

Special Topics in Art Focus on Function
ART 3307

Course Information

Course title – Special Topics in Art: Focus on Function
Course prefix and number – ART 3307
Course meeting location – Fox Fine Arts Studio room 250
Course meeting times – Tuesday and Thursday 1:30pm-4:20pm
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 – Associate Professor Vincent Burke
Instructor's office # - Fox Fine Arts room 251 C
Instructor's office hours – Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:30pm, and by appointment
Instructor's phone # and email – 747-5176 vburke@utep.edu

Instructor Introduction

Vincent Burke holds a B.A. degree in Art History from Carleton College, and a M.F.A. in Ceramics from Louisiana State University. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Ceramics at The University of Texas at El Paso. Vince has been working with ceramics for over 25 years, and actively exhibits his ceramic and mixed media sculpture throughout the United States.

Course Description

ART 3307 Focus on Function is an intermediate level course covering the discipline of functional ceramics. This course will provide instruction and practical forming experience as it relates to the design and production of functional ceramics. Students will develop skills required to plan and execute intermediate level forming problems specific to functional ceramics, and engage in a group 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 functional ceramics.
- Additional understanding of the history of functional 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 functional 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 functional 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.

Assignments

Intermediate Ceramics is designed around assigned projects and tasks. 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.

The final grade percentage breaks down as follows:

-5 hump/slump molded bowls or plates: made from your own hand-made molds. Underglaze transfers will be an option to activate the surface on these forms. 10%

-5 Cylinders (one and ¼ pound) 5" tall, 3" outside diameter 10%

-10 tumblers 10%

5 different surface approaches. Choices:

ribbed smooth, raised relief design with textured ribs, incised lines, sgraffito through black underglaze, water etching, stamped, small sprig type surface additions, aggressive thrown surface, paddled, drawing/painting with black underglaze (brush, slip trailer, underglaze pencil), decals

5 artist's focused choice (must be a focused inquiry, i.e. all be one type of surface approach)

-5 Yunomi 5%

-8 Bowls with trimmed feet 10%

-10 Cups with Handles 15%

-4 with trimmed feet

-6 with flat bottoms (no trimmed feet)

-4 small plates 10%

-thrown on the wheel

-Vitamin P Essays (1-2 pages with one illustration page) on contemporary functional ceramists (and/or) contemporary issue within the discipline 10%

-Las Artistas Exhibition. 20%

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.

Final exam date and time to be determined by the UTEP Registrar

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other

Active communication is crucial to the success of any relationship. I ask that you communicate with me if you have any questions, concerns, or have life issues that may be impacting your course participation.

In addition to meeting in class, we can meet in person during my office hours, or virtually via Teams or Blackboard Collaborate. Email me in advance to let me know if you would like to meet so I can prepare for that meeting.

The best way to contact me is through the UTEP email system. My email address is vburke@utep.edu. Please do not email me through Blackboard. Go through the UTEP system. I will make every effort to respond to your email in a timely manner.

Please be aware that I send out course announcements via Blackboard, which go to your UTEP email address. I expect you to check your UTEP email regularly.

Course Policies: Health and Safety Section

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

- 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. Coming to class when you are sick does not make you a hero. 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 your situation.

- Covid-19

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, so that UTEP can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

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.

- Covid-19 Information via the UTEP website:

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community, UTEP offers students free, on-campus testing in the UTEP Student Health and Wellness Center located in Union Building East, first floor.

As of June 1, UTEP no longer offers COVID-19 testing through a kiosk at the UTEP Testing Site.

Here's what you need to know about COVID-19 testing at UTEP.

UTEP Student Health and Wellness Center On-Campus Testing

Free on-campus antigen testing is available for all enrolled UTEP students who are currently attending classes (face to face or online).

No appointment is necessary, although preregistration online is required at medicatconnect.com.

Bring your Miner Gold Card OR student ID number AND a photo ID.

When you arrive at the Student Health and Wellness Center, please wait outside and call 915-747-5624 to be allowed in through the center's back entrance.

COVID-19 Reporting and Questions

UTEP is no longer asking employees and students to report positive COVID-19 test results to the University. However, if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, please email covidaction@utep.edu for assistance.

What counts as COVID-19 exposure?

According to the CDC, for COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. If you start to feel sick, get tested immediately and stay home and away from others. Otherwise, test 5 days following your exposure and follow quarantine guidance while waiting to test. If your test result is positive, follow isolation recommendations.

What are COVID-19 symptoms?

People may have COVID-19 if they are experiencing fever, chills, cough, fatigue, body aches, muscle or joint pain, shortness of breath, sore throat, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, nasal congestion, and loss of taste and/or smell. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms.

When should I get tested for COVID-19?

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested immediately. If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, test yourself at least 5 days after your exposure. If you test negative for COVID-19, consider testing again 2 to 3 days after your first test or 24 hours after experiencing symptoms.

Who is at high risk for severe COVID-19?

Some people are at increased risk for severe illness if they get sick with COVID-19. They include individuals age 65 and older, women who are pregnant and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma, HIV and diabetes.

What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive for COVID-19, self-isolate for at least five days and wear a mask for up to 10 days. If symptoms are moderate or severe, seek medical attention and follow the medical provider's guidance on when to end self-isolation.

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. Excused absences are defined as documented illness or serious illness or death in the immediate family.
- Coming to class late or and leaving early is disruptive to the learning environment. All students are required to attend class on-time and to remain in the class the entire period. Each late/leaving early after 3 will result in the final course grade being lowered by 1 full letter grade.
- 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. This includes the online group environment for digital class meetings.

Class Conduct:

- 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 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.

- Cell phones

Unless you need to have your ringer on for family or potential emergency type of reasons, please silence your phones during class time.

- Music

Music systems in the form of a boom box or cellphone or cellphone connected to Bluetooth speakers is not allowed. However, you may wear earbuds or headsets if you wish.

- Open Studio

Open studio hours will be posted for your convenience.

- 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 when you are finished working in the studio. 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, then you will receive a special tutorial on how to clean up after 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).** 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.
- This 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

E-Mail: “mailto:dss@utep.edu?subject=Disabled%20Student%20Services”

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