

## **Art 708: Introduction to Ceramics (Sec. 0350)**

Tetsuji Aono, Instructor  
M&W 9:35-12:35  
Fall, 2013  
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FA105  
Office hours  
M&W 9:15 - 9:35  
M 12:35 - 12:45

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**GOALS:** This ceramics course will cover various basic techniques of ceramics; however the major emphasis will be on hand building, the development of a sound art aesthetic, an appreciation of ceramic processes, understanding the use and application of ceramic materials, and an awareness and understanding of art concepts as they relate to clay.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Demonstrate knowledge and technical distinctions of historically important ceramic art from cultures around the world.
- Understand the relationship of the development of ceramic art to historical factors in cultural development.
- Develop sensitivity and critical abilities in the arts.
- Understand and demonstrate the relationship of the creative process of conceptualization to the execution of personal, socio-political, and cultural expressions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of terms and techniques related to the course.
- Understand the historical and cultural achievements of cultures around the world.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze and express personal ideas; relate individual projects to larger concerns in historical and contemporary contexts.
- Demonstrate an increased awareness and recognition of visual expression through analysis of personal art experiences.

### **REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **LAB FEE: \$25 (Required payment to the bookstore):**

The lab fee covers the expense of one 25-pound bags of clay and glazes for the semester. Prior to receiving clay to work with, each student must pay the fee to the bookstore. Additional clay may be purchased for \$7.00 a bag if needed (please keep your receipt).

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory. Registering for this class is basically a contractual statement that you will attend class. Consistent attendance generally translates into successful course work, and therefore, a higher grade. Attendance will be taken within the first five minutes of each class. It is the responsibility of students who enter the classroom after roll has been taken to make sure that the instructor records their presence.

You are allowed THREE absences before a drop in your grade. For every class missed after three, your grade will be lowered one letter point. Two tardies or early departures count as one absence. Frequently arriving late to class or leaving early is disrespectful to your classmates and instructor, and suggests you are not taking the class seriously.

Always come to class prepared to work on projects, with materials and needed supplies. Class time will often be used for working on projects; improper and unproductive use of class time will translate into an absence.

## **CLASS DECORUM**

All students will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This includes being on time and having all necessary supplies for each class period, as well as being courteous and respectful to the faculty, all other students and any visitors to the classroom. Although this class is meant to be enjoyable, any activity that disrupts the learning environment or could result in injury or a health risk will not be tolerated. Each student must follow the studio safety procedures presented by the instructor.

This class will require your ability to focus and concentrate; therefore the use of headphones, cell phones and other distracting devices is not permitted. Cell phones should be turned off for the entire class period. Conversation should be limited; socialize outside of class or during breaks.

Since other classes use this space, it must be left clean. Always remove any material that is of any value to you, discard any trash, and clean any spilled material. The instructor will present protocol for proper studio clean up and all students are expected to follow these guidelines. Due to the nature of the materials used in this studio, you should not eat or drink in this space.

## **GRADING**

Grade equivalencies are as follows:

“A” will be given to those projects that push the assignment, show a thorough understanding of related demonstrated techniques and processes, a movement towards more independent thinking while also having excellent presentation and craftsmanship.

“B” will be given to those projects which complete assignment specifications, exemplify good understanding of related demonstrated techniques and processes, good craft and good visual problem solving.

“C” will be given for those projects that complete the specifications of the assignment and show a fair understanding of related demonstrated techniques and processes.

“D” will be given for those projects that attempt to satisfy the specifications of the assignment, and show poor understanding of related demonstrated techniques and processes.

“F” will be given to projects that are unacceptable.

### **Your final grade will be composed of the following:**

#### **Participation & Attendance: 30%**

This is an interactive studio class. Your contribution to discussions and critiques is absolutely necessary to the success of the class. Your work ethic, attitude, and attendance will all be taken into consideration in your participation grade.

#### **Art Projects: 70%**

Grades on art projects will be based on effort, craftsmanship (defined for this class as consideration of neatness and proper presentation as described by the instructor for each individual assignment), as well as the complexity of each piece. Consideration will also be given to your development of possible solutions to the problem, and your ability to comprehend and fully complete each assignment in a timely fashion. For each project there will be a group critique, and you will receive a letter grade. The projects will have specific objectives, and the grades you receive will be based on how well you meet the goals of the assignment. Thus, a project may have many excellent qualities, but if it does not address the goals of the assignment, this will be reflected in your grade.

All work must be signed. No assignments will be accepted after the scheduled final period for this class.

Assignments will increase in complexity throughout the semester as they build upon previously presented material. Please be aware that different processes, materials, and concepts will be introduced throughout the semester.

**Individual and Critique Assessment:** Studio projects will be assessed individually by the instructor, through portfolio presentations, by class discussions, and by critique.

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE:**

Refer to the **Student Code of Conduct** in the **Student Handbook**.

“Students with a verified disability who may need a reasonable accommodation(s) for this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact the Office of Special Services as soon as possible. All information will remain confidential.”

**TEXT BOOK:** (optional) “The Craft and Art of Clay” by Susan Peterson

**NOTEBOOK:** You are required to keep a notebook of handouts with notes about lectures, demonstrations, glazes, drawings/sketches, documentation of the process, and observations.

**SUPPLIES:** Tool Box, Large Cleaning Sponge, Loop Tools, Old Towel, Needle Tool, Brushes, Large Plastic Trash Bags or Dry Cleaning Plastic, Notebook, Pen or Pencil, Plastic-Lidded Container, Apron or Work Shirt, Chopsticks, Exacto Knife, Fork, Masking Tape, Ruler, Spray Bottle, String or Mono Filament, and Newspaper.

