

WEC Art 250A Ceramics Instructor: Robert K. Tom
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Office: OM 3D
*Available by appointment

Introduction to Ceramics is designed to engage the creative, imaginative, and technical process to produce, and interpret, or perform a work of art. An emphasis is placed on a variety of ceramic approaches; hand building and wheel thrown techniques and concepts, and formal and abstract expressions of ceramic form and function. A significant, experiential engagement with artistic, cultural, and/or historical resources in the metropolitan twin cities utilizing the city as a venue and subject in the creation of art.

Class assignments: Do not initiate class assignment until after my class demonstration and/or (slide) lecture on the topic. **Execution of texture, drawing, carving, glaze experimentation and surface additions to enhance your forms must be utilized.**

Hand building:

- 1 anthropomorphic coil sculptural form; minimum scale 10" height
sketch development and multiple views
- 1 abstract slab construction utilizing textures based on an architectural icon of the twin cities; minimum scale 10" height
3 maquettes **DUE: May 26**
- 1 tile design w/sketches 6" x 8" x 3/8" **DUE: May 10**
- Create a container to hold a specific object, which has an intimate, magical, or spiritual connection with you. **Include object with critique*

Wheel thrown:

- 1 – 6" cylinder with an incised geometric or floral pattern
- 1 – bowl; min. scale 6" dia., must utilize wax resist design technique
- 1 – plate; min. scale 8" dia., must integrate sgraffito design
- 1 - form combining wheel thrown and hand built elements based on your museum/gallery visit.
- 1 report 5 pages in length (*5 pgs. of text*), describing your objective (ie: research information about a particular artist, artistic genre, or technique) and subjective (thoughts and feelings belonging to you) insights on a *visit* to an art museum / gallery or artist studio. Include digital images
***Post onto Moodle *Lindell Library HELP desk DUE: 8am, May 10**

***grade reductions for late assignments and non-participatory actions**

Course Requirements:

Satisfactory completion of all class assignments

Final exam and Self evaluation

Active participation in critiques, discussions, and studio maintenance and responsibilities.

Must assist in all phases of kiln firing; loading, firing, and unloading

Minimum 6 hours outside of class time towards class projects per week

Evaluation:

Technical; is the work structurally sound and has the student worked on developing their skills with the tools and processes in manipulating their materials.

Creativity/Conceptual; has the student thought out and refined their concepts utilizing their subjective (belonging to your thoughts and feelings) and objective (general knowledge and address the principles and elements of art) insight through sketchbook/maquette development, and did the finished work communicate the ideas involved while pushing creative boundaries.

Effort; did the student make an honest effort towards bringing their vision to fruition.

Gestalt/Overall aesthetics; The whole surpasses the sum of it's parts

10% (x 8) for each class assignment = 80%

10% 5 page report (minimum)

10% Participation

Attendance Policy: This course is condensed from 80 hrs class time (regular semester) to 28 hrs for WEC. Each absence is a full grade deduction. Class starts at 8am and ends at 12 noon, clean up begins at 11:45.

Working in cooperation with the clay requires monitoring its status and manipulating the material when it is at its optimal working condition.

Working outside of class time is essential to develop your skills and rapport with the material. Minimum 6 hours outside of class time towards class projects per week.

***ACCESS** to studio outside of class time is through security in Urness. Augsburg student picture ID required. Old main and ceramics studio closes at 10:00 pm.

All materials and tools will be supplied by the Augsburg Art dept. You pay a studio lab fee, which covers some of the consumable materials cost. Refunds from withdrawal from class is to be arranged through me.

*If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please see the CLASS office 612 330 1053 or the Access Center 612 330 1749 and/or speak to me.

