

## **Introduction to Ceramics**

ARTS 168.501

Fall 2015: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

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**Instructor:** Benjamin Johnsen

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**Office:** 103 (Shared)

**Office Hours:** T/Th. 4:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

***The best ways to contact me are through office hours or email.***

## **Course Content**

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All 100-level art studio courses carry no prerequisites and are designed for both students who have a general interest in art as well as students who plan on majoring or minoring in art. Introduction to Ceramics is a comprehensive introduction to the basic terms, concepts, historical, and technical information that support creative development in ceramics. Lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, assigned projects and critiques will assist the student's growth and critical understanding of the issues in ceramic arts better preparing them for further study in the medium.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

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- Demonstrate introductory level working knowledge of hand building, throwing, slip working, glazing and firing methods.
- Exhibit patience, persistence and creative problem skills.
- Develop ability to think visually and communicate ideas.
- Identify and discuss major developments in ceramics as they have occurred throughout time.
- Demonstrate ability to discuss and defend work in relation to concepts, ideas, techniques, processes, and experiences.

## **Materials**

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Students will need the following materials. Clay, Ceramic tool kit, Sumi Brush, Small Bucket, Plastic Bags, Masking Tape, Spray, Bottle, Clean up sponge, Note book, Towel, Lock. Glazes will be provided for the students. **Do not bring in outside glazes.**

## **Suggested Text**

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Ceramics, Glynn Nelson

Ceramics: Mastering the Craft, Richard Zakin

The Craft and Art of Clay, Susan Peterson

## **Student Responsibilities**

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Students are required to complete all assignments on time, participate in scheduled critiques, class discussions and maintain a safe, respectable, positive studio environment.

Art studio classes are very different than other classes. The majority of work is done in the studio due to equipment and material needs. Students are expected to work in the studio several hours each week in addition to scheduled class times. Open studio hours will be announced.

Neither dishonesty nor unruly behavior will be tolerated in the classroom; such actions will lead to being dropped from the course. According to our Student Code of

Conduct found on page 179 of the 2012 – 2014 UNM-Valencia Catalog:

“Appropriate disciplinary procedures and sanctions shall be applied to any student who commits, or attempts to commit, any of the following acts of misconduct: 2.4. Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.”

Students are expected to attend every class on time, fully prepared for each day's work and clean the studio before the end of each class. More than three absences without prior consultation may result in a failing grade or a drop from the class. Leaving excessively early or arriving late three times results in one absence.

Students are responsible for lecture and demo information missed if absent. No repeats of lectures or demos will be given due to lack of attendance.

Cell phones need to be put on mute during class times. If you must receive a call during class time leave the studio before you answer. No phone conversations, text messaging, web surfing, movie watching etc. in studios.

If you have any issue that may need special attention or accommodation, please see me after class. All personal information is kept strictly confidential. Likewise, I keep all grades, personal information, etc confidential. Please understand that I will not give out such information on the phone or through email or to anyone other than you.

**Computer Lab Responsibility:** Please be advised that use of computer labs on UNM properties is governed by “Policy 2500: Acceptable Computer Use” which can be found at <http://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2500.html>. Food and drink are also prohibited in any computer lab on campus. Anyone violating these policies is subject to possible suspension and loss of computer lab privileges.

**UNM Email/Black Board Learn Access:** Beginning Fall 2015 semester, all UNM-Valencia students will need a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, blackboard learn and UNM Email.

## **Grading**

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Grading is based on completion of course assignments (no full credit will be given for late work), quality of individual technical and critical development, personal commitment and ability to work in a community studio setting. Personal commitment involves regular attendance, consistent effort, completion of work and participation in group critiques and the general willingness to try. **Green ware is not finished work.**

There are two required group critiques, midterm and final. The midterm critique measures progress made on assignments up to that time and final critique is where all work is evaluated for grade.

