COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Hadi Abbas  
Term: Fall 2015  
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Office Hours: Tue & Thu, 9:30 – 11:30

Course Overview
This course is designed to provide fundamental understanding and application of a variety of ceramic hand building methods. There will also be consideration given to related topics, including design, slip decoration, glaze application, and firing processes.

Course Objectives

Unit One: Introduction
This first unit will be an introduction to ceramic processes and preparation for hand building projects. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of concepts, terminology, and issues of clay construction. The following specific topics will be presented.

- Visual presentation of selected hand built projects
- Properties of clay (shrinkage, color, texture, absorbency)
- Terminology and vocabulary
- Design consideration and visual relationships
- Demonstration of various construction methods and techniques

Unit Two: Basic Slab and Coil Processes
Based on the information presented in the first unit, students will design and produce slab and coil pieces. There will be lectures/demonstrations that address applied, impressed, and scraffito surface decoration.

Course Prerequisites
Preferably 2D & 3D Design

Required Texts, Materials & Expenses
The execution of this course requires raw materials, tools, and supplies that are expensive. Due to a limited departmental budget, students will have two options:

1) Students purchase their own raw materials, tools, and supplies.
2) Students join the Potter’s Guild with an estimated fee of $90-100 to cover your raw materials, tools, and supplies for the entire semester.

“School began with a man under a tree, a man who did not know he was a teacher, discussing his realizations with a few others who did not know they were students.”

-Louis Kahn
 Recommended Supplies

- Notebook/Sketchbook
- Sponge
- Rubber kidney
- Plastic sheet cloth
- Hand towels
- Wooden rib
- Needle tool
- One gallon bucket
- Fettling knife
- Cutting wire
- Serrated stainless steel scraper
- Plastic ruler
- Wooden modeling tool 6"
- Various found objects for texturing
- Canvas rags
- Rolling pin

 Suppliers

Axner Pottery Supply
409 Kane Court, Oviedo, FL 32765
407-365-2600

Bennett Pottery Supply
431 Enterprise Street, Ocoee, FL 34761
407-877-6311

 Recommended Readings


 Grading

Grades for this course will conform to the university’s alphabetical grading system and utilize the following guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale (%)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 A – Excellent - Superior execution and understanding of the course objectives. All requirements to the course have been met and exceeded.

 B – Good - A comprehensive execution and understanding of the course objectives has been achieved. All requirements to the course have been met and/or exceeded.

 C – Average - Fulfillment of all course objectives has been achieved and an adequate understanding of the same has been produced. All the requirements of the course have been met. Attendance requirements were or were not met.

 D – Passing - Some of the course objectives were not met. The requirements of the course, such as attendance, were or were not met.

 F – Failure - Less than passing.

 Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

 Grade Dissemination

There are three stages for grading each assignment: making the project, bisque firing, and glaze firing. The three separate grades will be added, and divided to achieve the final overall grade for each assignment.
Course Policies: Grades

Attendance Policy:
This is a studio art course, which requires a regular habit of attendance in order for the student to perform the course objectives. Therefore, students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive promptly. Exceptions will be considered for personal illness or family emergencies. Appropriate statements must accompany these excuses from authorized agents. You may acquire only one absence during the semester without penalty. For every unexcused absence above one your final grade will be lowered one letter grade. Three unexcused absences are cause for dismissal from the class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each class. Two late arrivals (ten minutes after class starting time) will count as one absence. Two early departures without prior permission will also count as one absence.

Outside Classwork:
Students must prepare to spend six hours a week outside of class on their assignments. These hours must be logged in the students’ mandatory journal. Do not expect to complete your assignments solely during class time. Failure to work outside of class and to turn in a record of the hours will result in a grade of “F”.

Craftsmanship (paramount):
It will be obvious to me the amount of time spent on a given project. Your work will be graded on its technical and aesthetic qualities.

Late Assignments:
Missed or late assignments can be made up, beginning with the letter grade of a “B,” and may be turned in prior to the final critique/exam. All project assignments submitted for grades must be made on campus in the studio during the semester in which the student is enrolled.

Student Expectations

Disability Access:
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Notebooks/Sketchbook:
Keep a continuing notebook/sketchbook of drawing, information, and ideas. These will be reviewed periodically and should be available upon the instructor’s request.

Critiques and class participation:
We will have group critiques after each assignment. Everyone is expected to participate. Be prepared to make a verbal statement about thoughts pertaining to your work. This is a special opportunity to gain some insight into your work; this is the equivalent to a quiz. Repeatedly missing critiques will affect your final grade.

Questions:
No question is too silly or too simple. Do not hesitate to ask. You are here to learn.

