**Beginning Ceramics**

Art 10-50002/50003

Room: Art Center 160

Prof. David Hicks

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 1:00 – 2:00pm

Students should schedule a meeting time to assure availability.

**Course Description:**

Beginning Ceramics will be an opportunity for students to work with clay as an art medium. In this course you will become familiar with the basic methods of construction, glaze application, ceramic related concepts of thermal dynamics in the firing process, and begin to explore nature of clay as an art medium.

Students will be involved with all aspects of the ceramic process. This process includes the construction, firing and glazing.

**Course Objective:**

The goal of this course if to familiarize you with basic techniques of Wheel Throwing, Hand Building, glazing and the vocabulary associated with clay. More importantly, you will also be asked to think creatively through clay. Look at the traditional ideas associated with the medium and begin to push beyond these traditions into more contemporary practices of working with clay. Upon completion you will have built, thrown, glazed, fired and engaged in critical analysis of your ceramic work and the artwork of others

**Assignments/Grading Policy:**

The overall course grade / evaluation will be determined by the completion and success of the projects assigned. Projects will be graded on the guidelines laid out for each project, which may include but not limited to: scale, craftsmanship, Glaze application/execution, and conceptual direction. Students will be assigned multiple projects during the course of the class. The number of projects will be determined as the course progresses. Depending on the scope and intense nature of some projects, the number of projects may vary. On average we will compete 3-5 projects during the semester.

This course requires the full completion of your project in order to receive credit towards final course grade.

Students will be expected to spend time outside of class time to complete their projects. Class time will be used for lecture, demonstration and course work. Additional work time will be required to complete projects

The grading scale will be a standard scale of 100%

***GRADING SCALE***: 100-93=A; 92-90=A-; 89-88=B+; 87-83=B; 82-80=B-; 79-78=C+; 77-73=C; 72-70=C-; 69-68=D+; 67-63=D; 62-60=D-; 59-0= F

All assignments have a value of 100 points.

**Policy on Late Assignments:**

I do not accept late assignments. The nature of this course and materials used requires that your projects be completed at the due dates posted in order for them to be fired in the kiln. Late assignment may not be able to be fired or completed in time for critique or grading. PLEASE finish your project on schedule with the firing and project deadlines. If your work has not been fired, glazed and or trimmed (wheel thrown), you will **not** be able to receive full credit for your work. *You must be present on the project Critique day in order to receive credit for your project. If you are absent without excuse your work will not be graded. Missing a critique is the same as not taking the exam! Be here, please.*

**Attendance/ Participation and Absences:**

Student participation is defined as been present in class, listening and note taking during lectures and demos. Consistent attendance is required to successfully complete this course. Punctuality is required for the class. Being that this is a studio course you will need to be in class to progress through the workload of the class. There will be times when you may need to come in after class hours to complete your projects. The studio will be open and available for outside of class time.

• Attendance at all classes, critiques, and field trips is mandatory.

• You must work during scheduled studio times or it will be considered an absence.

• More than two absences in the semester will result in a grade reduction of 1/2 of one letter grade per accumulation of twoabsences. Late arrivals and early departures will count toward absences.

**Supplies:**

You will be required to purchase the necessary tools and materials needed to complete your projects. It is you responsibility to get the needed tools and supplies by the end of the first week of the semester. ***Your*** class materials ***must*** be with you in class during class meeting times. Students who do not come to class prepared for class work (with their tools) will be asked to leave and receive an absence on their class attendance record for that day. This course requires the use of tools and materials you are responsible for maintaining and bringing to class. If you come with out your materials/tools you are in your actions not taking part in class, and will be considered absent.

***These materials are mandatory and must be purchased by the end of the first week of class:***

* CLAY (book store) *you will use approximately 4-6 bags over the course of the semester*
* Ceramic Tool Kit (book store)
* Sketch Book 8”x10” size range
* Sponge (large clean up sponge)
* Plastic Trash Bags (10 gallon size)
* Spray Bottle
* Knife (fettling or kitchen)

Additional tools may be needed depending on your project.

If you come to class unprepared for class work, you will be asked to leave and receive an absence for the class session. Be prepared for class!

**STUDIO SAFTEY:**

Appropriate clothing should be worn in the studio (work clothes). Foot ware must be worn at all times. Do not use equipment unless an instructor has checked you out to use the equipment. Dust masks must be worn when mixing dry ingredients.

**CLEAN UP RULES:**

Clean up is VERY important in the ceramic studio. Clay dust may contain carcinogens and other poisonous materials that can be potentially harmful if not dealt with in a proper manner. All clay scraps must be cleaned up from the floor, tables, and wheels or where ever else you may be working. Clay in a moist for presents no hazard of health, but when dried and in a powder it can become airborne and inhaled, leading to respiratory issues. Please use a damp sponge to clean your area in order to minimize the amount or clay dust in the air.

Clean all workspaces when you are done. Return all tools to their proper locations and immediately wipe down equipment when done.

**Behavioral Standards:**

I expect for the ceramic studio to be a place where all students can relax and focus on the project at hand.

Students are required to be on time to class. Tardiness is unacceptable and rude. I will generally start the class with some words on the project, timeline of the assignment or with lecture and demo. Please be on time so as not to miss out on the information necessary for you success in the course.

Offensive language will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to leave the class if their behavior/language becomes a disturbance to the class and its activities. This includes excessive conversation not related to project at hand.

**Cheating**

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating on exams, assignments, of caught plagiarizing will receive an “F” in the form 0% credit for the assignment and will have their actions reported to the College for academic review.

**Accommodations for Students with Special Needs:**

Any student with a documented learning, physical, chronic health, psychological, visual or hearing disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to Disability Support Services and present the instructor with disability verification provided by the Disabled Student Service Department as early in the semester as possible (preferably within the first week).  All discussions will remain confidential.  Please contact the Reedley College Disabled Student Service Department at : (559) 638-0332

***DROP DEADLINE:***

Please be sure to check you course catalog or with the College enrolment office to ensure that you are aware of the last day to drop this course with out receiving an “F” on you transcript. It is your responsibility to manage you academic status. Students who do not show the first Day of class will be dropped. Students who do not show for the second and third week of classes will be dropped. In other word, if you show for the first class and then stop coming you will be dropped. Please be aware of your responsibilities as a student.