INTRODUCTION to CERAMICS 281-802 and ART EXPLORATION 107- 503

SPRING 2018 -- Professor Christopher Davis-Benavides
Section 802. Monday and Wednesday 12:30 pm to 2:40 pm
Office: Art A42; Office Telephone: 229-4250;
Email: cedavisb@uwm.edu Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 11:00-12:00 am or by appt.

UWM Catalog Description (short version): "281. Hand building, surface embellishment and glazing of functional and sculptural ceramic forms. Slide lectures of historical and contemporary approaches to the medium. Prereq: Art 101(P), 106(P), & 109(P)."  
107 (Subtitled). 1-3 cr. U. Special topic course in Art and Design for non-art majors. It may be retaken w/chg in topic to 6 cr max. Not open to Art & Art Ed majors. Prereq: none.

I. FULL COURSE DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION to CERAMICS will introduce you to a variety of hand forming techniques and approaches to finishing and firing your work. Contemporary attitudes towards ceramics will be introduced, as well as an overview of historical attitudes towards working with clay. The first semester orientation to ceramics is centered on problems dealing with important fundamentals of working with clay, that is, a vocabulary of hand building techniques and experience in using those techniques to present your ideas effectively.

Class time will be divided between demonstrations, lectures, slide presentations, and individual work time. I do not repeat any missed demos, slide lectures, etc. It is essential that you are working during class time so that we have the opportunity to informally discuss your work in-progress. Also, you will undoubtedly benefit from seeing the in-progress work of other students. For these reasons ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL MEETINGS.

Critiques involving the entire class will be held throughout the semester (see calendar dates of the graded final critiques). You should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of class working on assignments. See D2L course site for UWM Credit Hour Policy. On average, students should spend 48 hours per credit per semester on in-class activities and activities outside of the classroom (i.e., approx. 144 hours for a 3-credit course).

- In Class: 240 minutes x 15 weeks (Studio ) = 38 hours
- Class demonstration/ review Course Materials: 2x class time = 18 hours
- Critiques = 7 hours
- Working on Presentations/Assignments = 84 hours

The workload is an estimate and that students are assessed on their performance, not on the time put into the course.

Working with clay requires careful scheduling for drying and firing your work. In order that the studio function smoothly it is necessary that all students enrolled in ceramics classes cooperate with studio maintenance, firing schedules, and cut-off dates for working with wet clay at the end of the semester. The ceramics process requires a steady working schedule. Do not expect to save all of your work for the end of the semester. If you do it won't be fired!

Much of the information that will be presented during this course will be new to you and will expose you to a new technical vocabulary. You should take notes during class lectures and demonstrations. When you have questions please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

II. STUDIO ACCESS & POLICIES/SAFETY:

The Ceramics Studio will be open during schedule class times. Outside of these times you will have access to the studio ONLY with your student I.D. AND your ceramic studio work permit card. A key for the studio will be kept in a locked key box in the door. The combination number will be given in class. Ones you have open the door return key back to the locker.

For 24/7 access you will have to use your student ID card . If you are not Art and Design major to validate your card you must stop by PSOA Box Office inside the Zelazo Center (Use south entry from parking lot. Free parking allowed at green 15 min meter neat the entrance. Box office hours T-F 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM) you will need to present your Student ID

