COURSE SYLLABUS

Index Number: ART 310
Course Title: Ceramics
Professor: John Payne - Phone x4018
Credit Hours: 3.0
Trimester: Spring/Summer '98 (Block 2)
Wednesday/Friday 12:30-3:20pm

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Covers basic concepts of clay handling, including handbuilding, wheel methods, glaze formulation, and firing techniques. May be repeated with approval of instructor.

1. The course will offer clay as the medium for final projects to be fired; glazes will be recommended depending on the form achieved.

2. "Ceramic" as used in this class is universal and implies that clay must be fired and in part some mild non-technical glazing may take place. Clay type: Terracotta and/or highly porous other formulas only.

RATIONALE:

Art techniques and clay: Basic understanding and rote control of techniques will not make anyone an artist. However, it is obvious one needs to know techniques to be an artist and must have ideas and develop broad knowledge of the limitations and possibilities of materials to be used. This class is going to be an attempt to offer some methods and principles of clay handling as its chief thrust--ideas are to be the students' responsibility. Wherever aesthetics impinge on techniques the individual and I will encounter this, pursuant to his or her problem(s). Hence, each student taking the class should set out to find the art he/she wishes to make in light of what the ceramic technicalities entail. The best way might be to begin to look for what has been done in clay in the ceramic process and see by comparison what forms mother nature continues to offer.

CLAY: Clay is not--only one of the oldest but is still one of the most widely used materials for art foundation. It is abundant, minimal in regards to cost, and highly flexible, (plastic), in terms of handling properties.
ART 310

Clay—is the most common for making vessels and for pre-planning a sculpture to be done finally in another material. This entails a variety of forming techniques or/and processes such as molding, modeling, coiling, slabbing and throwing.

Throwing on the Wheel: one form or more will be an assigned problem in the class. To be explained and demonstrated.

A. Note to all students taking this class:

1. This is a clay handling class, however, vessel forming will be emphasized as a basis for form.

2. All clay will be issued by the instructor. This will assure proper clay formula check. Specification will be given.

3. All projects will be subject to consultation and approval of instructor.

4. Projects not meeting gauge (thickness) specifications, for firing, will not be accepted.

COURSE OUTLINE: (Including books and inexpensive supplies required of the student)

Library and Books:

5. (a) One (1) book report 1 1/2 pages on ceramics, texts related to work to be done in this class, typed by the 3rd week: hand in deadline...required for those enrolled for (3) credits. Reports due beginning class 4th class.

Suggested Readings (But not limited to):

Ceramics, by Glenn C. Nelson
Ceramics, by Kenney
Ceramics Design, by John B. Kennedy
Handbook Ceramics, Helen Rothenberg
*An additional list will be passed out and discussed. Books due 2nd class meeting.

PROJECT PLANNING FOR THIS COURSE WILL REQUIRE:

1. Three (3) to five (5) tentative sketches per each project as competence assessment, all subject to approval based on technicalities of the proposed ideations.
2. A small sketch book of continuous advanced sketched ideas will be essential for class overview. Sketch pads plain paper, see material list. Students will be expected to plan all (draw) all embellishments in advance of attempting them.

*MATERIALS NEEDED:* (Due by 2nd class)

1. Two sponges one large one small:
   a. Large for cleanup
   b. Small one for work (as a tool)

2. Old kitchen knife (metal) not the dangerous type plus plastic knives and spoons.

3. Tongue blades, popsicle sticks. White bristle/natural bristle 1/4" and 1/2" brush inexpensive Ace Hardware quality.

4. Plastic container such as found after cool whip or ice cream has been eaten quart sizes.

5. *Medium and 10 or 13 gallon garbage bags (plastic type) to be discussed. High Grade kitchen size.

6. 12" x 14" sketch pad at least 30 sheets (this pad need not be expensive). See: K-Mart, Walmart, Venture, Target.

7. A 36" length of fine copper wire plus two large washers the type used by machinists 1 1/2" diameter. Any hardware/K-Mart, etc.

8. *A bag or tool kit large enough and sturdy enough to facilitate carrying personal tools and supplies to and from GSU--Or for placing in your hall lockers. (If you do not have a hall locker, get one from Student Services today).

**SUPPLIES:**

**NOTE:**

Some supplies such as clay and plaster as needed will be offered. We can talk about this as projects develop. Students, individually, will be required to come to work at class time as scheduled with the supplies assigned above and any other incidentals required of the "student". All of this will be checked off as studio attitude and course competence.
Work attire will be necessary---students will use their own good judgment regarding this.

