



ART 295 Core Ceramics

Credits: 3, Section: 011

Semester: Spring, Year: 2022

Meeting Days, Times, Location and Room:

Monday/Wednesday 12:20pm - 2:50pm

Zoom link for class sessions:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/97257510416?pwd%3DVkJLR29iMSsvZU5TN09ieDJPWDdiUT09&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1644382340510764&usg=AOvVaw2qNs0iJ33mQtZos4jxe372>

In-person Student Hours/ Office Hours: **Will Be Provided 2/9**

Virtual Student Hours/Office Hours: **Will Be Provided 2/9**

Table of Contents

[1. Instructor Information](#)

[2. Course Description](#)

[3. Learning Outcomes](#)

[4. Learning Resources](#)

[5. Learning Assessment](#)

[6. Course Calendar](#)

[7. Course Policy Document](#)

[Attendance](#)

[Communication](#)

[Student Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[The Safety of Our Learning Environment](#)

[Academic Integrity](#)

[Harassment and Discrimination](#)

[Faculty Statement on Disclosures of Instances of Sexual Misconduct](#)

[Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Non-Discrimination](#)

1. Instructor Information

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor name: Michael Dawson

Instructor preferred pronouns: He/Him/His

Email address: mdawson@udel.edu

Insta: @mikes.ceramics

Office location:

Student hours/Office hours:

Phone number: 410-603-2660

Special contact instructions: While I do provide my phone number, please use it in emergencies only. I do check my email frequently and should respond within a day.

About the Instructor:

I am a plant lover, animal lover, and Art lover. I love to mimic nature in my work and marry it with my research. My research interests lie in experimenting and pushing boundaries in Ceramics. My passion for the unknown drives me to keep trying new techniques, using additives in unconventional ways, and responding to my results with new organic works.

I hope that this becomes evident as we go through the semester, and I hope that you'll feel comfortable embracing the unknown as well. While I have structured projects that I will be giving you, I encourage you to follow any passions that you may have. For instance, if there's a technique you'd like to learn about (that's within reason: time wise, safety wise, and cost wise) I'm happy to help you figure it out.

-Mike



2. Course Description

'The first 10,000 pots are difficult and then it gets a little bit easier.'

— Warren MacKenzie, celebrated potter

Description

First-year majors are introduced to both the fundamentals of working with clay, and the fundamentals of an artistic practice. What does it mean to think with and through a material such as clay? Process and engaged investigation will be emphasized, with strong encouragement for experimentation and creativity. This class will strengthen the student's critical analysis skills, and lay foundational skill sets to be built upon/in tandem with other courses in the Art Department. We will discuss essential terminology relating to Ceramics, as well as sculpture in general. This course will require dedicated time outside of class time to work on projects. This is crucial and must happen for a student to be successful. Please keep this in mind.

Also keep in mind, this class has a required consumable student fee of \$95. This fee must be paid by the drop/add date of Friday, February 18th. If you do not pay this fee you must drop the class by the drop/add date.

Course Delivery

As we all know, the first week of the semester will be over Zoom, but as long as everything goes according to plan, we will have class as scheduled in SAB 107 Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:20 to 2:30pm. If I cannot be there in person to teach class during classes when demonstrations are scheduled, I will do my best to have either a recording of the demonstration made available that day or have a substitute demonstrate in my place. If neither of those options are possible I will demonstrate over zoom and record said demonstration.

Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will learn the terminology of ceramics.
2. The student will utilize safe and proper techniques and procedures for ceramic production.
3. The student will constructively critique ceramic works created by their peers and themselves.
4. The student will successfully transform sketches into real world works of art through

4. Learning Resources

There's a large selection of books and magazines on ceramics and ceramic artists in the library. **Please** take the time to explore these resources and be inspired. University of Delaware has an incredible library, and I can't stress enough the benefits of frequenting a library. UD has an incredible folio section in the library, so there are tons of large books with incredible images for inspiration and reference. A quick search on UD's library site led me to find these two books, both of which are great.

<https://delcat.on.worldcat.org/oclc/9685579>

<https://delcat.on.worldcat.org/oclc/443514>

There are also great websites like:

<https://accessceramics.org/>

<https://artaxis.org/artists/>

<https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/>

Required Learning Materials

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- Sketchbook
- Basic Clay Tool Kit: (metal and wooden rib, pin tool, wooden tool, sponge, trim tools, wire tool)
[Clay Tool Kit](#)
- X-acto blade / fettling knife
- bucket for tools/water
- Large sponge

Additional Suggested Tools:

- flexible rubber ribs
- A towel or multiple rags
- serrated rib or fork, comb, old cut credit card
- stamps/textural items for impressing into clay
- apron
- selection of inexpensive brushes for glazing

-I highly recommend bringing plastic containers like Tupperware to store smaller projects or parts of projects in. Especially for the Tile project

Technology

We will be using Canvas so I would suggest downloading the app on your phone if you can. We'll be uploading pictures of our work there, so it'll be much easier and faster for you if you do so.

