

## EXPERIMENTAL CERAMICS

SUMMER A 2024

ART3807C and ART 5930C

Instructor: Allie Burch

Location: FAC B16 - M,T,W,TH,F 9:30 AM- 12:15 AM

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Office Hours: By appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced-level ceramics course offers students a unique opportunity to delve into the world of experimental ceramics with a focus on material exploration through an integration of organic and unconventional materials. Students will engage in a dynamic and hands-on learning experience, pushing the boundaries of traditional ceramic art by incorporating natural elements into their work.

Throughout the semester, participants will explore a variety of organic materials such as plant fibers, leaves, and seeds, creating a rich tapestry of textures and forms. The course encourages students to embrace the inherent unpredictability of working with organic materials, fostering a spirit of curiosity and discovery.

Key Topics:

1. **Material Exploration:** Students will gain a deep understanding of the properties and possibilities of organic materials, experimenting with their inherent textures, colors, and structural characteristics.
2. **Sustainable Practices:** Emphasis will be placed on sustainable art-making, encouraging students to consider the environmental impact of their work. Discussions will explore ethical sourcing, waste reduction, contemporary artists examples, and eco-friendly firing techniques.
3. **Hand-building Techniques:** Participants will refine their hand-building skills, experimenting with coiling, pinching, and slab construction to create unique organic-inspired forms.
4. **Surface Treatments:** The course will cover various surface treatment methods, including glazing and alternative finishing techniques that enhance the tactile and visual qualities of organic materials.
5. **Conceptual Development:** Students will be encouraged to develop a conceptual framework for their work, exploring themes such as nature, sustainability, and the intersection of the organic and the human-made.

6. **Critique and Reflection:** Regular critiques will provide students with the opportunity to discuss and analyze their work in a supportive and constructive environment, fostering both individual and collective artistic growth.

By the end of the semester, students will have developed a portfolio of experimental ceramic pieces that reflect a deep understanding of organic materials, sustainable practices, and a mastery of hand-building techniques. This course aims to inspire a new generation of ceramic artists who can push the boundaries of the medium, creating innovative and thought-provoking works that bridge the gap between art and nature.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To create art works that visually and theoretically connect with non-arts related research
2. To engage in and critically examine the creative process through ideation, experimentation and research
3. To effectively communicate and articulate ideas and research through the art of making
4. To strengthen studio methodologies and successfully work both individually and collaboratively
5. To explore and describe historical and contemporary artists who engage with non-art related topics

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### CRITIQUE

- Critiques of student work will occur both formally and informally throughout the semester. Attendance for final critiques of each project are mandatory and will result in a lower grade of the project if not attended.
- Work needs to be complete in order to be discussed.

## **ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS**

- PROJECTS: There will be 3 medium-sized projects with a comprehensive final project using at least one method explored during the class.
- RECORD BOOK: Students will receive a notebook on the first day of class. This notebook is for any idea generating, but serves primarily as a place to record all your experiments for the duration of the class. Ceramics can be a medium where replication is difficult, but recordings of ideas, measurements, and materials can help keep track of the progress of a process.
- PROJECT WRITE-UPS: Each piece will be accompanied by a 100-300 word statement where one will detail their brainstorming, material process, and execution of their piece.
- STUDIO PARTICIPATION: Each student will sign up during the first week of class for 1 shift making reclaim clay for the class, 1 shift loading a kiln, and 1 shift unloading a kiln. This will be a total of 3 shifts shared with their classmates.

## **GRADING OPPORTUNITIES**

Students will have a variety of grading opportunities with projects done in and outside of class. Students will be evaluated on participation in class and critiques, attitude, progress, idea development, execution of ideas, craftsmanship and presentation.

- 50% Studio Projects
- 20% Record Book
- 15% Project Write-ups
- 15% Studio Participation

## **GRADING STANDARDS & EVALUATION**

Evaluation for each project or portfolio will be based on the following criteria (in no particular order):

- Concept (Conceptual Rigor, Ideation/Evolution from proposal to finished work)
- Creative Solutions (Inventiveness. Ability to solve problems and devise new approaches for achieving course objectives and personal goals. Successful resolution of the assigned problem)
- Criteria (Evidence of experimentation within the parameters of the project guidelines)
- Dedication + Effort (Work Ethic, Technical Innovation and Craftsmanship)

