CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
ART 2485  SPECIAL PROJECTS CERAMICS

Fall Semester 2015  Credits: 1
Laboratory Hours: 1
Class Time: Attached
Room: VA 110
Instructor: Mike Olson
Office phone: 268-2509  E-mail: molson@caspercollege.edu
Office: VA 111
Office Hours: Posted on door

Course Description:
Assignments are of the student’s choice with approval and guidance of the instructor. All work is done and finished at students own pace, meeting with the instructor as needed.

Prerequisites: ART 2440 and/or permission of instructor

Goals: Students will have a greater appreciation for the creative process by studying the rich history of Ceramics and the physical activity of designing and making objects from clay.

Outcomes:
1. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities through the medium of clay and glaze.

Course Objectives:
1. To acquire knowledge and practical skills needed for the basic fundamentals of ceramic making: construction techniques, firing methods, glaze application and decoration.
2. Familiarity with the history of ceramics.

Methodology:
1. Lectures followed by demonstrations and laboratory experiences.
2. Audio-visual aids in the form of presentations, movies, power points, and actual specimens from private collections.

Evaluation Criteria: (See attached grade sheet)
1. Attendance, meeting deadlines, individual progress, attitude, craftsmanship/cleanliness, and participation will be factors in grading.
3. Sketchbook/notebook will be graded based on how well it is utilized as a resource for notes, homework, reference and designing and planning projects.
4. At the end of the semester each student will prepare an exhibit of his or her finished work for critique and grading. Each student will be held responsible for completion of the projects as listed in the Outline of Assignments.
5. Cleaning of studio at end of semester. All students, including Audits, must attend final cleanup day or fail the class. Audits students that miss cleanup day will lose future firing privileges.

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Recommended Text(s):
Any comprehensive Ceramic textbook will help supplement in-class learning.
Other sources of information:  
At the library you will find a large number of books about the field of ceramics: historical and 
contemporary pottery and pottery making, biographies, histories, and the science of ceramics. The magazines 
American Craft, Ceramics Monthly and Ceramic Art and Perception are available in both the current periodical 
section, and back issues in the bound volumes section of the library.

Tools:  
- Elephant Ear Sponge  
- Fettling Knife  
- Black Rubber Kidney Rib  
- Wood Modeling Tool  
- Metal Kidney Rib  
- Plastic Ruler  
- Trimming Needle  
- Cutting Wire  
- Bamboo Brush  
- Trimming Tool

Sources:  
Goedicke’s Arts and Crafts (120 W. 2nd St), has assembled a kit of all items above.  
Hobby Lobby is also selling some pottery tools.  
Make or find your own.

Supplies:  
A sketch book, padlock, old towel, several plastic bags and a plastic bucket (about 1 gal size)

Clay:  
Clay is purchased through the CASHIERS in the Gateway Building, third floor. The instructor, in 
exchange for the receipt from the college, will issue clay to you. The price of clay includes the cost of glaze, 
decorating materials, and firing. **DO NOT BRING CLAY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE INTO THIS 
DEPARTMENT!**

Class Policies:  
All students are expected to follow the outlines closely, contacting the instructor for individual 
help on all projects as needed.  
A studio class is designed to allow for time needed for hands on learning, however, some additional outside 
class work may be required to meet dead lines.  
Students are expected to have work completed by due dates, keeping in mind the importance of sound 
craftsmanship and good design. **Each class period a project is late will lower the grade by 10 points.**  
The Casper College catalogue states: “students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered, 
are accountable for all class work during an absence and that excessive absences may result in a lower grade.”  
**In this class more than three absences is considered excessive. Five absences will result in a grade no 
higher than D.**

Class begins promptly on the hour. Demonstrations and lectures will not be repeated for late students.  
Breaks are generally ten minutes on the hour.  
End of class cleanup will begin twenty minutes before the final hour. Class is over ten minutes before the end 
of the final hour.  
Tardiness and/or leaving early will affect the final grade.  
Social conversation is a distraction. Ceramics is a visual and hands on discipline, not a verbal one. Talking 
during lab time invariably affects the quality of your study and the study of those around you. **Talking will 
negatively affect your final grade.**  
**Turn cell phones to vibrate mode or off. Take calls outside of class if it is important.**  
Methods of study will be thoroughly discussed and should be followed to gain the maximum from this course.  
**Students will be held responsible for their work ethic.**  
Cracked or poorly jointed pieces will not be fired, nor will pieces not meeting the requirements of the project.  
**ALL WORK MUST MEET WITH INSTRUCTORS APPROVAL BEFORE BEING FIRED.**
**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** (withdrawal deadline; see: “Admission and Registration – Schedule Changes” in the catalog) (Your attendance policy, exam, homework, assignment make-up policy, anything particular to your class)

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**OUTLINE OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

**CLAY:** Design ten to forty (depending on credits hours) objects you want to create during the semester. The instructor must preapprove them before starting. All assignments may be made from either low temperature earthenware or high temperature stoneware or porcelain. You will be responsible for helping with all firing, bisque and glaze. Choose the clay and firing method that will fit your time limitations.