And of course, we'll be on Zoom the first week as well as a week or two later in the semester.

Canvas: In this class, Canvas, UD's online learning management system, will be used for all course activities and communication channels. All assignments will be posted through the Canvas course site unless otherwise directed.

Information on how to use Canvas is available through the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

Canvas can also be accessed via [MyUD](#).

Zoom: In this class, Zoom will be used for video conferencing. You will receive a meeting invitation with a specific web link and meeting ID number for use in this class.

Zoom is a web-based application that can be used from a computer, tablet, or phone. From a computer, click the class web link and be sure to install the small program that will download to your computer. You only need to install the program once. From a mobile device, download the free Zoom app and type in the class meeting ID number.

A microphone and camera are recommended for online meetings. Information on how to test your computer's audio and video can be found on [Zoom's website](#). Learn more info about [Zoom at UD](#).

5. Learning Assessment

Final Grade Breakdown

The final course grade will be calculated using the following components:

Course Component	Percentage of Total
Cleanliness	10
Sketchbook	5
Journals	10
Projects	40
Critiques	30
Terminology	5

Other important grading considerations are attendance, time spent in studio outside of class, and remakes. In consideration to attendance, it's mandatory. If you're sick, or have an emergency please email me either before class or as soon as humanly possible. Also, I understand if you're running a few minutes late, or if you must leave a few minutes early here and there. But if you become chronically late, we'll have to talk about it as it's a disruption, as well as time lost that should be devoted to the class.

Regarding **time spent outside of class**, it's up to you how much time you spend, but as with most art courses, it should be double the credit hour (3) so **6 hours a week** is the expectation. Hopefully that won't be an issue as I know it will be your favorite place to be! But if you make a habit of not coming to studio hours it will end up having the same effect on your grade as unexcused, uncommunicated absences.

Finally, if you're unsatisfied with a grade on an assignment, I'm happy to let you make another for a better grade. I just need to know in advance that you'll be remaking it, so I have adequate time to grade your work before the end of the semester. If you surprise me on the last day with a project with no warning, I won't be able to give you a grade in time.

Projects

Coil Vessel

This project will build student's muscle memory and knowledge of clay, creating a foundation for subsequent projects. A height minimum of 10" is established to help you learn more about the different challenges clay can present in hand building. Please try to stay below 18" unless you really have a strong vision for a specific form.

Relief Tiles

Set of 4 or more relief tiles, each a minimum of 24 square inches
(ie. 6"x4", 5"x5", 8"x3")

We will be using additive and subtractive processes to create the final products.

For these tiles we want to utilize the full surface areas, whether through imagery or textures.

Slab Forms

Slab building is an incredibly useful technique for getting sharper, more geometric qualities than most other methods. A set of 5 slab-built forms each a minimum of 6"

Drinking Vessels

Drinking from your own hand-crafted mug is not something everyone gets to experience. With that being said, why not make three! Create a set of three mugs, flutes, steins, or any drinking vessel you can imagine.

Sculpture

Slightly more open ended, this project is meant to be a culmination of everything you've learned previously. This project must be a minimum of 9"x9"x9".

Other Course Components

Sketchbook

Sketch books will be an important part of our artistic process this semester. While the requirement will be set at sketches for each of the project assignments, I encourage you to include anything that inspires or intrigues you. Sketchbooks are crucial to ideation and communication. Keeping a sketchbook will help you the artist keep track of your progress and help me understand your intentions when we discuss ideas, techniques, and inspirations. I encourage you to keep not only your sketches for each progress here, but also any pictures, poetry, or song lyrics, or notes that will help inspire and inform your work.

Mid-Semester and Final Critique

Critiques are an essential part of any Fine Arts course. Community feedback and speaking about one's own work as well as others work helps us get a better sense of the work and provides valuable insight for future work. Students are expected to participate in both critiques, providing feedback to at least two other students work.

After the Final critique, students must participate in the community studio clean up as well as cleaning their shelves of all work and belongings. Failing to participate will affect a student's final grade.

Cleanliness

Like all art studios, the Ceramics Studio is a shared space that everyone must take care of. While you have your table space that you're expected to leave as clean as you found it, there's also the tools or machines you use. I cannot keep track of every person's space and what they've used throughout the class, so I expect students to hold each other accountable. If there's any noticeable mess left after class everyone will be penalized 1%. While this seems harsh it should be simple enough to avoid as long as we all take responsibility and clean up after ourselves.

