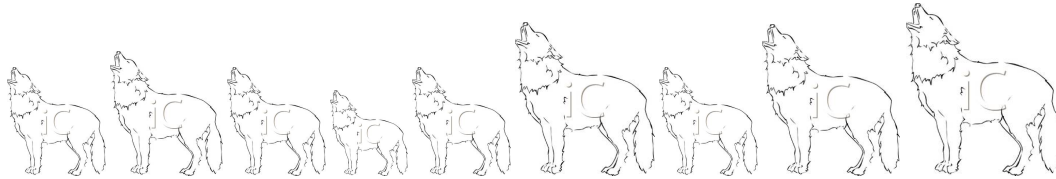
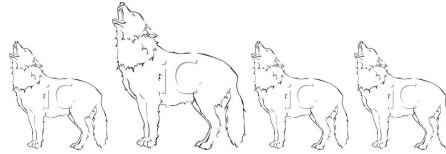


Advanced Ceramics



ARTS 4320

3 credits

Art Complex, Art Building A, Room 102

Spring 2018

Instructor: Lauren Clay

E-mail: lx039@shsu.edu

Phone: 936.294.1322

Office Location: Huntsville Campus, Art Complex building A Room 102 A

Office Hours: by appointment

Class is in session: Tues/Thurs 3:30-6:20 pm

Course Description and Objectives

In this class you will build on your existing knowledge of ceramic materials and processes and expand your understanding of contemporary ceramic sculptural and installation based practices utilizing ceramic and non-ceramic materials and surfaces. Through practical creative problem solving you will develop critical thinking and making skills that will allow you to execute works that are both conceptually and technically proficient from concept development to final execution. There will be assigned readings, writings and group discussions to expand your understanding of clay as a contemporary art material. You will learn how to fire kilns and be responsible for your own firings within groups. You will learn basic plaster mold making, slip casting and learn to mix your own slips and glazes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to employ advanced ceramic techniques to create sculptural works with clay
- Students will have an understanding of and be able to utilize advanced ceramic vocabulary
- Students will have a familiarity with and be able to identify a large range of ceramic artists and be able to categorize their work and analyze where their personal work fits into this continuum
- Students will be able to confidently critique ceramic works of their own and of their peers
- Students will have an advanced understanding for ceramic materials, mixing ceramic glazes and firing kilns.

Projects and Proposals

Projects will cover the technical skills associated with basic plaster mold making, slip casting, glaze mixing, firing electric and gas kilns and the use of decals.

1. Quick fire Challenge—a quick assignment to get your hands and heads moving, to get to know each other and prepare for a semester filled with fun and magic!

2. Proposal: As Advanced students it is important that you learn to become responsible for your own idea generation, creative research and time. In addition to these assignments you will be writing a **research project proposal** and creating an individual calendar for two major assignments. One will be due at Midterm and the other at Finals. These projects will involve independent advanced creative and technical research that I will oversee and advise you on.

2. Mold making and casting slip —Learning how to use and create a basic plaster mould and to mix and use casting slip

3. Glaze Mixing—Learning how to read a glaze recipe and to mix your own glazes

4. Kiln Firing- Learning how to fire the manual and computer kilns so you can fire your own work responsibly

5. Presentations- You will each give a 10-12 minute power point presentation. This presentation will cover research you do over 6 ceramic artists. You will choose three of the artists and I will assign the other three based on whom I think you should know more about.

Process Critiques

We will have “process critiques” and discussions about your work two- three times this semester. These visits will allow you to get class feedback prior to completing your projects and to discuss the progress you have made and the direction your work is moving in before your final critique. These are formal visits and you should be prepared to talk about your ideas and research as well as the technical process and materials you are using in your work. These visits are an opportunity for you to receive thoughtful and constructive feedback from the group and it is your responsibility to utilize this time to your advantage. Some things you can do to prepare for these visits are——develop a clear statement about what you are doing so you can clearly articulate your ideas and motivations, develop a list of questions that you have about your work so you may guide the discussion by asking these questions and getting feedback,

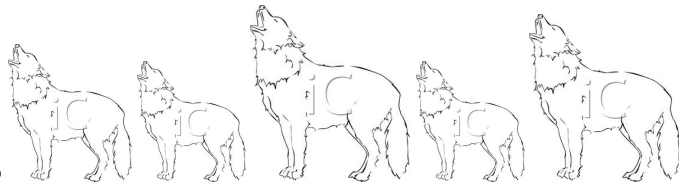
Presentation

You will each do a formal presentation about 6 artists from a list that I will provide. You will research these artists and give a ten-minute power point presentation about their work and you will end with images of your own work and how you see these artists inform your process.