Assignments	65%
Critiques	25%
Attendance/Participation	10%

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ceramics Materials and Aesthetics</u></b> PROJECT &amp; CRITIQUE RUBRIC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>A+, A, A- (100% - 90%)</u></b></p> <p>Demonstrates outstanding skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development.</p> <p>Quality of work is excellent, and is integrated with exceptional creativity</p> <p>Outstanding patience and persistence with outstanding problem solving skills demonstrated</p> <p>Demonstrates an outstanding ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions.</p> <p>Demonstrates extensive use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>B+, B, B- (89% - 80%)</u></b></p> <p>Demonstrates moderate skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development.</p> <p>Quality of work is good, and is integrated with some creativity</p> <p>Moderate patience and persistence with medium problem solving skills demonstrated</p> <p>Demonstrates a solid ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions.</p> <p>Demonstrates competent use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in this discipline</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>C+, C, C- (79% - 70%)</u></b></p> <p>Demonstrates average skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development.</p> <p>Quality of work is modest, and is moderately integrated with creativity</p> <p>Average patience and persistence with average problem solving skills demonstrated</p> <p>Demonstrates an average ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions.</p> <p>Demonstrates an average use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in this discipline</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>D+, D, D- (69% - 60%)</u></b></p> <p>Demonstrates a lack of skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development.</p> <p>Quality of work is borderline acceptable, and is poorly integrated with creativity</p> <p>Limited patience and persistence with limited problem solving skills demonstrated</p> <p>Demonstrates a limited ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions.</p> <p>Demonstrates poor use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in this discipline</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>F (59% and below)</u></b></p> <p>Fails to demonstrate skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development.</p> <p>Quality of work is unacceptable, and is not integrated with creativity</p> <p>No patience and persistence with no problem solving skills demonstrated</p> <p>Does not participate in discussing or assessing work in critique and class discussions.</p> <p>Shows little or no understanding of the concepts and terminology used in this discipline</p>

## Schedule

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(subject to changes)

Wk 1: Aug. 18/20	Tuesday: Introduction & syllabi Thursday: Wedging & pinch pot demos. <b>Assignment 1</b>
Wk 2: Aug. 25/27	Tuesday: Ceramic History & Coil building demo Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 2</b>
Wk 3: Sept. 1/3	Tuesday: Decorative slip & Glaze demo Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 3</b>
Wk 4: Sept. 8/10	Tuesday: Throwing & trimming with demos Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 4</b>
Wk 5: Sept. 15/17	Tuesday: Cylinder & Bowl with throwing demo Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 5</b>
Wk 6: Sept. 22/24	Tuesday: Workday Thursday: Workday
Wk 7: Sept. 29/Oct. 1	Tuesday: Workday Thursday: Workday
Wk 8: Oct. 6/8	Tuesday: <b>Midterm Critique</b> Thursday: <b>Fall Break</b>
Wk 9: Oct. 13/15	Tuesday: Cups with & without handles. Hand building & throwing demo Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 7</b>
Wk 10: Oct. 20/22	Tuesday: Workday Thursday: Workday
Wk 11: Oct. 27/29	Tuesday: Covered jar lecture with demo Thursday: Workday. <b>Assignment 8</b>
Wk 12: Nov. 3/5	Tuesday: Workday Thursday: Workday
Wk 13: Nov. 10/12	Tuesday: Workday Thursday: <b>Last Wet Clay Day</b>
Wk 14: Nov. 17/19	Tuesday: Workday. Finish All Trimming Thursday: <b>Last Bisque</b>
Wk 15: Nov. 24/26	Tuesday: <b>Last Glaze Firing</b> Thursday: <b>Thanksgiving</b>
Wk 16: Dec. 1/3	Tuesday: <b>Final Critique</b> Thursday: <b>Pack Work &amp; Studio Clean Up (required for grade)</b>

## **Assignments**

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### **Assignment 1:** **5 points**

2 different pinch pots with texture (any size or shape)

### **Assignment 2:** **5 points**

1 small coil built form with slip decoration (at least four coils)

### **Assignment 3:** **10 points**

History/Influence presentation w/ plans, large coil piece (H-18" minimum)

### **Assignment 4:** **5 points**

3 Thrown and Trimmed forms. (any size or shape)

### **Assignment 5:** **10 points**

1 Thrown cylinder. (H-8") and 1 Thrown bowl. (D-8")

### **Assignment 6:** **15 points**

3 Matching cups with handles, 2 Non-matching without handles. (one set thrown and other set hand built)

### **Assignment 7:** **15 points**

1 Covered jar. (Thrown or Hand built)