ART 201 Arts and Civic Engagement: Empty Bowls
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Office Hours: M/W 1:00pm - 2:30pm and by appointment

Success is primarily based on commitment. I would say that art making is about 5% talent and inspiration and 95% tenacity and hard work.

-Phillia Yi (Launching the Imagination Ch. 1 p.25)

Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton.

-Creighton University Mission

This course is based on a nation wide initiative that involves both ceramic traditions as well as a desire to participate, in a meaningful way, within one’s community.

Course Description
This course explores the role of the Arts in social transformation through student involvement in the national program, Empty Bowls. Students will study how different communities work to improve local and global conditions in many contexts through creativity, labor, media, sacrifice and food. Classroom and project work will reflect the physical impact the arts and studio practices can have on bettering one’s community through the idea of the “gift”. Students will work in a communal environment both inside and outside the classroom through shared responsibilities regarding the Empty Bowls project and a partnership with the Siena Francis House Homeless Shelter. Students will have a hands-on approach in both making and working within one’s own community, learning the value of labor and its creative application to real-world situations.

Course Objectives
Students will:
- Develop basic understanding of ceramic technologies as they relate to forming, firing and glazing of functional ceramic work.
- Participate in the mission of the Siena Francis House through volunteerism
- Reflect on experiences both in and out of the classroom and relate them to personal identity through journaling and group discussion.
- Participate, understand and appreciate all stages of the creation, organization, volunteer events, and labor required for the Empty Bowls Event 2012.

Course Content
Students will learn introductory and intermediate skills based in the tradition of functional ceramics. These skills will involve beginning and intermediate techniques in clay making, wheel and hand built pottery, glazing and firing of work. It is to be understood that each student realizes that their labor
and the products of that labor are considered “gifts” to their community. A large percentage of the work students create in this course will be sold as a benefit for the Siena Francis House. Each student will be required to create 20 well-crafted finished bowls. It is understood that each student will need to account for ceramic tragedies, and will more than likely attempt more than 20 bowls. Each student will also participate in all activities related to ceramic studio practice: making clay, glazes, loading and unload of kilns, preparing bowls for the event, volunteering at the Siena Francis House, and assisting with the event.

**Texts:**

Students are encouraged to consult the extensive collection of books and magazines in the studio for creative inspiration and technical information.

**Students should also register online at [www.ceramicartsdaily.org](http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org).** This website is free and provides ample information and inspiration for the ceramics student.

All basic tools will be available for use within the studio. Students may NOT take tools home.

Students will need to provide their own:
- 2 old towels (one for clay hands, one for clean hands)
- Sketchbook Journal
- Pencils &/or other writing/drawing tools
  - optional:
    - Graph paper
    - Brushes for waxing and glazing.
    - Your own tools
    - Assortment of found tools (rasp, dull kitchen knives, forks, cheese cutters, etc.)

**Attendance Policy**
Studio classes are designed to accommodate multiple learning styles. Hands-on activities are time consuming and particularly essential to acquiring skills. Lab time provides various demonstrations, visual examples and group discussions to enrich the learning experience. The studio environment relies on the collective energy of all members of the class in order to be successful. This class meets twice a week. It is in the best interest of the student to attend all classes. During class time there will be a significant amount of information covered. The majority of the student’s course grade is based on participation in the Empty Bowls project. If a student is absent from class, they will miss valuable instruction about concepts, tools and materials and the Empty Bowls project, as a whole will suffer. Therefore **ATTENDANCE IS MANDITORY.** Students should arrive on time and be prepared for every class period.

**Students are allowed 2 excused absences** and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If a student has a valid excused absence that occurs on a due date for the project, work must be turned in prior to this date. **If a student has more than 4 unexcused absences they will receive an AF for the course.** Lectures, discussions and demonstrations will take place in the
first part of class therefore 3 late arrivals is equivalent to 1 un-excused absence. Leaving early will be treated in the same manner: The professor keeps accurate records of attendance, which is taken at the beginning of each class. If a student is late they may be marked absent by default. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they are counted present.

*Note regarding absences: The professor will provide detailed demonstrations and presentations during class time. The professor will not spend class time going over materials and techniques covered in missed classes for students who were absent unless time permits. Classmates will provide a vital source of information for the absent student.

**Studio Classroom Conduct**

Working with clay can be a dirty business; **students should wear appropriate clothing for the environment**. Clay and glazes can stain or ruin clothing. Students may want to get a smock or apron to protect their clothing, or wear things they don’t care about (this includes shoes). **All students will need to trim their fingernails.**

It is expected that all students exhibit respect for the professor, other students and the facility. If any behavior is deemed as inappropriate the student will be asked to leave the class. Students are responsible for their own supplies and personal belongings. Anything of value should not be left in the studio. Other classes use this studio space therefore **EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO CLEAN UP** the ceramics studio at the end of each class and at the end of the semester. Students have access to this studio at any time the building is open, except when classes are being held or the studio is being cleaned. **The studio will be closed for approximately two hours, once a week for cleaning.**

All students in this course will have access to the building during the hours listed below. If the building is locked during a time that falls within the access time frame, students will use their student ID at the proximity reader located on the handicap accessible door at the main entrance to the Lied Center. If your ID does not work you should call Public Safety at 280-2104 and notify your professor.