These tools may be purchased at one of several art stores in the area and may be found at the WLAC Book Store. These tools are basic; however, you will find that you can make many of your own tools and that you will add a few more during the time you are in the class.

**CLOTHES:** This ceramics class will involve your proximity to earthen materials and it is suggested that you wear protection for finer clothing, or that you wear to class clothes which you would expect to become somewhat muddied. You must wear foot protection at all times.

**Ceramics Studio Rules: No Cell Phone Activities, No Headphone Devices, No Food. Please watch out for possible harmful objects and tools we are sharing.**

# Art 708: Introduction to Ceramics

Tetsuji Aono, Instructor

## #1. Project (10 points)

### Tea Bowls

**Objective:** Four 4-inch bowls with different foot treatments.

**Purpose:** Feeling the physicality of clay and appreciating the "spirituality" in clay.

**Technique:** Simple pinch pot.

Cone 10 glaze testing, "bi-color glaze" and use of metallic oxide to see the effect.

## #2. Project (10 points)

### Bell Head

**Objective:** 4-inch diameter bell with sculpting a head design.

**Purpose:** Learning what a hollow form is; specifically regarding its external beauty as well as its internal structural beauty. We are going to experiment with oxide on the clay body, reduction firing without glaze.

**Technique:** Simple pinch pot with carving and sculpting on the surface.

## #3. Project (15 points)

### Vessel with Animal Attachment

**Objective:** 12-inch vessel.

**Technique:** Coil construction technique and animal attachment.

**Surface treatment:** Cone 10 glaze with metallic oxide.

**Purpose:** Learning visual vocabularies, form, shape, volume, and balance. Consider what's basically functional or utilitarian in form (a dispensing and containing form); how the vessel form is often described in sections by names of human body parts, such as neck, shoulder, lip, body, and foot.

## #4. Project (10 points)

### Cylinder Cups

**Objective:** Two cups or vessels.

**Purpose:** exercising with soft-slab construction and surface design with color / decorative slip.

## #5. Project (15 points)

### Box

**Objective:** Tight-fitting, lidded box. The box must be 6"x 6"x 6" inches. Use the ceramic structural surface as a canvas to illustrate your surrounding environment.

**Purpose:** To develop self-awareness and a visual vocabulary of symbolism; how to express and how to read and/or find the reason/meaning in art. Create your box with symbolic elements to create your three-dimensional story board about your personal relationship with or contribution toward your surrounding environment.

**Technique:** Slab construction low relief sculptural design. Cone 10 underglaze / engobe, glaze, and oxide.

## #6. Project (20 points)

### Architectural Tea Sets: teapot and two cups on a box tray

**Objective:** Architecturally designed teapot and two cups on 10"x12"x 2" landscaped tray (no abstract).

**Purpose:** A combination of architectural elements and landscape. This will be a miniature landscape. Visualize what you want to see in the environmental relationship between the architecture and the landscape, not only in the structural design, but also on the surface. Choose one architectural form to make a tea set and choose an image from the landscape to inspire the tray design.

**Technique:** Composite construction.

## Midterm: Internet Report (10 points)

**Internet Research:** Find your favorite website that contains one specific example of ceramic art and describe the process and the material; print out and underline the key sentences that you think interesting (ex., research historic to contemporary ceramic art work, ceramists inspire your performance in this course, etc.). Use Google.com search engine to look for an internet museum or gallery site.

## Final: Quiz & Notebook (10 points)

20 questions about ceramics technical terminology.

## Art 708: Introduction to Ceramics

Fall 2013  
Tetsuji Aono

M-Aug. 26	Intro. materials, class, schedule, process information
W-Aug. 28	Intro. Project #1 tea bowls, demo-pinch pot and foot treatment demo
M-Sep. 2	<b><u>Labor Day No Class Meeting</u></b>
W-Sep. 4	Project #2 (bell)
M-Sep. 9	Project #2 (finishing bell)
	Project #1 loading the bisque kiln
W-Sep. 11	Project #3 (vessel) intro.
	Project #1 glaze demo, glaze fire
	Project #2 loading the bisque kilns
M-Sep. 16	Project #3 (vessel) demo dispensing and containing form
W-Sep. 18	Project #3 (Animal attachment)
M-Sep. 23	Project #3 (Animal attachment)
W-Sep. 25	Project #4 intro. Slab construction demo
	Bisque fire Project #3
M-Sep. 30	Project #5 intro
	<b>Critique Project #1,&amp; #2, (meeting with group #1)</b>
W-Oct. 2	Project #5
	Glaze Project #3
M-Oct. 7	<b><u>Internet Research Report Due.</u></b>
	Project #5
W-Oct. 9	Project #5
M-Oct. 14	Project #5
W-Oct. 16	Intro. Project #6
M-Oct. 21	Project #6
W-Oct. 23	Project #6
M-Oct. 28	Project #6
W-Oct. 30	Project #6
M-Nov. 4	Project #6
W-Nov. 6	Project #6
M-Nov. 11	<b><u>Veteran's Day No Class Meeting</u></b>
W-Nov. 13	Project #6
M-Nov. 18	<b><u>Last day to work with wet clay!</u></b>
W-Nov. 20	Last bisque - everything must be in the kiln!
M-Nov. 25	Glazing
W-Nov. 27	Glazing
M-Dec. 2	<b><u>Last glaze - Finish glazing, glaze firing.</u></b>
W-Dec. 4	<b><u>Quiz &amp; Notebook! Clean up the studio!!!</u></b>
M-Dec. 9	No Class Meeting (Final week)
W-Dec. 11	<b><u>FINAL EXAM. Attendance Mandatory. 10:15 - 12:15.</u></b>
	<b>Grading of Project Presentation.</b>

