Art 225A - Ceramics I, Spring 2017 Syllabus

Meeting Times – Tuesday and Thursdays 2:00 to 3:50
Instructor – Michael Imes
Office Hours (in the ceramics room) – Tues. and Thurs. from 1:00 to 2:00 or by appt.
Phone: Studio (262) 524-7196, cell (262) 524-2124, e-mail: mimes17@hotmail.com

Description – Ceramics I is a studio art course. It is an introduction to working with clay, with an emphasis on hand building. It is also a Liberal Studies Program class and fulfills General Education Learning outcome number seven, "Understanding of the fine arts in order to develop aesthetic awareness, creativity and respect for artistic endeavors.” Class sessions will include: demonstrations, lectures on ceramic history and the creative process, stories, vocabulary review, sharing of work completed or in progress, individual and group projects (creative, aesthetic problem solving) and time to work on individual projects. At times we will load and unload kilns, view slide shows or work together on a special firing. Students will be encouraged to think about their feelings and experiences and to develop a repertoire of clay working techniques which will give them confidence in their ability to express themselves artistically through the medium of clay.

Objectives – 1) Students will learn and practice a variety of forming techniques including: pinching, pinch and coil, soft and hard slab and modeling. 2) Students will learn how to decorate pieces with surface textures and will apply slips, stains and glazes to finished forms. 3) Pieces will be fired to cone 6 in an electric kiln and to cones 06 and 10 in Raku and stoneware reduction kilns. 4) Students will explore vessel and sculptural concepts and will discuss gesture, symbolism and metaphor in relation to them. 5) Students will participate in small and large group projects. 6) Students will learn ceramic/art vocabulary and will put it to practice in class discussions and critiques. 7) Students will use writing, speech and clay work as avenues of self-expression.

Liberal Studies Goals- 1) Writing – Students will write semester goals, a critique of work of their peers and a short research paper. 2) Oral Communications – Students will participate in group discussions and critiques and will share a more formal three-minute oral presentation on their research. 3) Critical Thinking – The class will explore issues of balance (physical and visual), contrast (in form, texture and color), function and aesthetic values to stimulate critical and aesthetic thinking, 4) Contemporary Relevance – Through work and discussions I hope to bring students to a realization of their own creative capacities and of the value of the work and artistic concepts of others (classmates, ceramic artists and artists in other mediums).

Assignments – Assignments will be given daily to practice new techniques introduced in demonstrations. They may come out of fairy tales, myths or student writing. Students are expected to do significant work outside of class to accomplish semester goals. Assignments will be determined by class progress, individual needs, student or teacher interests, or as inspiration dictates. Written assignments will usually be given in conjunction with clay projects.
Assessment – Since Ceramics I is a studio art class the main weight of a student’s grade
will be on assessment of work produced throughout the semester. Work will be judged using the following criteria: 1) On-time completion of assignments, 2) Craftsmanship, 3) Time and effort spent, 4) Success in following or interpreting the assignment, 5) Creativity and 6) Unity of form and concept. Work will be assessed at individual reviews (of work in the raw state) and at group critiques after firings. Other areas to be assessed are: attendance, written assignments, participation in group work and class discussions and contributions to studio upkeep (i.e. loading and unloading kilns, cleaning up after yourself and sharing in classroom monitoring duties).

**Grades** – We will be using the following rubric for determining grades in this course: Clay work assignments = 50% of your grade, Attendance and participation = 25 of your grade, and written and oral work (including the final vocabulary test) = 25% of your grade.

**Attendance** – Since each class contains demonstrations important for carrying out the next assignment and group activities which are impossible to make up later, attendance is very important. Excused absences must be communicated to the teacher in advance of the session and will require make up work. Any unexcused absences will affect your grade.

**Cell Phones** – Cell phone conversations can be very distracting (and rude) for others working in the studio. Please turn off cell phones during class (or any time in the studio when others are present) or leave them at home.

**Syllabus Modifications** - The instructor and the College reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum or program requires.

**Accommodation for Disabilities** - Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Andrea Broman, our disabilities coordinator, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 524-7335 or contacting her via e-mail at abroman@cc.edu.

**Materials Fees** – A $83.00 materials fee has been assessed to cover all clay, glazes (using regular studio materials) and firings. Students should purchase a set of tools (available at the school store) to use throughout the semester. We also have a limited supply of used tool kits for sale in the studio.

**Final Critique** – Final portfolio reviews will be scheduled individually the last week of the semester. A critique of final projects and a vocabulary test will take place during our scheduled class finals time – Tuesday May 9, at 1:00 PM. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with questions or concerns at any time. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Michael Imes