

Art 19M Ceramics Low Fire 27650 M-W 9:30-10:45, 11:00-12:15 PM
ROOM A-51 Fall '23 4 UNITS

De Anza College

Instructor: Rocky Lewycky

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Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesday 3:15-4:15, Tuesday/Thursdays 12:15-1:15

Prerequisite: Arts 18A. Advisory: English Writing 200 and Reading 200 (or Language Arts 200), or English as a Second Language 261, 262 and 263.

Course Description: Survey of earthenware as a ceramic material. Use of surface decoration, glazes and ceramic kiln firing.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO)

- Students will be able to demonstrate competency in selecting low fire materials and incorporating them into ceramic work.
- Students will be able to identify low fired ceramic work from a variety of cultures.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of tools and techniques associated with the low temperature ceramic process.
- Identify and describe earthenware used by a variety of cultures.
- Adapt and use contemporary low fire materials and techniques
- .Develop an understanding of the nature and importance of earthenware today
- Develop a body of finished earthenware clay pieces.

Criteria for Evaluation: A high degree of commitment to this class is expected. Your persistence, imagination, and level of involvement in solving visual problems determine the quality of your work.

Projects will be graded according to the following criteria:

1/3rd Quality of craftsmanship.

1/3rd Use of appropriate concepts and techniques.

1/3rd Unique, creative, and personal solutions to the assignment.

*Highest grades will be reserved for work that goes beyond minimal compliance with an assignment and shows superior creativity, insight, and craftsmanship. I will accept late assignments up to 2 weeks after the due date; however, they will be downgraded one full letter grade. All assignments must be completed by the end of the term.

Grading

CLASS PROJECTS (5) 150 Points

TOTAL 150 Total Points

Participation

Regular attendance is critical for progress in the class. If you are absent, make arrangements with another student to take notes for you so that you understand the information presented and can make up the day's assignment.

Students are responsible for learning any course information missed due to absence. I will not repeat lectures or demonstrations for students who have been absent. Please do not expect me to email you individually with the day's topic or assignment if you are absent.

Do not be tardy for class. It is a disruption for the teacher and students. If you are late, please come in quietly to class and prepare to work after any demos or lectures have finished.

If you are unable to complete the class, it is your responsibility to drop the class through the Admissions and Records office.

Grading system is as follows for this course:

A+ = 100-98%	A = 97-94%	A- = 93-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	D+ = 69-67%
D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%	F = below 59%

Final Critique

Final Monday December 11, 10:30am. No late attendance.

Tools:

- Smock
- Notebook (minimum width 8")
- Standard pottery tools

Clay

We are using cone 6 or mid range clays and glaze.. This quarter De Anza will be providing your first bag of clay for free. If you are prolific with your pottery making, you will be able to use recycled clay for free or purchase from De Anza. After your first bag clay from De Anza is \$20 and Porcelain is \$26.

Suggested Texts:

- "The Complete Potter," by Steve Mattison. Look for used online starting at \$10
- "Naked Raku & Related Bare Clay Techniques," by Eduardo Lazo
- "Alternative Kilns & Firing Techniques," James C. Watkins

Schedule 19M Low Fire FALL 2023

M-September 25th Welcome and Overview- Start making test tiles for projects.

W- September 27th

DEMO- Making saggar pots with lids.

M- October 2nd **DEMO** - Making Greenware and Bisqueware Terra Sigillata

Deadline for Saggars to be on bisque shelf for firing.

W- October 4th – **DEMO** Terra Sig (Sig) Application.

****BUILD A THON for Pottery Sale 3-7pm (Come back next day to finish up and trim)****

M- October 9th -**DEMO-** Making micaceous clay. **DEMO** Sodium & Slip Silicate Pushout

W- October 11th **DEMO** Sodium Silicate Trim. **DEMO** Process micaceous clay and divide between class.

M- October 16th **DEMO** Sodium Silicate Firing & **DEMO** Micaceous clay burnishing

W- October 18th **Deadline** Saggar test pieces must be on shelf for bisque with Terra Sig applied.

M – October 23th **Saggar firing #1** Prepare saggars 9:30-10:30 Load saggars in Raku kiln and fire.

Tuesday October 24th **Glaze -A-Thon AND Load-A-Thon **

W October 25th Unload Saggar Firing #1 and discuss. Beginning of class.

M October 30th **Demo-** Smoke Fire. **DEMO** Horsehair and Feather Carbon Trap

W November 1st Work Day

M November 6th **Demo** Painting on Colored Mica with Bisqueware Terra Sigillata.

W November 8th Fire Micaceous Clay

M November 13th Mini Pit Fire in Alpine kiln. 1 piece per person.

W November 15th Unload Mini Pit.

Deadline Pit Fire pieces must be on shelf for bisque (Cone 010) with Terra Sig and colored Terra Sig applied.