Journals

Writing about other artists' work helps us strengthen our written and verbal skills, building a more critical eye for elements that we like and dislike. Using this critical eye helps us make better work as we can better bring ideas to fruition.

Terminology

There will be three terminology tests, the first of which will not be worth any points but will give me a basis for the general knowledge base of the class. The midterm Terminology test will consist of all terminology taught up to that point and the Final Terminology test will consist of all terminology taught this semester.

Grading Scale

Students will be assigned the following letter grade based on the calculation coming from the course assessment section.

Grade	Interval
A	[[94.0 and above]]
A-	[[90.0 to <94.0]]
B+	[[87.0 to <90.0]]
B	[[84.0 to <87.0]]
B-	[[80.0 to <84.0]]
C+	[[77.0 to <80.0]]
C	[[74.0 to <77.0]]
C-	[[70.0 to <74.0]]
D+	[[67.0 to <70.0]]
D	[[64.0 to <67.0]]
D-	[[61.0 to <64.0]]
F	[[<61.0]]

6. Course Calendar

Date	Theme/Topic	Due	Assigned
2/7, 2/9	Intro, Expectations	Terminology Pre-test (2/9) Clay Bios (2/9)	Toolkit, Sketchbook, Sketches
2/14	Coiling Demo	Toolkit, Sketchbook, Sketches	Coil Project Halfway (2/16)
2/16	Studio Day		
2/21	Additive/Subtractive, Surface Demo	Coil Project Halfway	Tiles Sketches (2/28)
2/23	Green Critique		
2/28	Tiles Demo	Coil Project Leather Hard Tile Sketches	Tiles Halfway (3/7)
3/2	Studio Day		
3/7	Slab Forms Demo	Tiles Halfway	Tiles Leather Hard (3/16) Slab Sketches (3/14)
3/9	Drinking Vessels Demo		Drinking Vessels Sketches (3/21)
3/14, 3/16	Studio Days	Slab Sketches (3/14) Tiles Leather Hard (3/16)	Slab Forms Halfway (3/23)
3/21	Green Critique	Drinking Vessels Sketches	Vessels In Progress (4/11)
3/23	Glazing Demo	Terminology Test 1 Slab Forms Halfway	Slab Forms Leather Hard (4/11)
3/28, 3/30	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
4/4	MID SEMESTER CRITIQUE	Photographing Demo	
4/6	Throwing Demo 2	Vessels In Progress	Vessels Leather Hard (4/20)
4/11	Sculpture Intro	Slab Forms Leather Hard	Sculpture Sketches (4/18)
4/13	Studio Day	One on Ones	Journals (5/23)
4/18	Studio Day	Sculpture Sketches	Sculpture Halfway (4/25)
4/20	Glazing Demo Refresher	Vessels Leather Hard	
4/25	Studio Day	Sculpture Halfway	Sculpture Leather hard (5/2)
4/27	Studio Day		
5/2, 5/4	Photos, Glazing	Sculpture Leather hard Bisque Fire Deadline (5/4)	

5/9, 5/11	Photos, Glazing	(5/11) Terminology Test 2	
5/16	Photographing Day	Glaze Fire Deadline	
5/18	READING DAY		READING DAY
5/23	FINAL CRITIQUE	Journals	FINAL CRITIQUE

7. Course Policy Document

Course Specific Policies

Food/Drink (COVID SPECIFIC)

No food or drink will be permitted in the studio whatsoever. I will seriously kick you out if you decide that eating or drinking something is more important than the safety of others.

Attendance

Attendance is essential and mandatory. This is not a lecture class so information cannot be found from other sources. Instruction, practice, and peer interaction are the best ways to succeed and progress. Often interaction is a great source of inspiration, as well. Final review and studio clean up are absolutely mandatory.

Absences on religious holidays listed in university calendars are recognized as an excused absence. Nevertheless, students are urged to remind the instructor of their intention to be absent on a particular upcoming holiday. Absences on religious holidays not listed in university calendars, as well as absences due to athletic participation or other extracurricular activities in which students are official representatives of the university, shall be recognized as excused absences when the student informs the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester of these planned absences for the semester.

Late Work

If work is turned in late, there's a 10% grade penalty per day. Photographing your work is crucial. Uploading finished work images to Canvas is an acceptable way to turn in your work if you intend to turn it in on a day other than a class day.

Studio Safety

Two major concerns:

No Running, this is a hazard to you and to everyone else. Even if you just slip and fall only to catch yourself, was knocking someone else's work off the table worth it?

