

COURSE SYLLABUS

ART 3061(b): CERAMICS I

Credit load: 0-6-3

NOTE: This **Course Syllabus** provides standard information related to accreditation, department, and university standards and policies. The **Instructor Course Outline** is aligned with the syllabus and provides detailed information related to a specific section of each course. Students should refer to the course outline for expectations and policies related to their course section.

Catalogue Description: Prerequisite: ART 1030 or permission of Department Head.

A beginning level course including coil and slab construction, wheel throwing techniques, glazing processes, and kiln firing methods.

Selected Course Standards, Goals, Objectives, and/or Educational Outcomes:

[Aligned with selected VSU General Education Outcomes & NASAD Standards]

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes sufficient to produce ceramic work from concept to finished object.
2. Understand basic firing processes and procedures.
3. Acquire a working familiarity with historic and contemporary ceramic practice.
4. Use appropriate studio practices, including cleanliness, safety, and adherence to studio policies.
5. Express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening. (VSU)
6. Demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written and visual materials. (VSU)

Selected Assessment and/or Evaluation:

Methods of evaluation will be based on:

1. Completion of all assigned work, including technical control of ceramic mediums and processes.
2. Demonstration of key concepts and components of ceramics through the design and execution of all studio assignments through creative interpretation and resolution of projects.
3. Attendance and adherence to studio policies and studio practices.
4. Demonstration of key concepts and components of ceramics through written and verbal means in examinations and formal critiques.

Student Access:

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY). <http://www.valdosta.edu/access>

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. **See the Student Handbook: Academic Integrity Violations - Cheating & Plagiarism:** www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs

Class Conduct & Professionalism:

Students are expected to act in a mature manner at all times. Disruptive language or behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive language includes, but is not limited to: violent, belligerent, and/or insulting remarks, including sexist, racist, homophobic, or anti-ethnic slurs, bigotry, and disparaging commentary, either spoken or written (offensive slang is included in this). While you are entitled to your opinions, inflammatory language founded in ignorance or hate is unacceptable and will be dealt with immediately. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to: whispering, talking, or the use of any form of electronic communication when another member of the class is speaking or engaged in relevant conversation. In this classroom, we function on the premise of respect, and you will be asked to leave the classroom if you violate any part of this statement on civility.

“Work” produced which the instructor deems inappropriate will be recycled or destroyed, e.g. items intended for use with drugs or paraphernalia related to, or promoting drug use. A grade of “F,” may be enforced.

University Attendance Policy:

The University expects that all students shall regularly attend all scheduled class meetings held for instruction or examination. It is recognized that class attendance is essentially a matter between students and their instructors. Instructors must explain their absence policy in the course outline. Instructors are required to maintain records of class attendance. *The unexcused absence or “cut” is not regarded as a student privilege.* All students are responsible for knowing the specific attendance requirements as prescribed by their instructors. When students are to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor. **A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receive a failing grade in the course.** See **Course Outline** for additional details regarding attendance.

Email Communication:

Students must use their VSU email address for all VSU email correspondence, as well as check their VSU e-mail accounts regularly for class-related messages. Students can expect that emails to the professor (the preferred method of communication outside of the classroom) will be returned within 24 hours Monday through Thursday and within 48 hours Friday through Sunday.

Student Opinion of Instruction (Teacher Evaluations):

Student Opinion of the Instruction (SOI) will be administered online. You will be notified when it is time to complete the SOI. Your opinion is an important part of an instructor’s performance evaluation and a tool to help faculty improve their teaching. Please take the time to complete the online SOI once you have been notified that this service is active. The online SOI format has been standardized across campus. You have likely used the online SOI for other classes already. Complete instructions for accessing and completing the online SOI can be found at:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/OnlineSOIPilotProject.shtml>

Please allot sufficient time to submit honest and critical input regarding the course and the instructor.

Faculty and Department Heads review these evaluations carefully each semester and make adjustments in courses & departmental annual activity reports based on your input. The main goal of student evaluations is to help faculty improve courses and instruction; moreover, student evaluations are used in the annual evaluation of faculty. Your comments are taken very seriously - your time is greatly appreciated in submitting an honest & informed evaluation.

Student Opinion of Instruction (Student Evaluations) is available for you to submit during the last several weeks of the term and ends the last class day of the term. **Simply login to BANNER and select “Answer a Survey” to get started:** <http://www.valdosta.edu/it/eas/sis/>

The Student Success Center:

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides free peer tutoring in core courses, the top four of which are math, writing, Spanish, and biology/chemistry. It also offers Regents' Test Preparation, time management, and study skills workshops as well as provides free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location: Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech shop. Help is available to all VSU students. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

USG Safety Policies and Training:

Students must complete the following University System of Georgia Safety online training courses:

"Right to Know Basic awareness." This program is designed to educate USG employees, staff, and students on the importance and benefits of properly recognizing and safely working with hazardous materials.