Field Notebook

A field notebook is used to collect data from the field in which you are studying. This semester you are studying your personal interests within the context of an advanced investigation of ceramics. Keeping notes is an essential component to your creative and academic process; it's a place to record your inspiration, your words your outside of class research, photographs and sketches. In your field notes you will record accounts describing experiences and observations you make while participating in an intense and involved manner of personal research as well as class notes or "field notes" over demonstrations, discussions, critiques etc. In addition, please stuff your notebook full of all sorts of paraphernalia from your life and let it grow organically. I will periodically collect or check your books to check on your progress. Bring them to every class.

******You are required to have a notebook that is dedicated to this course only**



A pack of Animals

You have all taken beginning ceramics so this is not your first rodeo. You all know that ceramics is a medium that requires us to work together as a group to complete various tasks. As your knowledge and skills develop your responsibilities increase and working together and communicating in a group atmosphere is critical. Group activities will possibly include mixing clay/casting slip, firing kilns, critiquing your work and keeping our studio classroom clean.

WHAT TO PACK IN YOUR TOOL BOX

1. YOU

I believe that art is inspired by life and I am sure we all lead very interesting and diverse lives. I encourage you to pay attention to your daily experiences, encounters, rituals, habits, histories, obsessions, conversations, and so on, and it is my hope that all of you will bring your experiences, ideas and opinions to share in this class. I think it is often through closely examining the world around us and sharing what we find with other creative people (like the ones in this class) that great ideas are realized and profound art is made. Our class is a time where this type of examination and conversation can and will take place.

2. Field notebook (a place to brainstorm, keep notes, etc.)

3. Clay tools- those from beginning will be great to start off and you may want to get more as the semester progresses

4. Plastic garbage bags, (lawn and leaf size) and other miscellaneous plastic

5. Box or bucket for tools

6. X-acto knife

7. dust and fume mask (with Ziploc bag for storage) or a respirator if you plan to make clay and pursue ceramics in the future this is a good investment for your health

8. 400 grit wet dry sand paper

9. surform tool

OPTIONAL

- 10. Large wooden spoons or spatula for paddling
- 11. Various sized paintbrushes...bamboo handled are great
- 12. Water sprayer
- 13. Old fork and spoons
- 14. Scraps of canvas, old sheets or fabric
- 15. Towel for personal clean up
- 16. Apron or old clothing
- 17. Padlock for storage locker

SHARE BUT LABEL YOUR TOOLS-----they are easily lost.

MATERIALS

You are required to purchase your own clay to use in this class. You are able to purchase the same low fire earthenware clay that you used in beginning ceramics at the Bearkat Art Supply here in Huntsville. If you want to start a new investigation this semester as part of your research—using a higher temperature clay, red clay, or porcelain you will need to go to the Houston Ceramics Store to purchase your clay. You will also have the opportunity to learn to mix your own clay in the studio if this is something you want to pursue.

Local Ceramic Suppliers—a place to get special materials, tools and glazes

THE HOUSTON CERAMICS STORE

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 to 5:30

Friday – Saturday: 9:30 to 4:00

713 864-6442

1-800 290-8990

1002 West 11th St. Houston TX 77008

Web: <http://www.ceramicstoreinc.com/>

Email: ceramicstoreinc@sbcglobal.net

Critique, Discussion, Participation

Critiques of your work and discussions in class are a critical part of learning to create and discuss artwork. The critiques are set up as a way for you to give and receive thoughtful feedback on your work and that of others. Critiques will take place at the end of each assignment. This is a process that you will continue to practice in art school and an important skill to develop in your career as an artist.

All students must participate in these sessions.

Please talk with me if you have any concerns however you will not be excused from participation.

