EXPERIMENTAL PROCESSES: WOODFIRING I & II
CERAMICS WORKSHOP
ART 384-801 & ART 584-801, ART 489-801

SPRING 2018

Professor Christopher Davis-Benavides and collaboration with Associate Professor Jeff Noska, UW-Waukesha
Meeting times/locations: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 PM to 3:10 PM Lab KSE 392 & Kiln site at UW-Waukesha Field
Station (see directions at end of syllabus and on D2L)
Phone: 229-4250 Email: cdavisb@uwm.edu
Office Room ART B42: Hours by appointment on, Tuesday, Wednesday and 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will expand your ceramic knowledge and experience through the woodfiring process. You will be
working on assigned problems related to:
- Study contemporary aesthetics and manifestations of Anagama woodfiring.
- Research into ceramic woodfiring processes and techniques involving clay bodies, slip application, color
  and surface treatment.
- Glaze, and slip chemical formulation will be explored.
- Salt firing and its relationship to woodfiring techniques.
- Development of a body of independent student work to takes advantage of the woodfiring processes.

The class is structured to give you practical experience and help you develop your own ideas and present them
more effectively in clay. Class time will be divided between demonstrations, lectures, slide presentations, short
critiques, and individual work time. Be sure that you manage your schedule at least 6-8 hours/week to work
outside of class time.

You are required to schedule firings of your work in collaboration with other students and become familiar with
the studio equipment and basic materials. In addition, you will have to present between 6-20 finished pieces for
the final critic. This number will depend upon the size and complexity of the work. The work will be representing
your research/exploration of the wood firing process.

This course will take place with the collaboration of UW-Waukesha Assistant Professor Jeff Noska's woodfire
workshop course. You will have ample opportunity to interact with and collaborate with students enrolled in that
class.

II. REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA
a. Class participation:
- Concept, personal statement and inventiveness of solutions to assign problems. This will include form,
surface, and craftsmanship.
- Demonstrated understanding and application of technical skills within finished work.
- Motivation, initiative, participation in critiques, and demonstrations.
- Respect for studio workspace and equipment clean up. The studio is to be used by all students. Help keep
  it clean and safe. Every day after you are done working, clean up and put your work away in a safe place
to avoid accidents. Tools and equipment are fragile and belong to all; keep them clean and return them to
their proper place after use. To foster a good working environment and an open studio policy, do not
abuse this privilege. Be responsible.
- ATTENDANCE: required at all meetings for full two and half-hour period. Absences will severely impact
  final grade.
- Timely completion of assignments. Missing Assignments: No student will pass this course unless all
  assignments are turned in. Three days after the assignment due date will be the last date to turn in
  missing or reworked assignments. I don’t give incompletes. Students are expected to work on
  assignments and exercises during and outside of class. Your work must indicate your commitment to the
assignment through the quality of its execution, time spent, and thoughtfulness in solving the problem, aesthetic concerns, and personal growth.

- **Workload:** This is a 3-credit course that meets twice a week. You are expected to spend 2 hours outside of class for every one credit-hour in class. Since we spend 3 credit hours in class each week, you can expect to spend at least 6 plus hours each week preparing for class and working on assignments. [http://www.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/secu/docs/faculty/2838_Credit_Hour_Policy.pdf)

- The ceramics studio will be open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

b. **Assignments and Critiques:**

Assignments, 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 has to reflect your commitment to the assignment through:

- Concept, development, thoughtfulness in solving the assigned problem.
- Thorough research on aesthetic concerns and personal growth.
- Time spent investigating form, surface applications, and design.
- Craftsmanship, including the quality, execution of the work, and application of technical skills within the finished work.

c. **Recommendations:**

Take notes during lectures and demonstrations. 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 the ceramic process requires a steady working schedule and is a long process. Don't start working at the last minute. You will find yourself with unfired work. If you save all of your work until the end of the semester to be fired, it won't get done.

**PARTICIPATION by STUDENTS with DISABILITIES:** If you need special accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

d. **Final Grade Breakdown:**

40% = Class participation, this includes critiques, studio activities, upkeep and kiln firing responsibilities. Collaboration is an integral element on the success of this course.

40% = Class assignments

20% = Independent work

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading System</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Average/ Standard</th>
<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Average/ Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent in most cases of evaluation</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Below Average/ Standard</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Above Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Above Average Plus</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Above Fail</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Fail (no work)</td>
<td>F</td>
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**III. MATERIALS, TEXTS and FEES**

Text: Course Reader will be posted in D2L


Course Fees: $80.00 payable upon registration. Any student dropping the class after the second week will still be required to pay fee. Materials fee includes (5) 25lb bag of class or Raku stoneware (17% grog), firewood (for each woodkiln firing we will burn seven cords of fire wood, glaze materials and other raw materials like alumina Hydrate wadding use in the woodfire. Additional clay/plaster may be purchased per 25lb. Bag:
Studio Stoneware regular brown cone 6-10 clay  = $8.00
Raku stoneware = $ 8.25
White stoneware or B clay = $13.50 Note current price may change
Porcelain EPK = $10.00 Note current price may change
PLASTER ($ 0.38 per lb.) @ = $20.00/ 50 lb

When you wish to purchase clay in excess of your lab fee allotment, I will have you fill out a new form, and will have a bill processed for you. The excess materials fee will be posted to your PAWS account.

