

# KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

A four-year college of art and design

## Spring Schedule 2012: Ceramics

The ceramics program provides an in-depth technical, visual, critical, and conceptual foundation for the education of artists by using historic and contemporary aspects of ceramic art. Explorations of the vessel, the figure, sculpture, architectural applications of the material, and new forms such as installation provide a thorough basis for the study of ceramic art and technology. The curriculum begins with technically challenging and directed studies in the sophomore year. Once exposed to a broad palette of information, students are supported as they become increasingly self-directed through the junior and senior years. The coursework in each year provides the opportunity for students to exercise verbal articulation and critical thinking through discussion with faculty, group critiques with peers, and written assignments. Students sharpen their capabilities to analyze creative choices and ask their own questions. The peer group is an invaluable resource for students, for information and idea exchange while they are undergraduates, and as a professional network in the field after they graduate. The coursework encourages discovery through the process of making and the pursuit of individual research. Exposure to works in galleries and museums, and direct contact with visiting artists, are essential in helping to inform a historical perspective, a sense of the contemporary, and knowledge of the working life of artists. There is a focus on developing professional practice so that students will graduate with skills to present their work and to enter a career in the arts. The faculty works to create a strong sense of community, affirming the learning that occurs outside formal class structure.

### Ceramics Curriculum

<u>Sophomore Year</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Sophomore Ceramics	6	6
Materials and Processes I	3	0
Materials and Processes II	0	3
Studio Elective	0	0
Liberal Arts	6	6
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 15
 <u>Junior Year</u>	 <u>Fall</u>	 <u>Spring</u>
Junior Ceramics	5	5
Studio Elective	6	6
Professional Practice	1	1
Liberal Arts	6	6
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 18
 <u>Senior Year</u>	 <u>Fall</u>	 <u>Spring</u>
Senior Studio	5	6
Studio Elective	6	3
Professional Practice	1	0
Open Elective	0	3
Liberal Arts	6	3
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 15

## Ceramics major required classes

### **CERM 220-01 Innovation in the Multiple**

**6.0 credit hours**

In the spring semester of the sophomore year students are introduced to two important modes of vessel production - the potters wheel and the plaster mold making/slip casting process. The combination of both processes will lead to the production of multiple works so that students' innovations are realized in a technically proficient and personal way.

Students learn the principles and subtleties that constitute good form. Porcelain clay and casting slip – technically compatible materials - are used. Emphasis will be placed on developing an understanding of the relationship of form and surface as students explore a variety of finishing techniques. High temperature glazes and firing in reduction, oxidation, and atmospheric kilns are explored, as well as post firing techniques that include china paints, decals and lusters. Students also learn resist methods, scraffito, mishima, glaze trailing, and sandblasting.

Students are encouraged to take risks through artistic experimentation as well as to exhibit a strong work ethic while developing and refining technical skills. Individual and group critiques are conducted throughout the semester, as well as mid-term and final reviews with each student and the faculty. Students study historical and philosophical foundations of vessels through slide presentations, group discussion and assignments.

Donnelly /Timock

SCB

MW 8:00 am -2:20 pm

### **CERM 225-01 Materials & Processes II**

**3.0 credit hours**

#### **PREREQUISITE: Materials and Processes I**

Required: Hamer *The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques*

Optional: Cushing *Val Cushing's Handbook*

The Materials and Process II course offers students a comprehensive understanding of ceramic glaze materials and processes. Through lectures, exams, and laboratory projects students learn essential glaze characteristics, the chemical elements, raw materials, and their individual glaze properties. Advanced testing procedures for adjusting glaze characteristics, the toxicity of glaze materials, and the effects of kiln firing on various glazes are also addressed. The information is presented to complement the sophomore studio course work in the spring semester, enabling the students to more completely and accurately achieve their artistic visions.

Binger

SCB

TR 8:00 am-10:50 am

### **CERM 300-01 Junior I: Source and Form**

**5.0 credit hours**

Fall semester junior course work builds upon the knowledge base gained in previous studies. Students expand technical skills while increasing focus on specialized, personal, and creative investigations of the material. Experimentation and risk taking in technique, vision, and concept are key notions. Research and collecting source material in areas of personal interest are emphasized; historic and contemporary examples will be gathered and studied. Through this investigation students achieve a greater understanding of context for their work. Participation and growth in critical thinking and articulation is expected of each student.

Students select a concentration in the vessel or sculpture. In the vessel curriculum students learn to throw and hand construct advanced compound forms. Students acquire more complex knowledge of glaze, surface embellishment, and subject matter for decoration. Mid- and high-temperature oxidation, reduction, and atmospheric surfaces and firings are conducted. Issues of utility, design and craft are examined. There is an emphasis on enhancing skills to analyze the details of utilitarian and one of-a-kind vessel forms.

Juniors choosing the sculpture concentration explore the use of the medium in architecture - tile, relief, terra cotta, and sculpture. There is an in depth experience with low-fire clay and glazes. Students identify and develop a personal approach to imagery, form, and the surface considerations of painting, relief, pattern, color, texture, and composition by designing, producing, and installing architectural ceramics.

Esser/Donnelly

SCB

W 8:00 am -2:20 pm

F 8:00 am -1:20 pm

### **CERM 320-01 Junior II: Process & Practice**

**5.0 credit hours**

Juniors continue to develop an in-depth and focused investigation in ceramic art, identifying and using subject matter and forms of personal interest. Learning to develop ideas, and to process and pursue them toward individual technical, visual, and conceptual growth, is the challenge of the semester.