Timeliness, Multi-tasking and using out of class work time

Completing your studio projects in a timely and thoughtful manner is critical to your success in this course. In order to do this you will need to multi-task while you are in the studio and you will need to spend outside of class time working on your assignments. You do not have the same kind of homework for a studio class as you might for psychology or physics that you are able to complete at home, you will need to come to the studio outside of class in order to complete your projects.

READINGS

I will hand out articles that will relate to your studio assignments. You will be asked to respond to these readings in writing and verbally in class discussions.

GRADING

Clay is journey oriented in its process and yet gratifying at its destination, often the traveling to the product and problem solving along the way is as satisfying as the final result. In my grading I consider process, concept, result and effort.

Studio assignments 77%

Field notebook and reading response 10%

Participation in class, discussion and critique 10%

(Loading, firing, unloading of kilns and studio maintenance)

Wherewithal and gumption to progress 3%

Minus attendance

GRADING POLICY

A= Excellence. This grade is earned through superior effort and a highly developed understanding of concepts and principles presented in this class. It denotes achievement FAR in excess of class expectations.

B= Above average. This grade is earned through a high level of effort and a strong grasp of concepts and principles presented in this class. It indicates noteworthy achievement that exceeds class expectations.

C= Average. This grade is earned through satisfactory completion of all assignments and an attendance record with no more than three unexcused absences. It reflects the successful achievement of basic class expectations.

D= Below average. This grade is earned through substandard effort and failure to complete all assignments within their guidelines. It may also be earned through excessive absence, mistreatment of facilities or disregard for the safety and wellbeing of one's classmates.

F= Unacceptable student performance.

Make Up Policy

I don't accept late work. There may be extenuating circumstances where I will bend this policy but it is rare.

Attendance

Attendance is imperative

Please plan to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and plan to stay through the end of the scheduled class time. I will give you a short break during class but arriving late or leaving early will result in lowering your final grade. It is important that you are in class to witness the demonstrations, participate in critiques and utilize the workdays. We will be developing a community that will rely on active participation. **You will be allowed 2 emergency absences without question.** Use these for illness, weddings, births etc. I strongly recommend that you do not use these for oversleeping, hangovers, hangnails etc. **There is no such thing as an excused absence** after you miss 2 classes your grade will suffer. If you do miss class it is your responsibility to get all information that was covered in class. I will not repeat demonstrations or slide presentations. **After 5 missed classes you will no longer be able to pass the class. 3 late arrivals or early departures will lower your grade by one letter. An A- will become a B+ and so on.**

******If you miss the Final Critique or the Final Clean up day your letter grade will be dropped by 2 letters. If you neglect to collect all of your work from the studio at the end of the semester your final grade will be dropped 2 letters.**

Studio Etiquette

More than just knowing which fork to use

The ceramic studio is a communal space therefore we respect one another and we respect the facility. A clean studio is a respectable studio. Clay is a messy medium and its mess can be potentially hazardous to your health, as clay dries it can turn into dust, this dust in large quantity can damage your lungs.

The easiest way to fight the dust is by cleaning up with a wet sponge and clean water when you are finished working. Set an example and leave your space cleaner than when you found it.

Studio Assistants

The student workers in the Ceramics area are Josue Lopez and TBD. When they are in the studio on the clock they are here to help you with tools and equipment, technical issues, and simple questions about assignments. If they are in the studio working on their own work and not on the clock please be respectful of their studio time and reserve your questions for another time unless it is an emergency. Do not ask them to let you into the building outside of scheduled studio hours or do any special favors for you-- they can't do it or they will be fired and you don't want to be responsible for that, so just don't ask.

RESOURCES FOR CERAMIC ART

These are websites that have been created as a resource of contemporary artists using ceramics as a medium. The work ranges from utilitarian to sculptural and installation. Please browse these websites at your leisure and become familiar with the different methods in which artists use clay as an expressive and conceptual material.

<http://www.artaxis.org/>

<http://accessceramics.org/artists/>

NCECA <http://nceca.net/>

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is a national organization that promotes and improves the ceramic arts through education, community-building, research and creative inspiration. NCECA offers programs, events and publications to support its membership of artists, educators, students, individual and corporate art patrons, gallery owners, museum curators and providers of ceramic arts-related products and services. If you are interested in pursuing ceramics this is an organization that you should become familiar with in order to find out about news and opportunities.

