

University of Miami
Department of Art and Art History

ART 260
Special topics in Ceramics

Topic: Modeling in Clay

May Intersession Course

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm (May 14~18 and May 21~24, 2018)

Location: New Studio Annex Building 1535
classroom / studio 170

Professor Ivan Albrecht

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Subject: ART 260 ~ Introduction to Modeling in Clay
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CLASS SYLLABUS

Course Description:

Throughout this course students will practice various techniques of modeling with clay. The main focus will be on the process as an experience, rather than on the outcome of the process ~ objects. This course considers forming methods that are not typically covered in ceramics courses offered during regular terms (fall and spring). Therefore, students with any level of previous experience (from those that never worked with clay to those that have significant experience with the material) can benefit from such approach as many of the principles that will be demonstrated can be considered as alternative ~ they are based on instructor's personal experience and studio practice. Additive and substantive modeling in clay that are part of sculpture tradition along with different processes typical in studio ceramics and their combination will be introduced. Works that are created through this course will be fired to achieve certain hardness practical for keeping, but they should rather be understood as imprints, or three dimensional documents of ones physical manipulation of the material rather than finished product/s. All forming methods will be introduced by means of visual demonstrations.

Course Objectives:

Projects will be focused on:

- **understanding properties of material:** the change of material through various drying stages
- **forming methods:** additive and subtractive clay forming techniques and their combination
- **ceramics techniques** such as (but not limited to): working with extruded parts, assemblage from slip cast parts, coil building with press molds, introduction to wheel as a tool in ceramics studio etc.
- **mold making and slip casting:** simple press molds, slip casting
- **surface decoration techniques:** incising/carving, imprinting
- **visual problems: representation, figuration, narrative, abstraction**

Course Requirements:

- Each class meeting (day) students will complete working one object/shape (unless it is specified otherwise)
- Students should exhibit a growing knowledge of the vocabulary used in the field of making objects in clay
- Cleaning up studio after each class. Studio should be left as clean as it was found (it should be in such condition that the person who works after you does not have to clean before he/she starts working)
- Participation in the end of intersession cleanup day

Expectations:

Participation is essential. Learning at the University level happens through a dialogue with your peers. Our discourse is equally, and sometimes more important to learning than lectures. Attending class is not a responsibility to your instructor, but to yourself and your classmates. During the summer Intersession everyone should be involved in an open-class atmosphere. Learning happens in various ways; sometimes based on instructions, sometimes through questions and dialogue, but also in various spontaneous ways. I would expect everyone to be open, to communicate, to share their ideas, success, as well as frustration and failure. Your attendance is mandatory, it is to maintain productive and consistent learning for everyone, especially within the in a class frame of summer intersession studio intensive. You must participate in dialogue with classmates in order to reach your potential. You should keep in mind that conversations with your instructors and your classmates even when they are critical are not personal criticisms, but are meant to help further your ideas and develop the skills necessary to participate in a dialogue.

Parrhesia is a Greek word appropriate to this, which the Oxford English Dictionary defines as: Candor, frankness; outspokenness or boldness of speech. Also: the act or practice of asking forgiveness in advance for speaking in this way. The type of criticism we practice in class may seem limited to process that involves only two weeks, but has broader implications for your ability to think critically about all things.

Success:

Follow instructions carefully, participate, communicate, stay involved, and put the effort. You will have 24 hour access to this studio during 2 week period.

Grading Policy:

Individual project grades will be based on: effort, enthusiasm, following directions, creativity, craftsmanship and the level of ideas. Your final grade will be based upon:

1. Understanding process / projects – 80% of the grade
2. Participation – 20% Participation is not limited only to your physical presence, but also to being engaged.

Grading Guidelines for Projects:

A = Outstanding. Excellent attendance record and consistent studio practice. Projects completed on time with the specific requirements fulfilled. Work and studio habits demonstrate the pursuit of excellence in craftsmanship, conceptualization and creativity. Outstanding participation in verbal critiques and discussions with a demonstrated knowledge of concepts and outside research.

B = Above Average. Excellent attendance record and regular studio practice. Projects completed on time and specific requirements met. Work shows a high degree of effort in craftsmanship, conceptualization and creativity. Active participation in verbal critiques and discussions.

C = Average. Good attendance record and regular studio practice. Projects completed on time and specific requirements fulfilled. Participation in critiques and discussions.

D = Below Average. Poor attendance record or excessive tardiness, inconsistent studio practice, and incomplete or late work. Lack of participation in critiques and discussions.

F = Fail. Poor attendance, excessive tardiness, no work done outside of class. A complete disregard for effort in all aspects of your work.

INCOMPLETE = 51% of the course work must be completed, and you **must** be passing the course to request this grade due to circumstances beyond your control.

Attendance Policy:

One day of absence is allowed for personal emergency or illness. Absences beyond this will constitute 20% of the class time and as such can not be considered acceptable. In such case students will be advised to withdraw from the course. Incomplete can be considered only if documented medical case, or if an emergency can be proved. Please judge accordingly if you have academic, professional or extra curricular activities, as these are not considered excused.

