Ceramics II, Art 325, Syllabus – Spring 2017

Meeting Times – Monday evenings, from 6:00 to 9:30
Instructor – Michael Imes
Office Hours (in the ceramics room) – Tues. 4:00 to 5:00 or by appt.
Phone: Studio (262) 524-7196, cell (262) 524-2124, e-mail: mimes17@hotmail.com

Description – Ceramics II is a studio art course in which students will work to improve their facility in a wide range of clay working techniques in order to allow them to express themselves artistically and to develop their own personal style. We will look at a number of vessel forms and discuss issues of form, line, texture, gesture, and vessel archetypes. At times we will load and unload kilns, view slide shows or work together on a group project or special firing.

Objectives – 1) Students will work with a variety of forming techniques learned in Ceramics I, including: pinching, pinch and coil, soft and hard slab, modeling, and throwing on a potter’s wheel. 2) Students will be encouraged to develop their own personal artistic approach, 3) Students will have their work fired to cone 6 in an electric kiln and to cones 06 and 10 in Raku and stoneware reduction, and soda 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 learn the properties of materials used in glaze formulation and will be guided to create and test their own glazes using glaze family comparisons.

Assessment – Since Ceramics II 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, glaze materials exploration and recipe testing (3 generations) = 20% of your grade, attendance and participation = 15% of your grade, and written and oral work (including the final research project) = 15% 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.

**Firing Kilns** – Students are not allowed to load, unload, or fire kilns without the supervision of an instructor. We will glaze and fire in cone 6 oxidation (electric kilns) and cone 10 reduction (natural gas kiln). If students are interested, we can also fire pieces in Raku or Soda kilns. There will be opportunities for students to learn about kiln firing; if you are interested talk with Michael.

**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** – An $93.00 materials fee has been assessed to cover all clay, glazes (using regular studio materials) and firings. Students should purchase a set of tools (at the bookstore) to use throughout the semester. We will also have a limited number of used sets available for purchase at the studio.

**Final Critique** – A critique of final projects and the semester portfolio, and a vocabulary test will take place during our scheduled class finals time (Tuesday May 9, 6:00 to 9:30). 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