"Right to know Chemical Specific." This program is designed to provide safety guidelines for commonly used chemicals in the work place.

A printed copy of the completed course certificate(s) must be returned to your professor by the end of the second week of the semester: <http://www.usg.edu/ehs/training>.

Reproduction of Photographic Images:

Facilities and equipment for shooting images (via film or digital) are available in a variety of locations within the art department. Students are strongly encouraged to document their work. In some cases, taking images of art works produced in class may be required.

During the semester your instructor or other representatives from Valdosta State University may photograph you or your art work for promotional, educational and or accreditation use. If you wish not to have images of you or your work used by VSU or the Department of Art, please submit a written statement to the Department office so that we may honor your request.

Storage of Studio Materials, Lockers and Flammable Storage:

Students currently enrolled in studio courses may use studio lockers, flat files, bins, closets, or other storage facilities as directed by the instructor. The Art Department is not responsible for damage, theft, loss, or destruction of personal property including items left unattended in a hallway, restroom or classroom. Fine Arts Building hall lockers are assigned by Whitehead Control whitehead@valdosta.edu and all materials must be removed at the end of the academic year each May. Valdosta State University and the Art Department may provide an option to use locker facilities located in some buildings on campus. *Use of these lockers will be at your own risk.* VSU and the Art Department will not be held liable for theft or destruction of property stored in these lockers.

All flammable materials MUST be stored in a designated fireproof cabinet located in studio areas. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should spray paint, aerosol, liquid or solid flammable materials be stored in a standard VSU locker or storage area.

Accepting the use of these locker facilities indicates a full understanding of these conditions.

Credit:

Credit is defined as a basic unit of work, as it relates to hours of faculty in-class instruction and hours of out-of-class student work. The definition and expectation will differ in laboratory, lecture, and directed or independent study classes. An hour of instruction is the equivalent to 50 minutes of class

time (often called a contact hour). Contact hours and student outside academic activity hours required for specific types of courses are as follows:

Laboratory or Studio Classes: For each two hours of classroom instruction, students are expected to work a minimum of one hour outside normal class time completing assignments. A three credit hour laboratory course will require **a minimum** average of three hours per week of student outside academic activity.

INSTRUCTOR COURSE OUTLINE

ART 3061(b): CERAMICS I

Credit load: 0-6-3

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Nathan Stafford

EMAIL: mnstafford@valdosta.edu

OFFICE: FA 110

OFFICE PHONE: (229) 249-4913 or Art Office 333-5835

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 11:30am – 1:30pm & Tuesday, 10:00am – Noon (*or by appointment*)

Recommended Texts and Resources:

- *The Craft and Art of Clay*; Peterson, Susan.
- *The Ceramic Process: A Manual and Source of Inspiration for Ceramic Art and Design*; European Ceramic Work Center.
- Publications: *Ceramics Art and Perception*, *Ceramics Monthly*, *Studio Potter*, *Ceramics Technical*.
- Websites: Artaxis.org, ceramicartsdaily.org, www.valdosta.edu/art, <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/art/ceramics.php>.

Tools and Materials:

The ceramics area will provide you with clay and glaze materials, which are covered by your lab fees. In addition you will be required to purchase the following supplies at your own expense:

- Basic ceramics tool kit (available at the bookstore or online)
- Sketchbook
- Cheap set of small paintbrushes
- Large Sponge
- Scratchpads
- Container for tools (a 5 quart bucket works well: Home Depot/Lowes/Wal-Mart)
- Plastic bags (clear 15-25 gallon generic kitchen garbage bags work well)

Additional ceramic tools and supplies may be obtained through a variety of vendors, such as Axner Ceramics, Bennett Pottery, and Atlanta Clay. Links may be found at the departmental ceramics website:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/art/ceramics.php>

All shelves and lockers must be cleaned out at the end of each term. Unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor, any work or tools left by the student becomes the property of the VSU Art Department/Ceramics.

Assignments, Grading Standards & Assessment:

Overall assessment will be based on the completion of three projects, a project proposal, technical exercises, quizzes, and participation, weighted as follows:

Project #1:	15%
Project #2:	15%
Project #3:	25%
Project Proposal:	10%
Exercises:	10%
Quizzes:	5%
Participation:	20%

Participation will be assessed based on contributions to critique, daily interactions with peers, completion of exercises, good working habits, conformity to studio protocols of cleanliness and safety, and adherence to the attendance policy.

Quizzes are intended to demonstrate basic knowledge of terminology, processes, principals, and the ceramic field.

