN THE CLASS ROOM!!!