

**CERM 2314-3304**  
**Ceramics 2&3**

**Course Information**

Course title – Ceramics 2&3

Course prefix and number – CERM 2314

Course meeting location – Fox Fine Arts Studio room 250

Course meeting times – Monday and Wednesday- 11:30am-2:20pm

Required texts and materials – Clay costs and a tool list will be distributed on the first day of class.

Generally, students should be prepared to spend \$150-\$250 for supplies.

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor's name – Professor of Instruction Dina Perlasca

Instructor's office # - Fox Fine Arts room 250

Instructor's office hours – Monday and Wednesday 2:30pm-3:30pm by appointment

Instructor's email - dpperlasca@utep.edu

**Instructor Introduction**

Dina Perlasca is a Mexican American artist from The Paso del Norte Region, where she grew up on the border of Mexico and the U.S. Dina lives with her children in El Paso Texas, border of Cd. Juarez Chihuahua Mexico, to where she travels often for family visits. Dina has an active studio practice at Bravo Studios in the Research Interdisciplinary Building at The University of Texas at El Paso. She obtained her BFA in Ceramics from The University of Texas at El Paso and her MFA in Ceramics at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces NM. Dina has had the opportunity to work in diverse institutions and places that are convergent with her creative lifestyle and path. She has been a secretary to a 52-teacher elementary military school at Sgt. Roberto Ituarte for the Socorro Independent school district in El Paso TX, she has been a ceramic sculpture instructor at the El Paso Museum of Art in her undergraduate years as well as an Art Consultant in the Gadsden District in Santa Teresa NM. Dina has also ventured into personal creative adventures such as being the ranch manager for 2 years at her grandfather's Hacienda Xicalango in the middle of the Huastecan jungle mountains, at the heart of the Mexican Republic in the State of Hidalgo. She is currently teaching undergraduate ceramics and design at The University of Texas at El Paso, New Mexico State University in Las Cruces NM, and at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales NM. Perlasca is constantly exhibiting her artwork regionally and nationally and holds the Student Director At Large position for the 2021 – 2023 National Council on Education for the Ceramics Arts (NCECA).

She is currently working towards:

-*Force Fields*: solo exhibition at the Roswell Museum in Roswell NM summer of 2023.

-*Circuit*: Virtual Clay Collective group exhibition for the NCECA March of 2023 National Conference in Cincinnati Ohio.

-*Faculty Show* – Stanlee Gerald Rubin Center. Faculty exhibition for the Art Department at The University of Texas at El Paso.

-*El Paso local clay research project* – Co-leader to Ceramic Associate Professor Vincent Burke in El Bravo Studios clay research and El Paso community outreach projects in the Interdisciplinary Research Center at The University of Texas at El Paso.

**Course Description**

Ceramics 2314 is an intermediate level course covering the discipline of sculptural ceramics. This course will provide instruction and practical forming experience as it relates to the design and production of

sculptural ceramics. Each student will design and build 4 major projects, fulfilling requirements set forth in the course assignments. Students will develop skills required to plan and execute forming problems with sculptural 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 Ceramics 2304.

Intermediate Ceramics 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 Intermediate Ceramics are required to have completed CERM 2304, or instructor approval. A student seeking prerequisite waiver must contact the instructor.

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

Goals and objectives targeted in Intermediate Ceramics include:

- An intermediate level experience in the development and production/formation of sculptural ceramics.
- Additional understanding of the history of sculptural ceramics, with an emphasis on contemporary ceramics.
- Intermediate level 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 intermediate level competency in the planning and production of sculptural ceramics.
- Intermediate level competency and confidence in the use of the ceramics facilities equipped with ceramic forming tools.
- An improved understanding of the history of sculptural 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 intermediate 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 Requirements**

### **Hybrid Course Information**

This course is designated as a hybrid course, which requires work outside of the UTEP studios. This may take the form of at-home artwork assignments, online research, online Zoom-type meetings, online discussions, presentations and individual and/or group critiques. As such, you will be required to have a digital device that will support these remote meetings, and I will ask that you have your cameras turned on for those meetings. You will need a decent internet connection, one that will accommodate those types of online meetings. I ask that we all observe standard practices of netiquette when we meet online.

### **Studio Maintenance**

The cleanup/maintenance of the studio is required of all students.

### **Assignments**

Intermediate Ceramics is designed around assigned projects and tasks. A complete list with grade weights will be distributed on the first day of class and posted on Blackboard. Each assignment will be introduced via a presentation by the instructor and a detailed assignment sheet. Each of the assignments must be submitted in a completed condition at the time of the project grading critique. Grades established for these primary project assignments will constitute 100% of the final grade for this course. Please note that the Professor reserves the option to change, add or remove the assignments from those described. Assignments will be complimented by assigned readings and research. Potential outcomes may include a reflection paper, critical essay or presentation to the class, at the teacher's discretion.