No open toed shoes, seriously. We work with heavy objects, and plenty of sharp tools. Just don't risk your feet.

Communication

I check my emails daily, and I do most of my communicating through there. I do intend to use Canvas to post announcements and have the syllabus available here.

Student Mental Health & Wellbeing

In addition to impacting your overall wellbeing, diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. If this course is causing or contributing significant mental or emotional stress, then please reach out to me directly. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. UD's Center for Counseling & Student Development (CCSD) provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that threaten your emotional or academic well-being. Remember, getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do -- for yourself and for those who care about you.

- Contact me
 - If you are struggling with this class, please check-in during office hours or contact me by email at mdawson@udel.edu
- Check-in with your academic advisor
 - If you are struggling in multiple classes, unsure whether you are making the most of your time at UD, or unsure what academic resources are available at UD.
- UD's Center for Counseling & Student Development and UD Helpline
 - CCSD is open and available remotely, and 24/7 mental health support remains available on the UD Helpline at 302-831-1001 for any student in need of someone to talk to. Visit [CCSD's website](#) for additional information and resources.
- UD's Crisis Text Line
 - Text "UDTEXT" or "STEVE" at 741741 for students of color to connect with confidential text message support.
- Division of Student Life
 - Explore the Student Life's [Wellbeing webpage](#) for a comprehensive listing of well-being resources, activities and services available to all students.

UD Policies

The Safety of Our Learning Environment

Student learning can only occur when students and their instructors feel safe, respected, and supported by each other. To ensure that our learning environment is as safe as possible, and in keeping with CDC guidelines to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and the University of Delaware's Return to Campus Guidelines (Health and Safety Section), we will adhere to the practice of wearing face masks and cleaning your seat and desk area at the beginning of class.

This means that you:

- Must wear a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Must not eat or drink in class
- Upon entering the classroom, wipe down your seat and desk area

As necessary, the University may announce modifications to these practices.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with UD policies regarding academic dishonesty. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, to re-submit the same assignment for different classes, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their own work and neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance. Complete details of the university's academic integrity policies and procedures can be found at sites.udel.edu/studentconduct/sgup/. Office of Student Conduct, 218 HULLIHEN HALL, (302) 831-2117. E-mail: student-conduct@udel.edu

Harassment and Discrimination

The University of Delaware works to promote an academic and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. As a member of the community, your rights, resource and responsibilities are reflected in the non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies. Please familiarize yourself with these policies at www.udel.edu/oei. You can report any concerns to the University's Office of Equity & Inclusion, at 305 HULLIHEN HALL, (302) 831-8063 or you can report anonymously through UD Police (302) 831-2222 or the EthicsPoint Compliance Hotline at

www1.udel.edu/compliance. You can also report any violation of UD policy on harassment, discrimination, or abuse of any person at this site: sites.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct/how-to-report/

Faculty Statement on Disclosures of Instances of Sexual Misconduct

If, at any time during this course, I happen to be made aware that a student may have been the victim of sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking), I am obligated by federal law to inform the university's Title IX Coordinator. The university needs to know information about such incidents to, not only offer resources, but to ensure a safe campus environment. The Title IX Coordinator will decide if the incident should be examined further. If such a situation is disclosed to me in class, in a paper assignment, or in office hours, I promise to protect your privacy--I will not disclose the incident to anyone but the Title IX Coordinator.

For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and reporting information, please refer to www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct. At UD, we provide 24/7/365 crisis assistance and victim advocacy and counseling. Contact 302-831-1001 to get in touch with a sexual offense support advocate, as well as confidential and anonymous counseling services for other concerns.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any student who thinks he/she may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible. Students who have documentation of their need for accommodation should register via the SAM platform: andes.accessiblelearning.com/UDEL/. Reach DSS in the following ways: Phone: 302-831-4643, fax: 302-831-3261, [DSS website](#). Email: dssoffice@udel.edu or visit at 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 130.

During COVID-19, Disability Support Services staff are available remotely. Please call 302-831-4643 during business hours (8-5 M-F) or email dssoffice@udel.edu for assistance.

Non-Discrimination

The University of Delaware does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, disability, religion, age, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For inquiries or complaints related to non-discrimination policies, please contact: Office of Equity & Inclusion-oei@udel.edu, 305 HULLIHEN HALL NEWARK, DE 19716 (302) 831-8063

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact: Office of Disability Support Services, dssoffice@udel.edu, Alison Hall, Suite 130, Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-4643 OR contact the [U.S. Department of Education - Office for Civil Rights](#)