College Art Association www.collegeart.org

The College Art Association website is a great resource for standards and guidelines when it comes to professional practice. It is also a good resource for students to find opportunities for possible artist residency opportunities, grant opportunities, jobs in art related fields and exhibition opportunities

THINGS TO BE ON TOP OF



Save all your work until the critique- Do not throw work away or take it home until I have announced that you may.



I reserve the right to change the course calendar or requirements as I see fit.



This studio classroom is open for you to use when there are not other classes in session. Please follow the same etiquette when using the studio outside of class as you do during class. The building is open 8 am- 9 pm Monday – Friday. There will be studio hours on the weekend as posted.



No work made off campus may be fired without my approval; no work that is not an assignment may be fired without my approval.



If you come to class unprepared to work- for example- with out homework sketches, tools, clay or any other required material to work during class time you will be dismissed from class and counted as absent for the day. You will not be permitted to run errands during class unless there are extenuating circumstances, which are rare.



You will not be permitted to get lunch coffee or take other long breaks during class- if our class meets during lunch or dinner make sure you grab a snack before class or bring something you can eat quickly to class and eat it on your break. **DO NOT EAT IN THE STUDIO CLASSROOM**



Do not have friends stop in to chat during class. Anyone not enrolled in the class will be asked to leave.



Please refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university.



Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. That means when you walk through the door you should reach in your bag and turn off your phone. **If I have to ask you to turn your phone off or to put it away more than one time you will be asked to leave class for that day and be counted absent. You will not talk on your phone in this classroom if you do you will be asked to leave for the day and be counted as absent. You will not text while in this class- if you do you will be asked to leave for the day and counted as absent.**



The use of headphones is prohibited unless otherwise stated.



Students are prohibited from using tobacco products in class.



Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, reading non-class related material, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the studio classroom. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave the class and be counted absent for that day.



Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.



You may not consume alcoholic beverages in this classroom or building.



Visitors in the classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.



Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~slo_www/



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>



USE OF PHONE & TEXT MESSAGING IN THE CLASSROOM

(Possible text) Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please *turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins*. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.



Student Absence on Religious Holy Days Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf



The Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, and 2 - 7 p.m. on Sunday. Writing tutors will work with you at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming, generating a draft, organizing a draft, or revising a draft) for any written assignment. The Writing Center operates on an appointment system, so please call (936) 294-3680 to schedule a session with a writing tutor. Skype sessions are available for distance students, and a tutor is available at the University Center. See website for more information: www.shsu.edu/wctr. For additional information or to schedule a class orientation, please contact us at 936-294-3680 or via email at wctr@shsu.edu. You can also find information on our website: www.shsu.edu/~wctr.



DEFACING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

Do not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray. Defacing university property is prohibited by university policy. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities.



DEPARTMENT OF ART BFA REVIEW

The purpose of the BFA Review is to ensure that students have learned basic principles and techniques needed for advanced art courses.

All Art students must successfully complete all of the Art Foundation courses and the BFA Review before being accepted into a BFA program in Computer Animation, Photography, or Studio Art or Graphic Design. Graphic Design students must also pass a separate Graphic Design Review after the BFA Review.

The Art Foundation Courses are WASH, Drawing, and Foundations in Digital Art. (ARTS 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, & 2313). Students must pass each course with a grade of C or higher to take the BFA Review and proceed to upper level courses.

The semester after all of the Foundation courses are complete, students must sign up for the BFA Review. Students should see an art advisor every semester to ensure they take the BFA Review on time. It should be taken the semester immediately following the completion of the Foundation Courses.

Students who do not pass the BFA Review may re-take it the following semester. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue as BFA majors, but may follow the degree plan for the BA in Art. Non-participation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review.

Graphic Design students must pass the BFA Review, complete Principles of Graphic Design (ARTS 2323) and participate in a BFA Review at the end of the semester that they are enrolled in Typography (ARTS 3322).

For more information on the BFA review see the Department of art web page: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/review/>