**SKETCHBOOK**

Your sketchbook is a very important part of your learning experience and your final grade. There will be short homework assignments given throughout the semester to help promote self-discovery and understanding of the subject. Drawing and sketching will also be part of the homework assignments. Each student will be graded on completion of the drawing assignments, not on the quality of the drawings. These are used to improve observation skills and creative thinking only. No student should be worried about what their drawings look like, they are learning tools only. The sketchbook is also where notes from lectures and in-class demonstrations will be kept. Note taking is highly recommended as vast amounts of information must be remembered to accomplish your assignments successfully. Even if you never look at your notes again, by writing down information as you hear it, you will be much more likely to remember what was said. **TAKE NOTES DURING CLASS!**
PAPER/PRESENTATION
A final paper based on the information you harvested in your sketchbook over the semester will be required for the final grade. You will present this paper orally to the class at the end of the semester as a sharing and final discussion of the semester. A detailed hand out will be given early in the semester outlining this assignment.

ATTENDANCE
This is the largest and most important component of your grade. How can you learn if you don’t come to class? Your job as a student is to come to class prepared and on time, work when you are here and enjoy the learning.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRESS, ATTITUDE AND INTEREST
Ceramics is an amazing material and technology that we could not easily live without. It is also a fantastic learning medium if you let it. Part of your grade depends on how well you handle sitting and experimenting with this magical material. A focused, serious and positive attitude is most helpful when learning any new skill and should be utilized in this class.

CLEAN UP
The studio is used by many students and is an open lab. That means you can come work in it any time the building is open. If there is a class in session, please get instructor permission and give students in that class priority to equipment. Cleaning up after yourself is a must. Don’t become known as a pigpen. Everybody knows who is leaving messes for others to clean up before they can start working. Even so, by the end of semester all students will be required to attend the final clean-up day. Failure to attend will result in an automatic flunking of the course.

STUDENT CONTRACT FOR SEMESTER: See Attached
Safety issues in the Casper College Ceramic Studio involve seven main areas:

1. **Inhalation of dust and/or fumes:**

   Clay dust, dry glaze materials, other chemicals and fumes from firing can potentially enter the lungs. All dry materials are properly labeled indicating hazards for inhalation, ingestion and skin contact. Ventilation equipment is installed over mixing areas and kilns. Dust masks and respirators are available for student use. First day lecture includes dust concerns and proper wet wipe cleaning protocols to minimize air contamination.

2. **Corrosive liquids:**

   Liquid glazes contain various amounts of alkali and acidic materials. Glaze tongs and rubber gloves are demonstrated and available for students. A no eating or drinking policy is active in the glaze mixing and working areas. Washing of hands after working with these materials is emphasized.

3. **Heat:**

   Electric kilns are located in far corner of studio and isolated from high traffic areas. Gas kilns are all located outside of main studio. Proper instruction on use of equipment is given. Gas kilns must be fired during business hours with instructor supervision. Fire extinguishers, gloves, face shields and tongs are available for safe use of the kilns. Extensive lectures and demonstrations of firing protocols and proper equipment use are given. Safety systems are installed on all kilns.

4. **Electrical:**

   Cords for electric wheels are protected from water and are wrapped to minimize tripping hazards.

5. **Eyes:**

   Eye protection (safety glasses) from corrosive liquids, dust and fire are present in the studio. Eye wash station is located centrally near sink area.

6. **Hearing:**

   Grinders and pneumatic tools are sometimes used and hearing protection is available for student use.

7. **Hands:**

   Lectures and demonstration concerning proper use of equipment where precautions are warranted will be given. (Ex: Hot articles, corrosive liquids, sharp implements, edges and machinery.) Gloves, tongs and a first aid kit are available and easily accessible.

All equipment and materials and their potential health hazards are properly and thoroughly demonstrated and discussed before any student is allowed to use them.