IV. REQUIRED TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Safety glasses
Notebook or Three-ring binder*
Permanent marker
Leather gloves for unloading kilns like welding gloves (I will show an example)
Respirator/dust mask
Clean-up sponge elephant or sponge**
Hand towel
Ware board cut to approx.24”X24” plywood or composition, 5/8” to 3/4” thick
Cut-off wire*
Fettling knife*
Needle tool
Masking tape*
1 flexible steel rib*
1/2” square brush*
Plastic garbage bags**
Plastic water mister**
Dry wall sanding screen 'Scotchbrite' sander*
'Stanley' surform (short flat blade)**
1-pint plastic container (such as recycled yogurt container with cover)

** Available at most hardware stores
* Available UWM Books store, Blick in Farwell Avenue  and Online from:
  - Clay King http://www.clay-king.com/tools_wholesale.htm

For the Woodfire:
SAFETY COMES FIRST. NO bare feet or sandals will be allowed at the Field Station Kiln site or KSE kiln room. Don’t take chances; don’t be afraid to ask questions.
You are responsible not only for your own safety but for others, too!

V. CALENDAR

A day to day calendar will be posted in D2L and any changes will be posted in the class room.
Required Lecture: Visiting Artist Workshop with SIMON LEVIN
February 7, ARTIST NOW, FINE ARTS LECTURE HALL  7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Mid-term critique
Tuesday March 6th
1- Assignment I: TWO FOR ONE
2- Assignment II: Woodfire Practices research
3- Assignment III Six Stacked slabs/bowls.
4- Assignment IV Stacked tea set (four cups and a teapot on banquet
4- Assignment V Pillow/Saggar in a wood kiln.
5- Assignment VI lost and found/Sculptural assignment in progress
6- materials and clay test for ART 584
Processing wood
9: am – 3:30 pm Saturday, March 31, Optional if weather is warm or April Friday 6, or Saturday April 7

Clean kiln or Saturday April 7th *these are tentative dates depending on the weather.

Wet clay cut-off day Thursday, March 29th

Last Bisque & Wading mix Tuesday, April 3

Last day to deliver work & loading of wood kiln Thursday, April 12th, WOODKILN LOADING BEGINS 1:30 pm and form 9:00 am Friday April 13th, through Sunday 15th or until Monday 16 if needed )

Be sure to sign up for loading and firing schedule by February 6.

Wood-firing
Light kiln 8:30 am Wednesday, April 18th, continuous firing through Saturday April 21 after sundown. Students are expected to sign up for their share of firing time.

Kiln opening and clean-up Saturday, April 28th 8:30 am on-site critique at 1:00 p.m.

Final critique Tuesday, May 8th and Thursday May 10

Required studio clean up Saturday, May 12th, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Other important dates such as due dates for firing, in progress critiques, demonstrations, etc. will be announced throughout the semester. If you know you will not be available for a scheduled class due to religious observances, please give me notice a week before that given date.

Keep in mind that we need to be flexible with this schedule since we depend on weather conditions to have an effective firing.

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VI CERAMIC STUDIO ACCESS & POLICIES/ SAFETY

For security all ceramics students must sign in and out of studio after hours students 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 been held you will have access to the studio at all possible times. Please keep the classroom key at all times on the assign locker in the hallway. Lock combination number will be posted in D2L Logging after hours times, you must sign time in and out on the class Ledger.

• 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 the INTERIOR STUDIO OUTSIDE KILN ROOM. 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:
*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 enroll in the hand recognition system. To have your hand scan you must go to PSOA Box Office in side 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 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](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf)

**VII DIRECTIONS TO UW-WAUKESHA FIELD STATION WOOD KILN**
Travel time from downtown Milwaukee is approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on traffic.

Take I-94 west past Waukesha
Exit on “P” SAWYER ROAD, EXIT #283
Turn LEFT on “P” (go under expressway)
Continue south on “P” several miles until it ends at HWY 18
Turn Left on HWY 18
Go only 2/10 of a mile on HWY 18 and turn RIGHT on Waterville Road.
(This is the first road there is an old “Greek Revival” house with columns that is under restoration on the corner as a landmark for the turn)
After only 3/10 of a mile on Waterville Road turn LEFT by a large old oak tree into a gravel driveway.
Proceed down the drive, as it turns left past a small farmhouse. Keep to the left of the farmhouse and go slowly down the small hill. You will see numerous cars parked. This is the kiln site. You may also park by the farmhouse and walk to the site, since parking may be limited.

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](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.

**Wood Shop Safety Training Sculpture Lab**
Friday, the 26th of January from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm
-Tuesday, the 30th of January from 5:00-8:00 pm
-Thursday, February the 1st from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Posted signup sheets outside of room B51, in the basement of the Arts Building

**Contact person:** Joseph H. Johnson, Sculpture Technician, Room AB 73, johnsojh@uwm.edu