

## **ART 211: Introduction to Ceramics Handbuilding**

The primary objective of this course is to introduce the student to the basics of working with ceramic material. We will explore different approaches to creating objects using clay, slip, and glaze. Each assignment will offer different techniques to working with clay. Slab, coil, and extruded forms will be created. We will also utilize slip, carving, and glazes to create surface variations. In addition to technical skills, you will also learn about contemporary and historical trends in ceramics, and engage with those currents in your work. You will also learn about firing kilns and preparing materials.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

-Learn basic handbuilding skills. -Gain an understanding of contemporary and historical trends in the field. -Use material and technique as a means to communicate with the viewer. -Learn to fire kilns and prepare clay for work. -Utilize formal language and vocabulary to describe form and potential content derived from form. -Establish positive studio habits and work ethic.

### **ART DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in critiques. THERE IS A PENALTY VIA GRADE REDUCTION FOR MISSING MORE THAN THREE CLASSES. Additional absences beyond this allowance will result in a 5% reduction (per absence) of your final grade for the course. This absence policy accommodates standard illness, religious holidays and schedule conflicts during the semester. Arriving late or leaving early three times will count as one absence. If you are absent more than six days, it is an automatic F. If you are absent it is up to you to seek out the information presented in class. You are still responsible for everything presented in class during your absence. It is also your responsibility to contact me if you have questions concerning grading, policies, or anything else about the class. It is important that you communicate with me if you are having a problem with the course.

### **SKETCHBOOK:**

This course requires that you maintain a sketchbook. You will use this sketchbook to take all notes, record your ideas, collect reference materials, document clay/glaze formulations, and to document problems and successes. Each project will require a specific amount of sketches and/or research to be completed prior to the start of each project. Your sketchbook will be collected & graded during each project. You must bring your sketchbook with you to EACH class meeting.

### **TEXTBOOK:**

There is a textbook required for this course. Readings will be assigned related to each project. It is also a good source for reference when you are working. **Hands in Clay**, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, by Speight/ Toki. This is an excellent reference for beginner ceramic students. It may be purchased at either the campus bookstore or through Amazon.

### **DUE DATES:**

Each assignment is due completed at the beginning of class during critique day. It is vital to get all work finished and turned in prior to discussions. Work in a consistent manner to stay on schedule. If you miss a scheduled kiln firing it will be difficult to make up.

**\*\*\*\*NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED\*\*\*\***

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### **CRITIQUES:**

We will have critiques at the end of every project. This is your opportunity to present to the class your project, and initiate a dialogue about your ideas, successes, and failures. It is important to contribute in a meaningful way to the discussion in critique. Learn from each other, and get in the habit of talking during a critique. This format will be used throughout your entire educational career so it is vital that you become comfortable with speaking up in a crit. This is meant to be a constructive activity, and while you may experience negative feedback about your work, remember that it is not personal, and should be used to improve your abilities. I highly recommend taking notes during crit, or having a classmate take notes for you to refer back to at a later date.

### **EVALUATION:**

The following criteria will be the basis for your evaluation: 1) Fulfillment of assignment objectives 2) Technical execution/craftsmanship 3) Aesthetic and conceptual quality of your finished work 4) Mental and Physical Investment of Time

5) Artistic Growth

### **PERSONAL SAFETY:**

Some projects in this class will use tools that can cause injury if used improperly. Safety demonstrations will be provided for all tools that you will use in this class. It is vital that you attend these safety demos and follow all safety requirements. Failure to do so can result in injury. Be sure to come to class sober, well rested, and ready to work. Do not prop doors after 5pm. Do not work alone in the building late. Be aware of your surroundings.

## **DOCUMENTATION:**

Please photograph all work several times during the building process in case there is a kiln malfunction or an accident. Photos of your completed projects will be collected at the end of the semester as part of your Final Exam. It is your responsibility to take photos and store them properly until the end of the semester. Please don't give away your projects until they have been properly documented.

## **MATERIALS:**

Clay will be provided in this course, as well as slips, and a limited palette of glazes. If you would like more options than the class provides, you may purchase glazes from either online sources or local outlets. The three main options would be Blick Art Supplies (West side of the Valley), Aardvark Clays (East side of the valley), or Clay Arts Las Vegas (Downtown). If you purchase materials, please keep in mind firing temperatures and compatibility with our materials. I ask that you keep all personal material in their original container and that you bring in any instructions or health/ingredient cards to me to read before using. As with any ceramic materials, test, test, test.

