



## Ceramics II

Fall 2025

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-1:50pm

**Instructor:** George Bowes

**E-mail:** [gbowes@com.edu](mailto:gbowes@com.edu)

**Phone:** 409-933-8349

[georgebowes.com](http://georgebowes.com)

**Office Hours:**

**Office:** FAB 136

**On Campus:**

Monday/ Wednesday: 10:30 - 11:00am and 2:00 -4:00pm

Tuesday/ Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm

**Online:**

Friday: 4:30-5:00

**Required Textbook:** No textbook is required for this course. Books and magazines in an extensive ceramics/sculpture office library will be available as a resource during class and office hours. For this class you will keep a sketchbook that gathers the written and verbal information given in class as well as your drawings and research to develop ideas for each assignment. Please use a 3 ringed binder for your sketchbook. You can organize your sketchbook more easily with that format. Your sketchbook should be clearly organized and grouped by projects. If you submit a sketchbook in which the pages are loose and unorganized it will not be graded. **You should think of your sketchbook as a textbook you write for the course and needs to be complete to satisfy the 10% it counts towards your grade.**

**Course Description:** A further study of ceramics processes through the investigation of materials and techniques building on what was introduced in Ceramics 1. The course focuses on hand building, the potter's wheel, mold making and glazing and firing procedures. Health, safety, and environmental concerns related to the arts will also be addressed.

**Course requirements:** Students must be prepared, attend class, and fully participate in not only the fabrication of personal works but be part of the active dialogue between their peers and professors. Students will do research and idea development for each assignment. Class participants will also discuss their work and the work of others using the objectives given for each project.

**Determination of Course Grade/**90-100 points is an A, 80-89 points is a B, 70-79 points is a C, 60-69 points is a D and below 60 points is a F.

| Assessment              | Points each | Total Point Value |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Handbuilding Projects   | 15          | 30                |
| Throwing Projects       | 15          | 45                |
| Glazing of Thrown works | 10          | 10                |
| Sketchbook              | 10          | 5                 |
| Class Participation     | 10          | 10                |
| <b>Total</b>            |             | <b>100</b>        |

**Late Work:** Late work generally is not accepted or graded.

**Make-Up Work:** Make-up work is generally not permitted but will be discussed on as needed basis.

**Extra Credit Projects:** An extra credit may be given during the semester.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend and participate in class and class discussions. Students that do not attend class on a regular basis will not do well in this class. **You will lose 2.5 points per absence.** Two arriving late or leaving early will equal one absence. Critique attendance is mandatory.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

| Student Learner Outcome  | Maps to Core Objective   | Assessed via this Assignment |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Generate works that demonstrate descriptive, expressive, and conceptual approaches.               | Critical thinking,<br>Communication skills (verbal and visual) | Critiques, Sketchbooks       |
| 2. Apply the elements and principles of design.  | Critical thinking  | Projects, Sketchbooks        |
| 3. Use varied processes including, but not limited to, hand building, throwing, glazing, and firing. | Critical thinking  | Projects, Sketchbooks        |

|  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 4. Demonstrate additive and subtractive processes.   | Critical thinking,<br>Communication skills | Projects                        |
| 5. Analyze and critique works verbally and/or in writing.  | Critical thinking,                         | Critiques, Sketchbook           |
| 6. Relate ceramics to art history and contemporary artistic production.                                  | Critical thinking, Social responsibility   | Projects, Critiques, Sketchbook |
| 7. Demonstrate an appropriate level of professional practice, including safety, craft, and presentation. | Communication skills, Teamwork             | Projects, Group Projects        |

**Academic Dishonesty:** Disciplinary actions will be taken for students who exhibit disorderly conduct, cheat on exams, submit plagiarized work (see below), or are involved in collusion (helping others cheat or plagiarize) as defined in the Student Handbook under the heading, “Discipline and Penalties.” The maximum penalty imposed for violations will be an F in the course. The student will also be referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Please read through the “Standards of Student Conduct” in the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of these issues and your rights and responsibilities.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair, at 409-933-8255 or [kjantz@com.edu](mailto:kjantz@com.edu).

