

# CERM 2304 CERAMICS I – Summer 2018

## COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title – Ceramics I

Course Prefix, Number – CERM 2304

CRN#, Course Sec, CRN 35498, 001

Course Location – Fox Fine Arts A250

Course Meeting Times – MTWR 12:30pm-3:00pm

## INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor's Name – Professor David Griffin

Instructor's Office – Fox Fine Arts, Room A350B (Art Dept. Office)

Instructor's Office Hours – By appointment

Instructor's Email (preferred) and Phone – [dfgriffin@utep.edu](mailto:dfgriffin@utep.edu)  
/ 747-5941



## INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION

David Griffin has been active as an artist and university educator for the past 28 years. He has recently returned home to El Paso, Texas to assume the position of Chair for UTEP's, Department of Art. He holds two degrees in Art, a BFA from Texas Tech University, Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design and a MFA from the University of Illinois, Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design. Griffin has exhibited his hollowware, vessels and jewelry regionally, nationally and internationally. His work has been published in such books as *500 Vessels*, and he holds a US patent design for a centering tool for wheel-thrown ceramics.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Catalog / CERM 2304 Ceramics I:*

Ceramics I (0-6) Exploring the design principles in the clay media, with major emphasis on hand building in stoneware; an introduction to potter's wheel techniques and glaze theory and application. Six hours in studio per week.

*Expanded:*

Ceramics 2304 is an introduction to the discipline of Ceramics. This course will provide instruction and practical building experience as it relates to the design and production of ceramic sculpture and pottery. Each student will design and build 3 completed ceramic sculpture projects, and 3 completed pottery projects, fulfilling requirements set forth in the course assignments. Additionally, there will be one terminology exam and one grade for in class participation and studio maintenance. Students will develop skills required to plan and execute building problems with ceramics, and engage in a group work environment fostering collaboration and critical assessment. This course will utilize and reiterate concepts and terminology previously covered in Foundation Design course work.

Ceramics 2304 is a studio practice course designed primarily to serve the needs of the studio-based art major. Course style can be described as "hands-on" studio/lab with demonstrations, lectures and in-class work time. In-class work-time is structured in order to provide individualized instruction and assistance with the design/build process. This course will require significant additional work-time outside of class. Students should anticipate spending 6 hours in class per week and an additional 6-10 hours outside of class per week to satisfactorily complete this class.

## COURSE PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

Students taking Ceramics 2304 are required to have completed ARTF 1301, ARTF 1302, ARTF 1303, and ARTF 1304, or instructor approval. Ceramics 2304 may be taken concurrently with ARTF 1303 and ARTF 1304. A student seeking prerequisite waiver must contact the instructor.

## COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives targeted in Ceramics 2304 include:

- An introductory experience in the development and building/formation of ceramic sculpture and pottery.
- An introduction to the history of ceramics.
- An introduction to the technical aspects of ceramic production, including glaze mixing, glaze application, and kiln firing.
- Development of improved visual communication skills as they relate to 3-dimensional art.
- Development of self-expression, creative thinking and planning skills.

### COURSE OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will have:

- Experience and fundamental competency in the planning and building/formation of ceramic construction and pottery.
- Foundation competency and confidence in the use of the ceramics facilities equipped with ceramic forming tools.
- An improved understanding of the history of ceramics.
- An improved understanding and competency of the contemporary art world.
- An improved understanding and competency in their ability to realize and express their ideas both verbally, and in 3-dimensional terms.

Note: Competency is defined, for this course, as a developed understanding and mastery of skills and knowledge needed to complete a task to a successful beginning level. Competency can be demonstrated while designing a project, building a project, using the equipment in the ceramics facilities, etc. Competency is a measure of how well you understand and use a process or skill.

Confidence is defined as a student's willingness and self-trust in their own abilities to use the skills and processes learned during this course. Confidence is built throughout the semester and is demonstrated by the way that a student develops skills or competencies and their willingness to utilize these new skills.

### COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING

1. Grading will be based on the completion of all projects, final exam and class participation.
2. Projects 80% - projects are graded with a total of 30 points. (7 projects)
3. Final Exam 10% - one written examination covering terms and concepts used in Ceramics 2304.
4. Class Participation, Studio Maintenance 10% - participation in all art classes is highly encouraged if true learning is going to occur. The free exchange of ideas between students and the instructor are a valuable tool and this interaction or lack thereof will be noted and recorded. Work will be done in class under the instructor's supervision. **Outside class-time will be required to complete projects.** Students will be graded on in-class participation in discussions, critiques, and for full participation in studio maintenance.
5. Due dates will be announced and work will be ready for critique on time! Late work will be marked down 10 points per class from due date. Make-up work will be granted only with a valid excused absence and should be discussed immediately upon return with the instructor. Reworked projects will not be regraded, but the effort would be noted for the final critique and grading.

*Grading Scale:*

- A = (100 – 90) Clearly Superior - concept, execution, presentation. Goes above and beyond the stated requirements
- B = (89 – 80) Good - Appropriate elements and principles of design, technical skills and materials are being used to render a satisfactory project. Deficiencies remain and have been identified in critiques.
- C = (79 – 70) Average - Meets only the stated requirements.
- D = (69 – 60) Poor - The completed works and the student's attitude both show serious deficiencies with regards to the understanding and application of basic concepts as identified in the class.
- F = (59 – 0) Failing - The student consistently fails to meet deadlines and produces projects that fail to utilize design, techniques or materials.