Intro Course Schedule:

Sat. April 8	Introduction/Course Expectations Properties of Clay Pinch pot/Coil Demonstration/Video Slab Demonstration: Manipulating the slab Slip and Scoring Textures on Tile
Sat. April 26	*3 maquettes for slab project DUE: April 26 Throwing Demonstration: Cylinder and Bowl Trimming Demonstration: Cylinder and Bowl

***Lindell Library has a homegrown DVD on all throwing and trimming demonstrations by yours truly...**

- Sat. May 10 *Tile design sketches 6" x 8" x 3/8" **DUE: May 10**
*5 page report: Post onto Moodle **DUE: 8am, May 10**
Throwing Demonstration: Cylinder and Plate
Plate trimming demonstration
- Sat. May 17 Bisque Loading/ Firing
Glaze Demonstration: Do's and Don'ts of glaze application
Wax resist
Sgraffito
Oxides
- Sat. May 31 Glaze Loading/Firing
Video: Maria Martinez; Potter's of San Ildephonso
Ceramic technology: Types of Kilns
Types of Firing; Reduction vs. Oxidation
Clay & Glaze formulation
- Sat. June 7 Slides A to Z
- Sun. June 8 **Last Wet Clay Day; ALL** production must cease by 10:00pm.
This includes everything from throwing, to trimming, to attaching
Forms, to looking at it, and touching it...

EVERYTHING MUST BE UNCOVERED!

***FRI. June 13 Load/Fire Last Bisque Firing *11am attendance not required**

**Outside class time is essential to glaze your pieces between
June 15 and June 19.**

***Thurs. June 19 Load/Fire Last Glaze Firing *11am attendance not required**

**Sat. June 21 Raku Firing / Pot Luck?
Studio Clean up
Final Critique**

Resources:

Continental Clay Co: Ceramic supplies. Also has a collection of studio pottery that you can actually pick up and scrutinize. Ask for student discount

1101 Stinson Blvd NE

Mnpls. Mn 55413

ph# 1 800 432 2529

Minnesota Clay: Ceramic supplies

8001 Grand Ave. S

Bloomington, MN ph# 1 800 252 9872

Northern Clay Center: Gallery, lessons/workshops, working potter's studios.

2424 Franklin Ave. E

Mnpls. MN ph# 612 339 8007

Minneapolis Institute of Art: Great collection of potteries from diverse cultures and time.

2400 3 Ave. S

Mnpls., MN ph# 612 870 3200

Smith and Sharpe Co.: All your refractory needs and more... *ask for seconds/damaged

612 331 1345

Fired Up and Dock 6 are ceramic studio cooperatives in Mnpls.

Other Resources:

“Unknown Craftsman” by Soetsu Yanagi; treatise on Japanese aesthetics

“A Potter’s Handbook” by Bernard Leach; considered by some to be the ceramic bible

“A Potter’s Workbook” by Clary Illian; an insightful perspective to pottery

“Kiln Building” by Olsen; detailed information on kiln and combustion technology

IMPORTANT NOTES

Safety First:

Report all suspicious activities to security **ext.1717** and of course don't hesitate to call **911** in an emergency

Be aware of what you and others are doing at all times

Don't surprise someone working on the wheel or with tools
and finally, sometimes playing around can lead to accidents

You are responsible for any guests in the studio. Make them aware of not touching other peoples work and that they are not allowed to work in the studio.

If you are under the influence of alcohol/drugs stay out of the studio (& seek counseling)

All **unfired** clay can be recycled. **Do Not Mix** the raku and mid-range ox/manganese in the recycle buckets. The raku clay is grey while the mid-range ox/manganese is purpleish. A simple test with bone dry clay is to wet it to see it's true color. When in doubt, ask... Mid-range ox/manganese clay is the studio wheel throwing clay. If you use any other types of clay you must clean wheel thoroughly and change bucket water

Minimize the amount of clay going into the sink and down the drain

Be selective with what you fire. Either recycle your clay (before it is bisque or glazed fired) or utilize your seconds as glaze test pieces

Clean up after yourself (and others if necessary). Class starts at 8am and ends at 12 noon, clean up begins at 11:45 *only if you* must leave by noon. Studio remains open till the last one out. ***ACCESS** to studio outside of class time is through security in Urness.

Augsburg student picture ID required. Old main and ceramics studio closes at 10:30 pm.

Peruse and understand the terminology in "Course Documents" & Course Info" located in Moodle **for assistance on Moodle Lindell Library HELP desk*

Demonstrations can be repeated upon request

Save the clay boxes for packing and taking home your finished master pieces

Do not make outside appointments during class time unless it is an emergency.

Transportation reservations for vacations etc. should be within the scheduled vacation period

Please make an appointment (making an appointment should be a mutual understanding and agreement to meet at a specified time) **with me tom@augsborg.edu or ext. 1231 if you have any questions, need assistance, or are having difficulties etc.**