**Lied Center hours**

- **Monday – Friday** 7am - 10pm (midnight)*
- **Saturday – Sunday** 9am - 10pm (midnight)*

Access hours are the same during University holidays and breaks

*If a student is in the building before 10pm they may stay and work until midnight. All students must leave at midnight. Last student to leave is responsible for putting away all materials, making sure the studio is clean, turning out the lights and making sure the door is closed.

**Breakdown of Final Grade:**

*Note: Creating work in ceramics requires an enormous amount of time and commitment. Clay is a time-based material and the student is responsible for managing it in a timely fashion. Procrastination has no place in this course.*

50% Production: 20 well-crafted bowls

25% Participation and completion of Studio Practices:

  1. Making Clay
2. Maintaining one Studio Glaze
3. Participation in bisque and glaze kiln firings, including loading, firing and unloading.
4. Class participation in critiques and discussions.
5. Preparation of all bowls for the Empty Bowls event.

15%  Volunteerism: Attendance at all activities held at the Siena Francis House.

10%  Journal entries

Your grade for specific activities may be evaluated in one or more of the following categories:

**Work Habits**
Includes how effectively class time is used, effort/amount of work done outside of class, and level of commitment to the Project.

**Technique / Craft**
Includes level of attention to detail in construction methods as they relate to the visual aspects and impact of the student’s contribution to the Project.

**Development of Design & Concept**
Refers to the student’s level of involvement in working beyond the obvious conclusions to the starting points provided. Includes how feedback is incorporated into present and future work in this course. This may include reworking pieces to make them better, trying something new/taking risks, and/or applying previous experiences to future course work.

**Punctuality & Participation**
Includes attendance, participation in class activities and completion of project work in a timely manner.

**Attitude**
Includes demonstrated interest in course materials and discussions as well as goal setting.

A  93-100%
Given to students who put extraordinary amounts of time and effort into all aspects of this class. These students show excellent understanding of all concepts and materials. They are generally self-starters and go beyond the basic requirements for the course.

B+  88-92%
B  82-87%
Given to students with above average performance. These are students who show an elevated understanding of the concepts and materials, demonstrating skill in both discussions and craftsmanship. These students show marked improvement over the course of the semester.

C+  78-81%
C  70-77%
Given to students who exhibit basic understanding of concepts and materials and complete all the necessary requirements of the course. No more, no less. It should be noted that it is the sole discretion of the professor if work earning a C+ or C grade is eligible to be fired.

D  
60-69%
Given to students with below average performance, such as: poor attendance, consistently late course work, poor quality of course work and low levels of participation in class activities. Work earning a D grade will not be fired.

F  
0-59%
Given to students who fail to complete the required work for the course.

Policy regarding Academic Honesty
The current policy for the College of Arts and Sciences can be accessed at http://www2.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/CCAS/docs/acadhonesty.html
You are expected to complete all of your own course work. If there should be any question as to the integrity of a student's work the professor will address the issue with the student first, in private.

If a student's work has been created in part or whole by someone other than the student:
The first offense: the student will be allowed to redo the project. At completion, the grade for the project will be reduced one full letter grade for each class period beyond the original due date.
The second offense: the student will automatically receive zero points for the project and the Dean's office will be notified.
The third offense: the student will automatically receive an F in the course, and procedures will begin according the above policy.

Class Cancellations
Aside from University Closings, if a class is cancelled an email notification will be sent to your Creighton email account as well as a sign posted on the outside of the classroom door.
***Inclement weather procedures: If the University is does not officially close due to inclement weather, please use your best judgment.

Special Needs & Requests
If a student has any special needs or requests they should notify the instructor as soon as possible so accommodations/considerations can be made.

Sample Schedule of Course Activities

Please Note: Creating in Ceramics is time consuming and requires more than class time to complete. The time required outside of class will depend on how well you manage your in-class time, but an average will range from 6-10 additional hours per week. Before you commit to taking this class, please, take the time to look at your current schedule and the personal commitments you have already made to other pursuits. Be certain that you are in a position, at this time, to give yourself the gift of time to do well in this course.

Week 1
Introductions, Syllabus discussed, Demonstration: How to make clay.

Week 2
Demonstration: Hand building techniques
Week 3
Work week

Week 4
Demonstrations: Wheel Throwing & Bisque Kiln firing

Week 5
Demonstrations: Glaze making & Glazing techniques. In-progress critiques of 1st 10 bowls

Week 6
Volunteer at Siena Francis House

Week 7
Finish 1st 10 bowls, Load 1st Glaze Kiln,

Week 8
Unload Glaze Kiln
Volunteer at Siena Francis House

Week 9
NO CLASS FALL BREAK

Week 10
Begin 2nd 10 bowls

Week 11
Work week

Week 12
Finish 2nd 10 bowls

Week 13
Load 2nd Glaze Kiln

Week 14
Volunteer at Siena Francis House
NO CLASS Wednesday, Thanksgiving Break

Week 15
Volunteer at Siena Francis House, Reflection Journals due

Week 16
Studio Clean up

Week 17
Final Exams