*Basic Grading Criteria:*

1. Initial preparation-drawings, models, evidence of thoughtful research (10pts)
2. Concept-intellectual basis for work / Fulfilling the assignment requirements toward competency (10pts)

### 3. Building craft-technical skills of material manipulation / Craftsmanship and Finish (10pts)

#### *Critiques:*

Group critiques are scheduled at the completion of most assignments. Attendance with completed project and participation is mandatory. All assignments will be turned in at the completion of the critiques. Any work turned in after the critique that was not discussed is considered late and will result in a lowered grade. Critiques are used to gauge the student understanding of the core concepts covered for that project and cumulatively throughout the semester.

#### *Late Assignments, Make-up Work and Exams:*

Late assignments, make-up work, and make-up exams are only afforded in the case of an excused absence by arrangement and approval of the instructor.

### COURSE POLICIES

#### *Attendance Policy:*

Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct are considered performance criteria for this class. Failure to perform to required standards will result in strong grade penalties and can cause failure of this course.

- Each student is permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Students with more than 3 absences should consider dropping this course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course. After 5 unexcused absences, the student will be dropped from the course.
- Each unexcused absence after 3 will result in the final course grade being lowered by 1 full letter grade. Absences after the first 3 can be excused only if the first 3 absences are excused.
- Excused absences are defined as documented illness, serious illness, death in the immediate family or official UTEP related academic requirement. Court dates are not excused absences. Discuss absence concerns immediately with the instructor.
- Coming to class late or leaving early is regarded and graded as being absent. All students are required to attend class on-time and to remain in the class the entire time. Entering class late and leaving early is disruptive to the learning environment.
- Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent.
- Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student.

#### *Course Participation:*

- Participation in all discussions, critiques and class days is required for this course.
- Development and execution of class projects must be done utilizing all class meetings. Projects executed solely out of class will not be accepted.
- Participation in the collaborative group environment of the studio is essential to the successful completion of this course.

#### *Class Conduct:*

- Sick Policy – If you are not feeling well, or if you are sick, then you should not come to this class under any circumstances. You should instead seek medical care, and/or recuperate at home. Email me or call me when you are able and let me know the circumstances, and I will help you to catch up in class when you are feeling better. If you are pregnant, or have other physical issues such as allergies to dust, respiratory issues, anything that I should be aware of, please inform me of this immediately, and we will work to make you safe and comfortable. If a family member is ill, and you need to care for that person, please email me or call and let me know what your situation is.
- Guests – Guests are not permitted at any time during class. Please tell your friends, family members, partners, that they may see you before or after class time. You are expected to remain in class at all times, and may not step-out to visit with guests during class. You will be held responsible for adhering to this policy, and I will give you one warning. After that, I will ask you to leave class and you will be counted absent for that class period.
- Children – Children are not permitted at any time, ever, to be in the studios. The studios can be very dangerous places and constant supervision requires unfocused course work.

- Gifts – Gifts of any kind cannot be accepted. While the thought is appreciated, professionally speaking, it is not permissible.
- Cell Phones – Please turn off your phones and pagers during class time. You will be asked to leave if your phone or pager goes off during class, and be counted absent for that class period.
- Music – Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture or during critiques. Students may listen to music at a low volume with headphones during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students. It is expected that these devices will be switched off when asking questions of the instructor and or if the instructor is addressing the class as a group for comments or directions.
- Open Studio – The studio will be open outside of regular class hours for your general use at times posted within the first week of class.
- Studio Safety – All safety procedures will be explained to you throughout the semester, and every consideration has been taken to create a safe environment for you to work in.
- Cleanliness

You are required to clean up your work area in the studio every day that you work in the studio. If you leave the studio, you must clean up. Please put all of your tools, materials, etc. away in your lockers, and sweep/wipe down tables and throw trash away once you are finished using the labs. If you have difficulty cleaning up after yourself, you will receive a special tutorial on how to clean up after class. Art Lockers are available for check-out through The DoART Office, #350A.

- Personal Safety – If you must work alone, late at night, please be sure to let someone know where you are, and please keep a cell phone with you. If you feel unsafe for any reason, you should call the UTEP police immediately (747-5611). Additionally, if you would like an escort to your car at night, please call the UTEP Police department, and they should accommodate your needs. Please inform me if there is a problem, and I will address it immediately with the proper authorities.
- Work Removal – Finished works must be removed by the date set by the instructor of this course. All works left in the studio after this date will be removed and disposed. Any tools and supplies left will be considered orphaned and will become the property of the department.

*Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail:*

- Incompletes or “I” grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All “I” grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department Chair.
- Students hold full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a “W”. Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for the performance in the course.
- CERM 2304 Ceramics I is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

*Cheating/Plagiarism:* Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

*Disabilities:* All reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities will be made and or provided. This course does require certain manual dexterity and physical abilities to complete the required projects. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Phone: 915-747-5148

Email: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

(Cut on line – return next class)

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CERM 2304 Syllabus Acknowledgment and Course Contract Acceptance

I have received and reviewed the course syllabus. I have had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and I understand and agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

Course: CERM 2304    Section: 001    Semester: Summer 2018

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

UTEP Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_