For security all ceramics students must sign in and out of studio after hours that don't comply may lose the right to work in the studio after hours.
- For your personal safety, the classroom will be kept lock when classes are not being held you will have access to the studio at all possible times. Logging after hours times, you must sign time in and out on the class Ledger. keep the classroom key at all times on the assign key lock in door. Lock combination number will be email to you and posted in D2L
- When working alone, or at any time during evening or early morning hours, keep door closed. If someone asks you to open the door, ask him or her for ID and work permit before opening the door.
- An emergency telephone is located in A78 classroom or by the elevator. UWM Security Police: telephone X4627. Do not hesitate to call them if you have any questions about your safety while working in the studio. FOR SERIOUS EMERGENCIES DIAL (9-911)
- Carry your work permit and ID with you at all times when working in the studio. The UWM security police may check your identification. You will also need this identification to enter the studio after class hours.
- Keep floors and tables free of scrap clay to minimize clay dust (silica) in the air
- Clean up spilled water immediately. Water mixed with clay is dangerously slippery
- Label all tools and clay bags with your name. Lock all tools and clay in lockers when not in use. Lock other valuables in lockers at all times.
- Do not touch, or pick up any other person's work. It is very fragile. If an accident does happen, place a note identifying circumstances of the accident on the piece.
- Please print and sign form that you will find in D2L as Dust Mask Form. pdf file, this is Appendix D to Sec. 1910.134 (Mandatory) Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under the Standard
- Dry raw Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for studio material may be available in the glaze studio or you may find it on line at:

A detailed list of studio policies and safety guidelines is included in the D2L Course Reader and http://www4.uwm.edu/usa/safety/art/ceramics.cfm

**GENERAL UWM ACADEMIC POLICIES APPLYING TO THIS COURSE**

Please refer to: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**III. MATERIALS FEE:**

$76.00 payable upon registration. Any students dropping the class after the first week will still be required to pay fee. Materials fee includes: (6) 25 lb. bags of studio stoneware, studio glasses and slips, one dust mask, underglazes, and other ceramics raw ceramic materials.

Additional bags of stoneware clay may be purchased for $8.00 per 25 lb. bag. When you wish to purchase clay in excess of your lab fee allotment, I will have you fill out a form after wet-work cut-off, and will have a bill processed for you. Any fees for extra clay will be posted to your PAWS account. NOTE: Only this studio formula clay and glazes may be used in this class. Clay will be distributed during the first five minutes of each class or at the end of class period.

If the Student wishes to opt-out of the College acquiring their program materials, the Student may contact [Instructor of Course] on or before [second Friday of Classes, Fall 2017 is 9/15/2017]; if no contact is made by that time, the Student will be deemed to have opted-in. Students opting out of this process will be reimbursed for the cost of program materials and will be personally responsible to acquire these materials. Note that materials may cost significantly more when not obtained through the College.

The **MANDATORY** Studio Clean-up date for the class is: **Saturday May 12, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm**

**NOTE:** This date/time is the Final Exam period for your respective sections

**IV. READING MATERIALS:**

There will be required readings and web links from the D2L site for this course. On the first day of class I will discuss use of the site and its current content.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED WEB SITES: https://cfstileonline.org
- www.accessceramics.org and https://ceramicartsnetwork.org See additional sites on D2L.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TEXTS:


**V. TOOL AND SUPPLY LIST:**
Required: Union Studio Arts and Craft Center Artist shop M-Th form 10 am- 9 pm, also available at the Blick, or other art stores. You can purchase also on line at [https://www.baileypottery.com/Bailey-Pottery/Product-Details/%20Kemper-F97-Fettling-Knives-Hard-C090108](https://www.baileypottery.com/Bailey-Pottery/Product-Details/%20Kemper-F97-Fettling-Knives-Hard-C090108) [https://www.dickblick.com/products/kemper-fettling-knives/]