Studio cleanliness:
The entire class will participate in group clean-up of the studio when necessary. However, every student must clean after he/she has finished working each day. Raw materials and clay dust could be hazardous, and proper precautions must be followed to minimize the exposure. In general, it is important to use a common sense approach to dealing with clay and glaze materials and supplies.
Kiln Firing Rules:

- All firings must be scheduled in advance and approved by the instructor.
- All work must be signed and loaded during class time and preheated overnight and resume firing at 8:00 am the next day.
- All shelves must be cleaned and coated with kiln wash immediately after unloading. Failure to do so results in a lowering of your final grade by one letter. Second offense results in suspension of firing privileges.
- Every firing must be documented in the student’s notebook. Failure to do so results in a lowering of your final grade by one letter. Second offense results in suspension of firing privileges. See kiln-firing schedule.
- Kiln ignition must be turned on during class time with instructor present. Failure to do so results in a lowering of your final grade by one letter. Second offense results in suspension of firing privileges.
- There must be a minimum of two students per kiln firing.
- All green ware must be bisqued in an orderly manner.
- Immediately after unloading a bisque kiln, all bisque ware must be glazed and loaded for glaze firing.
- All glaze ware must be removed from the studio within one day of unloading.
- The instructor must approve all new glazes. Failure to do so results in a lowering of your final grade by one letter. Second offense results in suspension of firing privileges.
- All pots must be wiped properly before loading a glaze kiln. Unwiped pots will not be loaded.
- The instructor reserves the right to reclaim any green ware that does not fit the criteria for the assignment (trimming, weight, cracks, etc.)

Glazes and Glazing:
The ceramic studio at UCF offers students a variety of shop glazes. It is important these glazes be replenished and maintained. In order that no class is left with depleted glazes and materials to continue their work, the following is the studio policy pertaining to glazes.

- Shop glazes will be the responsibility of the entire class to mix and maintain the glaze bucket full for the entire semester.
- The Potter’s Guild is responsible for making sure all raw materials required to make glazes are on hand.
- All students will thoroughly clean the area after glazing. THE LAST ONE OUT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAVING THE GLAZE AREA READY FOR THE NEXT DAY!

Note: Failure to comply with these rules will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter per incident.

Academic Conduct Policy:
It is expected that all projects in this course are carried out with full academic honesty. All work assignments must be done and finished at the studio. The university’s Golden Rule will be enforced. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida’s Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor’s discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

University Writing Center:
The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.
Important Dates to Remember

Classes Begin: Mon, Aug 24, 2015
Late Registration: Mon, Aug – Fri, Aug 22, 2015
Drop/Swap Deadline*: Thu, Aug 27, 2015
Add Deadline*: Fri, Aug 28, 2015
Grade Forgiveness Deadline: Mon, Nov, 2, 2015
Withdrawal Deadline*: Mon, Nov 2, 2015
Final Examination*: Fri, Dec 9-15, 2015

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify the instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith; they will be allowed to make up the class without penalty. Failure to notify the instructor in advance will subject the student to the attendance policy.

Course Guidelines

Students taking this course must agree to comply with the university’s Golden Rules and all of the safety and operating procedures set forward by the instructor, the department, and the university, and be willing to sign an agreement to this effect. Students must wear protective clothing and dust masks when working in the studio. Students must also exercise great care in preventing clay and glaze dust in the studio. The following will NOT be allowed: sandals or open shoes of any kind, food, drink, gum, horseplay, and no unauthorized experiments. Students are prohibited from using power equipment without the permission from the instructor. Students must observe all of the rules pertaining to security of the studio and its equipment. After hours, studio access will be available 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Grievance Procedures

If you need to discuss a problem relating to this class you may schedule an appointment with the instructor during his office hours. If the problem has not been resolved after this meeting you may schedule an appointment with the SVAD Assistant Director. Personal grievance issues will not be discussed during class.

Hints for Success

• Attend class on time and take notes during lectures and demonstrations.
• Make full use of critique and class discussion.
• Do not procrastinate. If you do not understand a concept regarding your class, ask for help.
• Plan assignment strategy for the entire semester.

“Don’t worry about the horse being blind, just load the wagon.”
-John Madden

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course guideline if, in his professional judgement such modification is in the best interest of fulfilling the course objective while assuring academic integrity of the course.
Student Agreement

Please Print:

Name: ______________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________________________

I agree to be aware of the conditions and policies set forward by the instructor, the course syllabus, The School of Visual Arts and Design, and the University of Central Florida as written and explained.

_________________________   ____________________________
Sign                     Date