Exercises are intended to develop students' skills in hand building, wheel throwing, and clay surfacing.

Projects will allow students to use the skills developed in their exercises to create finished pieces of their own design. Successful projects will demonstrate a strong grasp of the skills and knowledge taught over the course of the semester. These include:

- Basic ceramic hand building and wheel throwing techniques and an appreciation for the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual factors that inform the use of each.
- A working knowledge of clay surfacing methods including: slips, washes, sgraffito, terra-sigillata, under-glaze, and glaze.
- A rudimentary technical understanding of the materials and processes used in ceramic production, including clay and glaze formulation, kiln types and firing methods, tools and terminology.
- A basic familiarity with historic and contemporary ceramic practice.

Projects will be graded based on their **execution**, including craftsmanship and skill level with materials, methods, and techniques; the level of **research and preliminary work**, including sketches, thumbnails, models, maquettes, research, and reference to influences; and their **content**, the clear and deliberate articulation of conceptual or expressive ideas through formal, material, and stylistic choices.

Assignments must be submitted on appointed due dates or the work will be penalized one letter grade for each 24 hour period the work is late.

Grading Rubric:

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| A 100%-90% | Excellent work that exceeds all major criteria for the assignment.
Creative approach to solving problems to produce a unique visual statement.
Skillful control of sculptural medium and technical process.
Work clearly communicates strong conceptual and/or expressive idea(s).
Demonstrated additional effort through experimentation and design development.
Good adherence to all studio practices and course policies. |
| B 89%-80% | Above average work that meets all major criteria for the assignment.
Creative approach to solving problems to produce a unique visual statement.
Competent control of medium and technical process. Minimal flaws in execution.
Work communicates good conceptual and/or expressive idea(s).
Demonstrated fair effort through experimentation and design development.
Good adherence to most studio practices and course policies. |
| C 79%-70% | Average work that meets most major criteria for the assignment. Fair control of sculptural medium and technical process. Distinct problems in execution. Work communicates average conceptual and/or expressive idea(s). Demonstrated minimal effort through experimentation and design development. Inconsistent adherence to studio practices and course policies. |
| D 69%-60% | Below average work that fails to meet most major criteria for the assignment.
Minimum control of sculptural medium and technical process. Poor execution.
Work fails to communicate intentional conceptual and/or expressive idea(s). |

Lacks involvement with experimentation and design development.
Poor observance of studio practices and course policies

F 59%- 0% Unacceptable work that is incomplete or fails to meet all major criteria of assignment.
Failure to demonstrate adequate control of sculptural medium and technical process.
Lacks involvement with the overall development of the assignment.
Poor observance of all studio practices and course policies.

Course Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory and will be enforced as outlined in the University Attendance Policy (see the **Course Syllabus**). When you miss class you are not only missing time to work, but also important information and input from your instructor and peers. Furthermore, when you are not present to offer your own input, the learning community of the class suffers. The more class you miss, the less you are able to contribute. If you are having personal or health problems that make it difficult for you to make it to class, please keep me informed.

Note that attendance may be recorded at the beginning of each class, during class, and near the end. Chronic tardiness, leaving early from class, being unprepared in class, etc. will also impact your grade. **Attendance at critique, studio cleanup and final exam time is mandatory!**

Excused v. Unexcused Absences:

Excused absences must be documented, and may include the following: severe, extended illness (such as mono, appendicitis, etc., NOT a common cold, or allergies), pregnancy, an ill child, immediate familial death, a call to active military duty or jury duty and certain school sponsored trips (although these must be cleared with me BEFORE the absence). **Additionally, YOU are responsible for any work missed when you are absent EVEN if the absence is excused.**

Studio Protocol, Technology, Health, and Safety:

For Health and Safety, NO food or drink is permitted in the studios.

No Smoking in or around the studio is permitted, including in the outdoor patio areas.

Cell/Smart Phones, iPods, ear-buds, headphones and other electronic devices are NOT permitted when lecture, demonstration, instruction, or testing are taking place. These devices are a distraction to a positive learning environment and may result in missed instruction or personal injury. As internet capable devices are valuable for research purposes, these devices ARE permitted in the studio at other times, but **Facebook, Twitter, Texting or playing games are absolutely prohibited.** Additionally, please set phones to vibrate so they do not interrupt classes or disturb other people using the studio.

Students who do not adhere to studio policies and protocol for health and safety, who abuse the use of tools and equipment, or leave messy work areas, will receive a reduction in their grade, possible Failure or Withdrawal from the course.

Important Dates:

August 16: End of Drop-Add.

November 21: Last Day of Classes.

November 25 – 29: Thanksgiving Holiday, **No Class.**

December 4, 2:45 – 4:45: Final Exam.

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.