1. Ceramics required tools includes: 2 loop tools, needle tool, wood modeling tool, ceramic sponge, wire clay cutter, smooth metal rib, serrated flexible steel rib, wood rib.
2. Fettling knife, tempered blade (harden steel blade)
3. Stanley brand 6” Surform pocket plane and Kemper brand Mini Ribbon Sculpting set available separate from the packaged tool kit bag at the Bookstore:
4. In addition to the above tools from the art supply store, you will need the following. Many of these items you may already have. There are a few items I will show you on the first day of class, which may be unfamiliar.
5. A variety of small and large brushes
6. Boards (3/4” plywood-not painted), various sizes. 24x24” are ideal. MENARDS building supply store has inexpensive PRE-CUT 24x24” ¾” thick boards in stock. Also bring canvas or old bed sheet to cover your board.
7. Retractable sharp knife with break off blades. Often these knives have an orange plastic cover. They are very inexpensive and a cheaper alternative to Ex-acto knives. Found in hardware store or Menards, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.
8. Scotchbrite flexible green sanding pads (used for cleaning kitchen pots or sometimes for fine paint sanding)
9. One roll or box of large plastic garbage bags.
10. Scissors.
11. Roll of masking tape or blue painters’ tape
12. Sponge (kitchen variety)
13. Several large hand size or bath size terry cloth towels. These can be the ragged old sorts that you probably have at the back of your closet!
14. Apron or old shirt to wear while working.
15. Metal rules
16. Black, blue or red Sharpie marker
17. Clean ziplock bag for your respirator (respirator is part of the lab fee)
18. Three ring note book to hold syllabus, calendar, assignment sheets, sketches and other D2L documents for the class

SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS: Separate written descriptions of each problem will be posted on D2L

D2L SEMESTER CALENDAR: A day-by-day calendar with all due dates noted is posted on D2L

VI. GRADING CRITERIA:

All assigned problems, projects, and exercises must be completed and presented on the due date. Critiques are used to share technical and aesthetic knowledge and to learn from one another’s work. Your work should reflect your commitment to the assignment through:

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT thoughtfulness in solving the problem.

THOROUGH RESEARCH on aesthetic concerns and personal growth.

TIME spent investigating form, surface applications, and design.

CRAFTSMANSHIP including the quality and execution of the work, and the application of technical skills within the finished work.

Recommendations:

Take notes during lectures and demonstrations.

Use your sketchbook and bring it to class.

If you don’t understand an assignment, have trouble with a project or don’t know how to operate equipment in the studio,
don't be afraid to ask questions. It is your responsibility to do so.
Keep in mind that ceramics processes require a steady working schedule. Don't start working at the last minute. You will find
yourself with unfinished work. If you save all of your work until the end of the semester to be fired, it won't get done.
Timely completion of problems/assignments.
Concept, personal statement and inventiveness of solutions to course problems/assignments. This includes form, surface
and craftsmanship demonstrated in finished solutions.
Demonstrated understanding and application of technical skills within finished work.
Motivation, initiative and attitude. Willingness to do research, take risks and to improve work and follow suggestions for
improvement. Active participation in critiques, demonstrations, etc.
Respect for studio workspace, and equipment clean-up.
ATTENDANCE: required at all meetings for full class period. More than two absences will severely
impact final grade.
FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:
85% graded work at finished critiques
15% level of class involvement/participation including attendance, participation in critiques, evidence of consistent work on
assignments outside class, attentive participation in demonstrations, assisting loading and unloading kilns, and in
participation in studio maintenance and clean-up throughout the semester.
UWM Grading System:

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(4.000) Excellent</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(3.670)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(3.330) Above good</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(3.000) Good</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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Remember “Excellent” grades are given for excellent work done consistently over the entire semester. Just showing
up and doing the assignments does not earn an excellent grade.

VII. PARTICIPATION by STUDENTS with DISABILITIES: If you need special accommodations, please advise me as soon
as possible. For complete UWM academic policies governing this course see:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

VIII. ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT: Please familiarize yourself with the UWM policy on academic misconduct. Link:
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/policies/recent_appr/12-13.cfm

IX. HEALTH INSURANCE
It is strongly recommended that all students have health insurance that includes emergency room and hospitalization
coverage. The UWM Student Association offers a Student Health Insurance Plan
http://www4.uwm.edu/studentorg/SA/executive/student_health_insurance.cfm which covers most major medical illnesses or
injuries. The University does not provide blanket medical coverage to students. Students are strongly encouraged to secure
their own health insurance, either through their parents, the Student Health Insurance Plan or some other program