

California State University, Sacramento
Department of Art
Art 53 Beginning Hand-built Ceramics Section 1
Spring 2004

Class hours & classroom : MW 900- 1150am, Kadema 101

Instructor: Tom Decker

Office hours: MW 1200 - 1230pm, or by appointment, Kadema 131D

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Lab fee: \$13.00, due in Lassen Hall Cashier's Office by February 20, administrative penalty imposed for non-payment.

General description: In this course you will develop an ability to express yourself through an exploration of selected handbuilding techniques in ceramic media. You will focus your exploration towards physical activity in the production of ceramic objects. You will reflect upon these objects as results of your exploration. This reflection will lead to development for the sake of learning to express yourself through the medium. To get the most out of this course, interpret the subject originally, do historical research, draw upon inspiration, explore creative possibilities, and try to express yourself fully.

Project assignments: There will be four projects assigned and a schedule to follow towards their completion. You are required to work in series, i.e., making multiple objects related to the resolution of formal problems and conceptual issues. You must present your work for evaluation in a group critique format with other students. Each project will have at least one greenware critique and a glazeware critique. These critiques are crucial points in the course for understanding the development of skills and the expressive content of the work.

Grading: Grades in this class will be assigned as a result of your ability to integrate the subject matter in an expressive way. Expressive development is the goal. In order to earn a grade of "B" in the course, you must at least fulfill the technical requirements of all project assignments and present your work for critique on the scheduled date for each phase of the projects. To earn a higher grade, you must not only achieve the technical standard of each assignment, but exceed the minimum requirements of the assignment in a way that shows creative thought and expression. If you miss a critique you should continue to work on the project on your own time after the critique date and submit the pieces for partial credit (up to but not after the date of the final critique, Wednesday, May 12). Work submitted for evaluation after the scheduled critique date will be graded at one letter grade lower than it would have been had the work been submitted on time. If you are not satisfied with your results on any one project you may find it is worth your time to make more objects and submit them to demonstrate your ability to critically analyze your work and improve it. The work that you undertake to improve your results on any project will be credited towards the improvement of your grade in the course.

Materials and equipment: You may need to purchase a tool kit at the student store if you don't already have one. Paintbrushes of various sizes and shapes are useful and you may wish to bring some that you particularly like. The average amount of clay you'll use is about 75 pounds. You may want to use the clay we make in the studio, and you are welcome to it if you participate in its manufacture and care. You are required to clean up your work area and equipment after each use. To ensure safety use consideration and respect for other students and their work. There is equipment in the studio which requires training to use safely and efficiently. Ask for instruction before using any unfamiliar equipment. If you feel that you will be unable to safely undertake the physical activity required in this course please contact the instructor during office hours during your first week of class. Lockers are available to store your clay, and tools, but you must provide a lock and vacate the locker at the term's end.