### Grading Scale:

- A (94-100) - Superlative work: careful attention to craft and presentation. Originality of idea and execution work. Goes beyond merely solving the problem – one who performs at this level is visibly outstanding, work is outstanding in every respect.
- A-/B+ (87-93) - Very fine work: almost superlative. A few minor changes could have been considered and executed to bring the piece together. Again, goes beyond merely solving the problem.
- B (83-86) - Above average: solution to the problem and idea well planned. Execution well done. This is an honorable grade.
- B-/C+ (77-82) - A bit above average: slipping in levels of originality, craft, and presentation. The piece does not work well as a unified whole or statement, yet effort was made.
- C (73-76) - You have solved the problem; the requirements of the problem are met in a relatively routine way including your concepts. You have neglected the basic craftsmanship skills and breadth and the depth of idea development.
- C-/D+ (67-72) - You have solved the problem but there is much room for improving your skills and further developing
- D/D- (60-66) - Inadequate work: the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. Work is

substandard.

- E (0-59) - Unacceptable work and effort
- Please Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major Requirements.

## **GRADING POLICIES**

Please see the UF grading policy at

(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>)

- Late Work: All late work will be lowered by 10% each day it is late (not each class day). All work presented late for a critique will not take part in critique. All assignments must be completed in order to pass this class
- Critiques: If a student is late, absent or does not participate in a live critique, they will receive 5pts off their project grade for that assignment. Exceptions are determined if the absence, lateness or reason for being unprepared is excused by the University or instructor. Students must be present for the final live critique in order to receive credit for the final project
- Students will have the opportunity to rework studio projects. There must be noted improvement for an increase in grade. All original work submissions must remain intact within the Project Discussion posts. All projects can be reworked and resubmitted prior to the final week, at the end of the semester in the Assignment dropbox. An email to the instructor notifying her of the resubmission is required, otherwise it will not be seen.

## **UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## **ADDITIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

Attendance is mandatory during all scheduled “live” class times. Only 2 unexcused absences are permitted before your participation grade is adversely affected. The 5th unexcused absence will result in failure of the course.

- After the 2nd absence, the Participation Grade (worth 10%) will drop accordingly: 3rd absence = 50% (5pts), 4th absence = 100% (100pts), 5th absence = failure
- If you miss class for any reason it is up to you to thoroughly review the eLearning course site and contact your peers for information, prior to contacting the instructor.
- Three late arrivals to a live session, over 10 minutes equals an absence (leaving early from class counts as one tardy or late)
- Missing over 30 minutes at any “live” class time (beyond breaks) equals an absence

- Unprepared for class equals half an absence, two unprepared days equals an Absence.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Class Participation**

Successful online learning requires you to actively participate in each course. Thus, it is highly recommended that you log-in to your courses several times each week so that you do not miss anything or fall behind. Regular, active, and meaningful participation is expected of all students, and frequency and quality of participation may affect your grades. Participation is key to successful learning online. Consistent and meaningful participation in class discussions is expected, and that frequency and quality of participation will affect your grade.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to abide by the UF Academic Honesty Policy (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)), which defines an academic honesty offense as “the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage.” In the context of this class, this includes properly citing sources for any materials (both printed and online) used in completing course assignments.

### **Netiquette**

Netiquette, short for network etiquette, is the set of rules and expectations governing online behavior and social interaction. The 'Core Rules of Netiquette' ([www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)) are excerpted from the book Netiquette by Virginia Shea (1994), and are a set of guidelines that all members of this course are expected to adhere to. Remember, first we are all human. Online learning environment participants that do not adhere to the netiquette expectations may result in both personal and legal consequences. Note: The instructor reserves the right to remove any blog and/or discussion postings deemed inappropriate.

### **Student Support Services**

As a student in a distance learning course or program, you have access to the same student support services that on-campus students have. For course content questions, contact your instructor. For any technical issues you encounter with your course, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP (4357), or visit <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.). For a list of additional student support services links and information, please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.).

### **Students with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Dean of Students Office and submit to this instructor the memorandum from that office concerning necessary accommodations. The Disability Resource Center may be found on the Web at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.); reached by phone at (352) 392-7056 TDD: (352) 846-1046. All course materials may be made available in alternative format on request.

## **Complaints**

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course, please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) to submit a complaint.

## **Changes to the Syllabus**

The faculty reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus and course schedule. In the event that changes become necessary, students will be notified through CANVAS email.