M November 20th **Saggar firing #2** Prepare saggars 9:30-10:30 Load saggars in Raku kiln and fire.

W November 27rd Work Day

M November 29th Work Day

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2nd BEACH FIRE 9AM Davenport

M December 4th **Pottery Sale**

T December 5th **Pottery Sale**

W December 6th Clean Up Studio _ No Firings on or past this date. Finish polishing work.

Projects

1 Saggar To start you will make a Saggar container using Bravo Buff clay. Please make the Saggar no larger than 8" diameter and 10" tall. If you have intentions of making round forms, you may make two round saggars that stack and enclose your round pot. The less room you have between your vessel and your saggar the better.

Create two small test pieces under 5 inches and no wider than the inside of your saggar. When the clay of your piece bone dry, you will apply terra sigillata to the surface of one, and colored Terra Sigillata to the other and fire to **Cone 010**. Then we will load your works in a saggar container and re-fire the work with burnout materials.

Saggar & Pit Materials- Eggshells, banana peels, dried seaweed, dried coffee grounds, nut shells. Google pit fire ceramics and find many more materials to help fume your pieces.

2 Pit Fire

Make 2-5 pieces under 10 inches tall for our pit firing. After they are made, you will apply Terra Sigillata as a base to one of the works, and one colored Terra Sigillata to another piece. Bisque fire these works to **Cone 010**.

3 Micaceous Clay Smoke Fire

With this project we will be making micaceous clay by adding two different grades of mica to a mixture of terra cotta and 8-11 clays. At the stiff leather hard stage we will burnish the pieces with a stone and vegetable oil. After the pieces are completed we will fire them to **Cone 010** for a smoke firing.

4 Horse Hair & Feather Carbon Trap

Make your pieces and apply greenware terra sigillata. **Bisque to Cone 010**. Re-fire work to 1500F in Raku kiln. Test temperature by sprinkling a small amount of sugar on the pot. The temperature is right if the sugar burns off, leaving small black dots that quickly burn away. When the pot cools to 800F, the horsehair will no longer burn. Try feathers, cigarettes, and other combustibles along with the horsehair.

5 Sodium Silicate Pushout with Colored Mica or Colored Slip

Create two vessels, each one utilizing either the mica or slip. First throw a cylinder. Then apply the colored mica or slip with sodium silicate to the outside of the vessel. Take a heat gun to the surface and then only push out from the inside of the piece. Then bisque your work to 1430F. Refire to 1430 in the Raku kiln. Pull your piece out and reduce in a bucket with sawdust for 90 seconds. Take the bucket off and with a chip brush dust off the embers. Spray down your area to extinguish the smoke.

Terra Sigillata & Colored Terra Sigillata

Terra Sigillata is the base for many of your projects. You will learn how to make Terra Sigillata in class, and also apply it to your pieces. For this you will need a soft blush brush or similar for application. You will also need a soft microfiber rag for polishing the work. We will also learn to make a colored Terra Sigillata using mason stains. We will pick out 5 colors to work as a group and share.

Bisqueware Terra Sigillata with Colored Mica

Create several pieces with Terra Sigillata and without. Bisquefire them to Cone 010. Apply bisqueware Terra Sig with the addition of colored mica. You can apply them with a fan brush or mop brush. Layer the colors and let the work dry. Once dry, you will polish the work with a microfiber or piece of plastic. These pieces will be fired in pit fire, saggar fire, and horsehair/feather.

Classroom Etiquette

Please arrive on time and stay for the scheduled class period. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so with as little disruption of the class as possible.

Come to class prepared, with any needed supplies and books, and with homework completed. I will do my best to notify you in advance of supplies you will need.

During class work time, please keep personal conversation to a minimum, and use a quiet voice. You may listen to music devices with earphones, but be prepared to remove them to communicate with the instructor or to resume class discussions.

Clean up after yourself. This includes the worktables, floor, and shared counters and sink. Each class may also have an assigned weekly cleanup task for the classroom.

Please turn cell phones off during class. If you must stay in contact with work or family, turn off the cell phone ringer. Use your phone outside the classroom during break or after class.

When anyone is addressing the class as a whole, please listen attentively. All in the room appreciate others not having personal conversations during lectures and discussions.

During critiques, please keep all comments respectful. Honest and constructive criticism, without voicing negative judgments, can be the very useful to the artist.

It is not appropriate to bring children or pets to class.

Please consider that there are people with sensitivities to strong odors, such as fragrant colognes or oils. All would appreciate minimizing your use of strongly odorous substances.

No flip-flops, sandals, or open shoes, only close-toed shoes. There is loose glass in the studio.

No food or sugar drinks in the classroom.

Do not wear your backpack during class time. Please put them under the table.