### **Spring 2023 Assignment subjects with final grade values (% of final grade)**

(5%)\*Netsuke (reductive carving technique)

(30%) \*Self-portrait in the form of food on a plate-group installation project (hand building soft slab, reductive carving, additive)

(10%) \*small side project: making 2 lunch plates coated in majolica

-2 plates so one can be a tester. Each student will be assigned a stain/colorant test

(10% each)\*(2)Vessel Forms with sprigs:

- (2) 2 sided stiff slab vessel (stiff slab technique) Use vinyl stencils (cricut machine)

(the FORM inspiration should be based on a natural form)

-one made with grande clay, coated in flashing slips-fired in the soda kiln

-one made with porcelain clay

-The sprigs forms should be based on an ecosystem that relates to the forms. 3-5 sprig molds made in total.

(25%)\*Cone 6 clay body development, research and testing:

Students will make a cone 6 clay body from scratch, run various tests on it (shrinkage, color, absorbtion), then do slip and glaze testing...finally making a small project using the cone 6 custom clay of their choice.

(10%)\*Systems Vessel:

Students will explore systems and how they generate form in the creation of a vessel. Systems can be man-made (based on math, science, various geometric principles) or may be more improvisational, organic and free flowing.

**Assignments/Tasks of varying percentage weights, combined total=100%**

### **Grading Standards and Criteria**

Evaluation of student performance for this course is done in the following manner:

- All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

90% & above	= A	excellent quality work
80% & below 90%	= B	above average work
70% & below 80%	= C	average work
60% & below 70%	= D	below average work
Below 60%	= F	unsatisfactory work, failing
  
- The project grades will be established using full-class and individual critiques at the instructor's discretion. All students are expected to participate in all critiques, which includes discussion of their own projects as well as the projects of other students. At specific points in the timeline of each project, the instructor will evaluate the project success by assigning a letter grade for each of the following 5 criteria:
  1. Initial preparation-drawings, models, evidence of thoughtful research
  2. building craft-technical skills of material manipulation
  3. glazing and firing-technical skills in glaze mixing, application, and firing
  4. concept-intellectual basis for work
  5. finished analysis-participation in critiques, self-assessment, evidence of finished research necessary to complete work, final documentation of completed work

The letter grades for each project will be averaged into one final letter grade.

- Once a final course average is calculated, attendance penalties (if applicable) will be deducted and the final grade established.

### **Course Policies: Health and Safety Section Fall 2021: Covid Protocols**

*Each of us helps to build our collective commitment to use best health practices all the time.*

Getting the basics right is the most important thing each of us can do to protect ourselves and each other.

#### **Student Responsibilities**

- You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at all times.
- Maintain 6 feet of separation at all times, including when conferencing with other students.
- Follow signage indicating specific entry and exit doors and pathways.
- Do not cluster in groups and keep hallways open.
- Wash hands and/or apply hand sanitizer prior to entering classroom and after leaving a classroom. Do not touch your face until you can wash hands.
- It is recommended that you use the disinfectant provided in the classrooms to sanitize the area where you will be sitting before and after class.

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible via email. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

During the current pandemic situation, protective face coverings are strongly recommended. You are encouraged to wear a face mask especially when indoors and during class. Masks should fit securely over the mouth and nose. You are also encouraged to wash your hands frequently or use a hand sanitizer.

When using the ceramics lab in class or during lab hours, it is recommended that you wipe down your personal work areas before and after use. Cleaning materials will be available in the lab. It is recommended that you wear latex type gloves (not provided) and/or clean your hands frequently when using or touching common materials and equipment like rolling pins, slab rollers, extruders,

pottery wheels, mops and brooms, sinks, door handles etc. Use common sense. Do not touch your face eyes or mouth, especially after contact with common use materials and equipment.

Be aware that Information missed during an absence is the sole responsibility of the student. It is the student's responsibility to stay current with missed work and assignments, and to stay in contact with the instructor regarding health status, recovery, and anticipated return to class. Use your UTEP email account to stay in contact.

### **Course Policies-General**

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.

#### Attendance Policy:

- 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.
- 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 or serious illness or death in the immediate family.
- 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, especially ceramics studios. There are often open flames, equipment that reaches over 2,300 degrees, chemicals that should not be ingested, etc.

- Gifts

**I cannot accept gifts of any kind.** While I truly appreciate gifts and the thought behind them, professionally speaking, it puts me in an uncomfortable position. The best gift you could ever give me is to make incredible work, and to continually grow as an artist and as a human being.

- Cell phones

Please turn off your phones during class time. You will be asked to leave if your phone goes off during class, and be counted absent for that class period.

- Music

Music systems in the form of a boom box or Bluetooth speaker are not permitted in class. Ear buds are acceptable.

- Open Studio

The studios will be open outside of regular class hours for your general use at times posted within the first week of class.

- Studio Safety

As mentioned earlier, ceramics areas can be hazardous if proper precautions are not taken. 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. 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.

- 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 wipe down tables, pottery wheels, and equipment 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. If the problem persists, you will be dropped from the class.

- Personal Safety

If you 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).** There is a studio phone for your use. 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 disposed of. All tools, extra clay, etc. will become the property of the studio after this date.

### **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.

### **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.
- Intermediate Ceramics 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://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

**Disabilities:** I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. 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://www.utep.edu/dsso>

**Phone:** 915-747-5148 **Fax:** 915-747-8712 **email:**

<mailto:dss@utep.edu?subject=Disabled%20Student%20Services>

**By choosing to enroll in this class, you agree to the conditions of this syllabus**