In the vessel curriculum, an overarching conceptual theme unifies the group experience while students choose their own ideas and subjects. Historic example in ceramic art is used as a point of departure. Students continue to expand and refine technical skills pertaining to their chosen forms and contexts.

In ceramic sculpture, students extend their facility with the medium so it can be used for individualized purpose. Students shift their technical focus to adopt ceramic methods and materials appropriate to their ideas. Projects are designed to further students' conceptual development and contextual understanding.

All junior students are expected to demonstrate strong self-motivation and a passionate pursuit for investigating personal artistic directions throughout the semester, and to maintain openness and a willingness to take risks. Critical skills progress, and students explore new presentation methods for their works in the mid-term critique, final critique, and end-of-semester exhibition.

Esser/Donnelly

SCB

W 8:00 am -2:20 pm

F 8:00 am -1:20 pm

### **CEPP 385-40 Junior Professional Practice II**

**1.0 credit hour**

Students write artist statements, resumes, and create a blog, learning to articulate and present their work and their ideas to others. Verbal and visual articulation skills are emphasized. Each student prepares and presents a lecture to the class, discussing specific sources related to their work. The class is supported with lectures by area arts professionals, administered by KCAI Career Services, on topical issues related to the course content.

Donnelly

EA

R 5:45 pm -6:45 pm

SCB

F 1:30 pm -2:20 pm

**CERM 400-01 Senior Studio Thesis****5.0 credit hours**

Senior students define and implement a thesis - an approach to form, content, and technique - exploring visual and conceptual issues that are individualized and personal. Sustaining an idea within the context of risk-taking and experimentation is the challenge of the semester. Students work with the instructor to develop a structure for learning through studio practice, writings, and discussion. Skills are advanced for examining artworks through group and individual critiques with classmates and faculty. Students investigate presentation and installation solutions for their works in concert with the spaces and venues planned for end-of-semester exhibitions. Individual research and the investigation of historic ceramic and contemporary art practice are conducted by each student.

Donnelly/Esser

SCB

W 8:00 am -2:20 pm

F 8:00 am -1:20 pm

**CERM 420-01 Senior Studio: Presentation & Exhibition****6.0 credit hours**

Seniors establish a direction and intent for a final undergraduate body of work that will be exhibited at the end of the semester in departmental, college, and optional off-campus venues. Each senior must be motivated, focused, and determined to explore visual and conceptual issues that are individualized and personal. Sustaining an idea, while continually challenging the artistic, visual, and technical processes, is the challenge for students in this course. Individual research and the investigation of historic ceramic and /or contemporary art practice is expected of each student. Each student presents a slide lecture to the department detailing their artistic research and studio development. Individual and group critiques are conducted throughout the semester.

Donnelly/Esser

SCB

WF 8:00 am-2:20 pm

**Ceramics elective classes****CERME 370 -01 3D Modeling & Ceramic Media****3.0 credit hours**

This course will teach students to create actual “works” using 3D modeling software. This class will be divided into two sections. In the first section students will learn Rhino, a 3d modeling program, to create simple objects that are reflective of their studio practice and approach to art. In the second section of the course students will learn the mold-making skills necessary to render their creations into ceramic media. An introduction to slip casting and finishing techniques using slips and glazes will be covered as well. Students will be encouraged to experiment and expand on the techniques introduced in both sections of the class and develop individual ideas and artistic goals.

Brandl

SCB

WF 7:00pm – 9:50pm

**CERME 360-01 Fundamentals of Ceramic Art****3.0 credit hours**

Fundamentals of Ceramic Art will give students the basic skills necessary to produce, glaze, and fire ceramic forms. Students will be introduced via instructor demonstrations and presentations to a variety of skills including clay and glaze preparation, wheel-throwing and handbuilding, glazing options, and firing processes. Students will be encouraged to create individual and original ideas in ceramic media, and to develop a personal methodology and artistic direction which may

complement the work in their major. Students have frequent individual critiques with the instructor. Formal group peer reviews are conducted two or three times during the semester.

Timock

SCB

TR 8:00am – 10:50am

**CERME 364-80 Fundamentals of Glass: Kiln Forming**

**3.0 credit hours**

This introductory and investigative glass class will explore two distinctive methods of forming: flat glass drawing and reverse relief castings. The flat glass format encourages the student to explore with "drawing" materials of colored powders, fluxing, frits, stringers and sheet glass. The reverse casting is more complex, as a basic knowledge of sculpting, mold-making and strong technical skills is recommended. In both investigative components, each student will be encouraged to develop a technical understanding of material, equipment and firing cycles as well as to demonstrate a strong work ethic and a passionate pursuit for investigating personal artistic strengths and goals throughout the semester.

Timock

SCB

TR 11:30 am-2:20 pm

**CERME 384-80 Advanced Glass: Kiln Forming**

**3.0 credit hours**

This course is open to students who have completed the Fundamentals of Glass: Kiln Forming elective. It is an advanced class for students who wish to continue their work in this technique and who wish to conduct an intensive personal investigation in the medium. TO ENROLL IN THIS COURSE STUDENTS MUST SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE INSTRUCTOR AND WRITE A PROPOSAL FOR THEIR SEMESTER'S WORK IN ADVANCED GLASS METHODS.

Timock

SCB

TR 11:30 am-2:20 pm