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**Cell Phones:**

All cell phones must be turned off during class times. In case of an emergency cell phones may be left on vibrate and students may leave the classroom to respond to the call.

**Food and Beverages.** are not permitted in the ceramic studio for health and safety reasons.

## **Supply List:**

**Clay:** Clay is purchased in the COM bookstore. Where you will receive a receipt for the number of bags you buy. Bring the receipt to the ceramics department and you can pick up your clay during class hours. There are various types of clay available In the COM bookstore request bags of mixed clay. **I estimated 3 or 4 bags of clay will be used for the semester.**

**Tool Set:** A basic set will be provided to you.

**Brushes:** We have many brushes in the studio, but you may want to purchase your own. Brushes with soft bristles work best with most ceramic materials.

## **3 Ring Binder and paper for Sketchbook**

### **Course outline:**

**Monday 8/18:** Introduction to syllabus and review assignments to be given this semester.

**Wednesday 8/20:** Throwing of forms with directional changes begins.

**Monday 8/25:** Throwing and trimming continues.

**Wednesday 8/27:** Throwing continues. Trimming begins. Handle demonstration given.

**Thursday 8/28: Visual Arts Majors Semester Kick Off, 12:30-1:30pm**

**Monday 9/1:** Labor Day no class

**Wednesday 9/3:** Throwing and trimming continues.

**Monday 9/8:** Throwing and trimming continues. 4 trimmed forms with directional changes, 2 with handles due by the end of class.

**Wednesday 9/10:** Throwing and trimming continues.

**Monday 9/15:** Dried pieces loaded into bisque kiln. Throwing of larger forms continues.

**Wednesday 9/17:** Throwing and trimming of larger pieces.

**Monday 9/22:** Throwing and trimming of larger pieces.

**Wednesday 9/24:** Trimming finished. 4 eight inch high cylinders and 4 eight inch wide bowls due by the end of class. Design assignment introduced.

**Monday 10/29:** Design assignment due. Glazing of work continues. Glazing of thrown work continues. All remain thrown work loaded into bisque kiln. Glazing begins.

**Wednesday 10/1:** Glazing of thrown work continues.

**Monday 10/6:** Glazing of thrown work continues. Mold making project introduced, ideas developed.

**Wednesday 10/8: Cone 10 glazing finished.** Cone 10 gas kiln loaded.

**Monday 10/13:** Cone 10 Gas Kiln unloaded. Mold making sketches due and modeling of clay begins.

**Wednesday 10/15: Midterm Critique of thrown and glazed work.**

**Monday 10/20:** Mold making assignment continues.

**Wednesday 10/22:** Models finished, and molds made. Stacking assignment introduced.

**Monday 10/27:** Ideas for stacking assignment due and discussed. Building begins.

**Wednesday 10/29:** Building continues.

**Monday 11/3:** Building continues.

**Wednesday 11/5:** Building continues. Surfaces applied.

**Monday 11/10:** Stacking assignment surfaces continue. Stacking assignment completed

**Tuesday 11/11: STUDIO WIDE LAST DAY OF WET WORK IN CLAY**

**Wednesday 11/12:** Bisque Kilns loaded. Glazing.

**Monday 11/17:** Glazing.

**Wednesday 11/19:** Glazing.

**Monday 11/24:** Glazing completed, kilns loaded.

**Wednesday 12/26:** Thanksgiving eve no class.

**Monday 12/11:** Mandatory **Studio Clean Up**. Sketchbooks due

**Thursday 12/13:** **Final Critique of Projects 1 and 2.**

**COM Art Gallery Schedule:**

***¿Me Voy o Me Quedo?***

Juan de Dios Mora

August 25<sup>th</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup>

Closing Reception and artist talk:

September 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm

***2025 Faculty Art Exhibition***

October 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>

Artist Talk and Opening Reception

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM

***2025 COM Student Art Exhibition***

November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>

Closing Reception and Awards:

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Guest Juror: Aileen Kelly

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation(s) is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of

the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:** If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.