Tardiness up to the first 25 minutes of class will constitute one-third of an absence grade. Coming late more than 3 times will have impact on your grade. Arriving more than 15 minutes late may be considered absence from the class. In addition, a student who leaves early (without prior approval of the professor) will be considered absent. If the student arrives late to class and professor has already taken attendance, it is the student's responsibility to alert the professor that they are not absent. Students are expected to show up at the scheduled time: not five, ten or fifteen minutes after the class has begun. Classes will begin on time and tardiness will cause you to miss important lectures and demonstrations, as well as causing a class disruption.

General Studio Rules:

Technology Policy

- Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class sessions. Texting and general cell phone use is not only disruptive and disrespectful to everyone in our class, but many new phones have the capacity to record video. This could constitute a violation of a student(s) right to privacy and can not be tolerated! Should you need to record a lecture, please use a regular audio only recording device. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please make arrangements with the instructor before class begins and prepare to leave the room quietly.
- Students are not allowed to use musical listening devices in class. We are in dialogue with each other, during lecture as well as in class studio time. These devices are prohibitive to a group learning situation.
- If you need to use mobile devices or the internet, please do this outside of the studio or in our ceramics area library.

Studio

- Please turn the lights off and shut all doors as you leave! If you are the last one to leave the building, or there are only a few students left working, coordinate with them to make sure this gets done.
- Consuming food in the ceramics studio is not allowed, mainly for your own health. You will be working in a studio environment, surrounded by clay and other materials that could possibly harm you if swallowed!
- Keep your personal space designated for your work clean. Cabinets and shelves that you use should remain in order, free of materials you do not use for this class.
- The 3D Area advises against wearing open-toed shoes. Protect your feet from broken glass, ceramic shards, nails, feral cats, irreverent birds, etc.

Cleaning

- Before you leave the studio, clean the area(s) you have used, including the wedging tables, and use a wet sponge or wet mop whenever possible. Do not raise dust when you clean if it can be helped.
- Leave everything AT LEAST as you found it, but cleaner than you found it is better. Because we have a shared facility, you may find students not enrolled in ceramic courses using our area. Help them if they do not understand how to clean.
- If you see something hazardous or dangerous, either rectify the situation yourself or let someone know. Take ownership and responsibility... this is YOUR studio.

Handling Materials

- You should reuse any clay that still feels kind of wet. Put it in a clay bag and add some water. The next class you can wedge. Any scrap clay that is unusable will be recycled, please minimize discarding clay by keeping it moist. Any non-workable clay should be put in recycle bins outside the studio (large yellow buckets).
- Clay is for recycling, no clay in the garbage cans. Garbage is for throwing away, no garbage in the clay recycling buckets. Check the clay you intend to discard for tools, sponges, paper towels, etc. Any bisque or glaze pieces that are unwanted must be placed in the dumpster.
- After you use the wedging table, scrape and wash with a damp sponge to prepare for the next user. Collaborate on this task with your peers, but never leave a mess for someone else.

Course Materials:

Mandatory tools and materials:

- Needle tool (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Metal rib (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Wooden rib (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Cutting wire (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Wooden clay modeling tool (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Trimming tools ~ one large one small (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Small oval sponge (usually included in the basic clay toolkit) *
- Fettling knife (sometimes included in the basic clay toolkit, if not please acquire separately)
- Flat brush for oil/acrylic paint (size 10 or 12 – cheapest one will work perfect)
- Large plastic or glass jar with lid (pickle or jelly jar will work perfect)
- Large sponge for cleanup (regular size sponge for house cleaning or car wash)
- Assortment of plastic bags (medium and/or tall kitchen bags)

Additional tools and materials may be suggested throughout the semester. Feel free to use any “tools” you may already have – anything that will make a mark in clay during any stage is considered a tool. Many things do not have to be purchased!

Clay Policy

Each student will be provided with sufficient amount of clay to finish their projects. Clay will be given to students once each week. Please keep your clay packaged in plastic bags so it stays moist (unless you are instructed otherwise) or it will not be plastic enough for modeling..

* Basic Ceramic toolkit (KEMPER toolkit) as well as additional tools are available at: Blick Art Materials, Jerry's Artarama, Michaels, Hobby Lobby, etc.

Safety Information:

Working in a ceramic studio involves exposure to various airborne materials, mostly in the form of clay dust. In order to protect yourself from any unwanted effects **you are required to wear dust mask** (available at Home Depot, Lowe's, Sears, etc.) any time dust is created. **Regular cleaning of the environment in which you work, as well as mask protection is essential for your health. Tables should not be swept with a broom or brush, but rather cleaned by using scrapers or by wet cleaning methods whenever possible.**

Honor code:

"Students will be bound by the University of Miami Honor Code. All reports, papers, written assignments, test papers, and examination papers must include a signed honor pledge that state: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received any aid on this assignment'. Academic dishonesty may result in a lower grade or failing grade for the entire course." Activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one's own intellectual or creative accomplishments of another, without giving credit to the source or sources) will result in "F" grade for this course and will be brought to "Honor Council" for further penalties.

Students who need Special Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for those students with documented disabilities. If you have other requests in this area that are not supported by official channels, I will do my best to advise you.