## **GRADING:**

Each class assignment will be worth a specific amount of points.

97-100 A+ 93-96 A 90-92 A- 87-89 B+

83-86 B 80-82 B- 77-79 C+ 73-76 C

70-72 C- 67-69 D+ 63-66 D 60-62 D-

59 & below F

**A:** Excellent work. Impeccable craftsmanship, compelling ideas. Thought provoking. ABOVE AND BEYOND project expectations. Ambitious in scale, detail, and concept. Project exhibits great attention to detail and investment of time. **B:** Very good. Above average work. Strong ideas and very good execution. Some flaws, but none that impair the viewer's understanding of the work. (A "B" is not a bad grade!) **C:** Average. All assignment objectives are met, and craftsmanship is adequate. Some flaws in execution and idea. Project finished and turned in on time. **D:** Below average, poor craftsmanship, poor execution, weak ideas. Not enough time spent on design or execution. **F:** Failing. Project unfinished or not turned in. Weak effort

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

No electronic devices may be used in the classroom during class time. This includes pagers, cell phones, computers, ipods, ipads, etc. Please silence or turn off all phones prior to entering the classroom. Exception: You may use the class radio (if applicable) or use your laptop with instructor approval for research.

### **SUPPLY LIST:**

Ceramic Tool kit- Includes sponge, wood modeling tools, wire loop tools, wire tool, etc... (see samples in class) Dust mask (N95 or better) Apron or smock (optional) Rags/towels (clean up & covering work)

Plastic bags (in a variety of sizes to cover work in progress/clay storage) 2 Plastic tubs (small, covered, for slip/water. Yogurt container is fine) Sketchbook (8.5"x11" or larger) Pencil/pen (sketching & taking notes)

Paintbrushes for glaze Any other tools you might find useful for textures, carving, rolling, paddling, etc...(see samples in class) Glazes you want? Text: Hands in Clay by Speight/ Toki 6<sup>th</sup> ed

### **GENERAL STUDIO RULES/INFO: (Failure to follow studio policies will result in revocation of studio privileges!)**

1. SHOP HOURS: 8am- 5pm open studios. Students may work at all other times, however studios will be locked from the end of class until 8am. Work in pairs if working late. **NO NOT WORK ALONE!**
2. In case of emergency, notify instructor, then **dial 911**, In case of fire pull fire alarm, close doors and evacuate. If you have been properly trained to do so, you may attempt to extinguish the fire.
3. Safety is everyone's concern and responsibility. If you have limited experience using a tool, or you need help in any way **STOP and ask your instructor to assist you.**
4. Do not work under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Do not work if you are suffering from a lack of sleep, or feeling distracted.
5. No food or smoking on the studio. Beverages in lidded containers are acceptable. 6. No paint, glue, or non- ceramic materials are to be used on the tables inside.
7. You may not give classroom or tool access to anyone else. Only students enrolled in Ceramics classes or with the permission of the Sculptural Practices area head are permitted in classroom areas

8. Studio resources are to be used only for projects/ assignments for Ceramics classes. Any outside projects require written approval from faculty.

9. Label all material with your name and semester and store it in appropriate areas. 10. Clean up all messes in a timely manner and return tools to their proper location, do not abandon messes 11. Remove all finished projects in a timely manner. 12. Keep out of private studios unless invited by a student that uses that space

**The following section is included at the requirement of UNLV policy.**

**Academic Misconduct** – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at:

<http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

**Copyright** – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright/statements.html>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895- 0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.**

**If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to me during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me before or after class to discuss your accommodation needs.**

**Religious Holidays Policy** – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The **make-up** will apply to the religious holiday absence only.

It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **September 6**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university that could not reasonably be avoided. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

**Incomplete Grades** - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed all course work up to the withdrawal date of that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. A student who receives an I is responsible for making up whatever work was lacking at the end of the semester. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring** – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

**UNLV Writing Center** – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

**Library Resources** - Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, to find the subject librarian visit [http://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject/](http://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject/) UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail** – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu).

**Final Examinations** – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>