



Ceramics 1

Fall 2025

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-8:50pm

Instructor: George Bowes

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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: An introduction to ceramics processes through the study of basic materials and techniques. The course focuses on hand building, the potter's wheel, 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 professor. Students will do research and idea development for each assignment. Class participants will also discuss their work and the works 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	45
Throwing Projects	12.5	25
Glazing of Thrown works	10	10
Sketchbook	10	10
Class Participation	10	10

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, 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, 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.

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:**

Tuesday 8/19: Introduction to syllabus. Studio tour.

Thursday 8/21: Handbuilding introduced. Exercises completed.
Project 1 introduced. Ideas developed.

Tuesday 8/26: Pinching assignment completed by end of class. Project 2 introduced.

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

Thursday 8/28: Sketches for Project 2 due and discussed. Coil demonstration given.
Clay models made. Proportions calculated. Building of Project 2 begins.

Tuesday 9/2: Building of Project 2 continues.

Thursday 9/4: Building of Project 2 continues.

Tuesday 9/9: Building of Project 2 continues. Pro 1 loaded into kiln.

Thursday 9/11: Building of Project 2 completed by the end of class.
Slips started to be applied. Project 3 introduced

Tuesday 9/16: Application of slips finished by end of class. Project 3 ideas developed.

Thursday 9/18: Project 3 completed by the end of class.

Tuesday 9/23: Glazing of Project 1 completed by the end of class. Project 2 and 3 loaded into bisque kilns.

Thursday 9/25: Raku firing. Glazing of Project 2. Project 3 dipped in majolica glaze.

Tuesday 9/30: Glazing of Project 2 complete. Project 2 loaded in to cone 04 glaze kiln. Washes started on Majolica glaze.

Thursday 10/2: Raku firing. Washes finished on Project 3. Project 3 loaded into 03 glaze kiln.

Tuesday 10/7: Midterm Critique of finished work.

Thursday 10/9: Throwing of cylinders introduced. Throwing begins.

Tuesday 10/14: Throwing of cylinders continues.

Thursday 10/16: Throwing of cylinders continues.

Tuesday 10/21: Throwing of cylinders continues. Trimming of forms introduced.

Thursday 10/23: Throwing of cylinders continues.

Tuesday 10/28: Throwing of bowls introduced. Throwing of bowls begins.

Thursday 10/30: Throwing of bowls continues. Trimming of bowls introduced.

4 four inch high cylinders due by the end of class.

Tuesday 11/4: Throwing of bowls continues. Cylinders loaded in to bisque kiln.

Thursday: 11/6: Throwing and trimming of bowls continues. Glazing with cone 10 glazes introduced.

Tuesday 11/11: 4 trimmed bowls due by the end of class. Cone 10 glazing begins.
STUDIO WIDE LAST DAY OF WET WORK IN CLAY

Thursday 11/13: Glazing of thrown work.

Friday 11/14: W Day

Tuesday 11/18: Glazing of thrown work.
All remain thrown work loaded into bisque.

Thursday 11/20: Glazing of thrown work continues.

Tuesday 11/25: Glazing of thrown work finished by the middle of the class. Gas kiln loaded

Thursday 11/27: Thanksgiving Holiday, no class.

Tuesday 12/2: Mandatory Studio Wide Clean Up.

Thursday 12/4: Final Critique of Glazed Work.

COM Art Gallery Schedule:

¿Me Voy o Me Quedo?

Juan de Dios Mora

August 25th to September 18th

Closing Reception and artist talk:

September 18th at 12:00 pm

2025 Faculty Art Exhibition

October 6th to 24th

Artist Talk and Opening Reception

Tuesday, October 7th at 12:00 PM

2025 COM Student Art Exhibition

November 3rd to 21st

Closing Reception and Awards:

Thursday, November 20th 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

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 1st 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 2nd 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 or 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.