The above information which will serve as a minimal Tool and Material Guideline for check off purposes. Subsequent weeks and work all inherent may cause need of other items. I will inform you as this arises.

Clay to be used will be furnished by instructor:

Jordans low fire, this is a smooth grayish clay.

Terracotta clay, this is a reddish iron oxide bearing clay with grog or sandy properties added.

Grog, a refractory material (high fired) which is ground for use in clay.

As stated, this is a ceramic class therefore the clay discussions will be kept within the scope of vessels and other basic forms as our problem.

GENERAL COMPETENCIES/STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1. Student demonstrated the ability to do all assignments, applied and written as well as oral participation in all critiques.

2. Student demonstrated the ability to plan and complete individual projects that were original and related to the nature of clay.

3. The student demonstrated the ability to complete a minimum of three involved projects that were successful as art and ceramics in a contemporary spirit.

4. The student demonstrated the ability to reflect growth and with a seriousness of purpose while confronting a new area of study.

5. The student demonstrated college level work in terms of quality of craftsmanship and enthusiasm as well as scholarship.*

EXPECTED COMPETENCY OUTCOME:

1. Demonstrate interest and developing skills reflecting 3-D theory, design and comprehension.

2. Demonstrate mature dexterity and skill in handling materials and tools relative to their function and type.
3. Demonstrate the independence of ideas and originality relative to basic assignments.

4. Demonstrate continuous idea development to extent of assignments and autogenous attitude throughout the class/term.

5. Write and demonstrate by sketch a proposal of work to be done.

6. Demonstrate college level competence by completing all work.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION:

In Ceramics grades will result from all tasks being completed.*

The assessment will be based on the below listed projects/assignments on an individual basis:

I. Book Reports
   Tools and materials required of the student.
   Sketches done as required in outside assignments.

II. The Initial Project: introduction to the problems of hand forming and throwing and demonstrated comprehension of experiences encountered. The proper use of the media and other materials will be looked at.

III. The two (2) proposed projects you develop from the balance of the class assignments and requirements. Improvement and skill will be the overriding factors sought along with basic interest and creative exploration of forms.

IV. Four short quizzes, a final is among the four total.

V. Quality of the overall course completion and quality of art objects summarizes the above. The average of the sum total of projects, quizzes and papers included will be your grade.

*All critiques must be attended.

OTHER:

This class will require regular attendance and the completion of both assigned work as well as elective ideas to be concurred upon with me. No credit will be available for arbitrary and random projects. Please plan the 2nd week to begin a slab problem. Other assignments will be discussed such as class meetings when individualized sketch assessments take place etc.
ART 310

Grade

Letter Grades & Codes

The letter grades and codes used at Governors State University are defined below:

Regular Grades

A = Superior performance or highest level of competency achievement.

B = Above average performance or competency achievement of more complexity or difficulty than a C-level competency.

C = Average performance or typical competency achievement accepted for the course. However, individual graduate programs have the option of not accepting specified courses of the program with this level of competency toward a degree.

D = Achievement of competencies at a marginal level. However, individual programs have the option of not accepting specified courses of the program with this level of competency toward a degree.

U = Unsatisfactory achievement of competencies as specified in the syllabus.

Pass/No Credit Grades

P = Achievement of competencies as specified in the syllabus. This grade does not count in grade point computation.

NC = No credit earned in a course taken under the pass/no credit grading option.

Codes for Incompletes is symbolized by letter 'I'.

I = Incomplete--extension of the period of enrollment for an additional trimester in order to complete unfinished course requirements. Assignment of "I" by an instructor is dependent on a reasonable amount of participation being demonstrated by the student during the term of enrollment, as specified in the syllabus. If an incomplete (I) is not changed to "A, B, C, D, U, P, NC, or E" by the specified deadline, then "I" is converted to either a "U" for students taking the course under the grade option, or an "NC" for students taking the course under the pass/no credit option.
E = Extended incomplete--extension of the period of enrollment for another additional trimester in order to complete unfinished course requirements. Assignment of "E" by instructor is dependent upon a written petition by the student that evinces extraordinary and compelling reasons, and approval by the Dean. If extended incompletes (E) are not removed by the end of this extension period, the "E" is converted to either a "U" for students taking the course under the graded option, or an "NC" for students taking the course under the pass/no credit option.

Administrative Codes

M = No Grade Reported--symbol used to indicate either that grades were not submitted by instructor in time for processing, or that grades submitted were illegible. This is not an academic grade, and is replaced by the appropriate grade symbol when grade is submitted to Registrar's Office by the instructor. Courses assigned an "M" are not included in calculation of G.P.A., or academic standing, nor do these courses appear on official transcripts.