COURSE CODE: IFA 3212

COURSE NAME: ADVANCED CERAMICS

Course Description

Advanced approaches in Ceramics technical and students' researched problems and development of proposals based on students' acquired skills in ceramics artistic practice to develop the vital individual skills for ceramics studies and industrial practice.

Course Objective/Aims

- To increase awareness and understanding of the individual/personal creative and innovative possibilities in ceramics without undermining the technical knowledge.
- To develop the students potential to operate bas an independent studio ceramic artist or designer.
- To build confidence in tackling ceramics design and production processes.
- To encourage the students to look at the society's needs in respect to ceramics products and how a ceramic artist/designer might address these.
- To develop an individual approach to ceramic design and production and enhance their capacity personal and group research in the field of ceramics.
- To build confidence in tackling major projects in ceramics
- To develop skill and knowledge in planning and execution of ceramic practical projects
- To instill the value of personal research in ceramic practice.

Course Outline:

Week 1: Contemporary Studio and Industrial Ceramic approach

- Students exposed to different areas in ceramic practices (both studio and industrial) which include: Domestic Ceramics/table wares; architectural ceramics/ceramic relief; decorative ceramics/ceramics sculpture ceramic mosaics/murals/tiles; ceramics for aesthetic values/gallery/museum ceramics etc.
- Advanced approached in methods of products and techniques of decoration
- Reflection on ceramics practices as based to the themes selected by students and great works of ceramics by masters in ceramics.

Week 2: Development of Design Concepts in Ceramics

- Understanding design concepts in ceramics
- Selecting and working with a theme in ceramics at an advanced level.

- Students will develop a proposal for the individual projects to be executed based on their selected themes.

- Effects of materials and firing techniques based on the choice of the theme explorer

- Students will make presentation to the class under the guidance of the lecturer.

Week 3: Design process in Respect to Technical and creative problem within theme selected

- Development of ideas/topics based on the selected theme

- Advanced studio skills in drawing/sketching for ceramics

- The role of design in ceramic product making

- Design process situation - brief development, problem inquiry, idea development, making models/prototype testing the products made.

- Geometrical and technical drawing

- Interpreting drawing into actual forms

- Visual research/resource collection

Week 4: Advanced Potter's wheel production

- Independent projects base on the theme under the throwing methods b

- Multi section forms

- Advanced decorative techniques (structural and applied)

- Appendages especially for functional ceramics (table wares)

- Creative / contemporary shapes in ceramic

- Designing and constructing a potter's wheel (optional).

Week 5: Continuation of Potter's wheel production

- Independent projects continued

- Thrown and altered forms- composite form

- Exploration of varying decorative techniques (fluted, faceted, curved, slip painting, relief building, burnishing etc).

- Creative individual unique forms based on the theme.

Week 6: Advanced Casting and Mould making

- Prototype designing and making

- Press moulding

- Dry pressing
- Multiple mould making
- Casting slip bodies formulation and preparation
- Individual projects in costing bodies for porcelain an stoneware.

Week 7: Project on multiple Moulding and Casting

- Technical development and contemporary designs based casting as a mass production technique in ceramics.
- Individual projects for multiple mould making
- Mass production using the casting techniques.

Week 8: Students' critique (Presentation)

- Students expected to make a studio mini exhibition for critique.
- Students display all their practical work and all sketches.
- Students make presentations to the class and other lectures from the department.
- Student identify the most successful projects.

Week 9: Kiln Firing at varying temperatures

- Kiln furniture and maintenance
- Kiln loading and cleaning
- Kiln firing curve
- Temperature control
- Pyrometer and thermo couples
- Firing atmosphere: reduction/oxidation
- Gas burners
- Bisquit firing process
- Glost firing process

Week 10: Glazing and glost firing techniques

- Exploration of glaze, colorants and oxides and their firing effects at varying temperatures.
- Firing glaze at earthenware and stoneware temperatures.
- Group glazing approaches

- Exploration of matt, opaque and transparent glazes
- Individual glaze device based on the theme
- Glazing continues up to the end of the semester

Week 11: Product Design and Development of Local Pottery

- Critically study the design of the local pottery form
- Identify the design problems in the product
- Redesign the identified product in order to develop a new product based on the prevailing market trend.
- Develop creative individual forms from products
- Redesign local products e.g. water pot, charcoal stove for practicability, durability and cheap production costs (mass production).

Week 12: Student's Independent project 1

- Self directed studio project based on students theme explored.
- Student should present their project with the rest of the class for discussion under the lecturer's guidance.

Week 13: Student independent project 2

- Self directed studio project based on theme selected
- Student work towards producing a body of finished ceramic pieces for professional exhibition.
- Exploration of different surfaces decoration (structural and applied decoration)
- Regular critical engagement with lecturers and fellow student

Week 14: Continuation of student's independent studio project 2 based on the theme

- Student work towards the final exhibition
- Photographing the work
- Writing brief analysis of the work in reflection to the theme explored.
- Exploration of surface finishing and decorating techniques
- Both bisquit and glost firing
- Student will be able to discuss their project with fellow students

- Student will have individual initiatives to execute their projects under the guidance of the lecturers.

Week 15: Continuation of student's individual projects

- Final preparation of the individual works for the final exhibition.
- Selection of the work for exhibition
- Planning and presentation strategies for the final exhibition.
- Documenting the selected work for the exhibition.

Learning outcomes

The students will have acquired the skills necessary to carry out ceramic independent project from the start to finish. They will show also that they have gained confidence and maturity in respect of the way in which they approach and develop designs for ceramic products running the project and coordinating it under the guidance of the lecturer. The students will develop capacity in personal/group design philosophy and interests in ceramics based on the choice for their themes for exploration. Most of the tasks to be executed by the students will be project oriented especially intended to provide students with;

- Ceramic concepts based on problem solving and studio/industrial investigation
- Experience on use of studio resources (equipment, material and firing)
- Experience on project planning, management, coordination and execution.
- Further experience in ceramic mass production and individual aesthetic ceramic works.

Methods of Teaching/Delivery

- Visual resource materials/portfolio development/sketch book
- Practical material experimentation and exploration
- Studio demonstration instruction and technical inputs.
- Group review/presentations/critique
- Self directed studio assignments/projects/courseworks
- Weekly lectures

Mode of Assessment

Course work 40%

- Planning and Developmental studies/sketches 10%
- Execution of the practical work (Reasonable body of work) 20%

- Tests in theory based on ceramic technology 10% End of semester Examination: 60%
- Theory examination: 20%
- Practical examination: 40% Final total mark: 100%

Reading/References & Learning Materials:

1. Anthony Phillips Slips and slip ware
2. Daniel Rhodes Clay and Glazes for the potter A and C Black London
3. David Harvey Imaginative Pottery (2nd Edition) 1989
4. Diane Earl Ceramic Decoration, step by step.
5. Emmanuel Copper The Potter's Book of Glazes Recipes
6. Emmanuel Copper Glazes for the studio potter
7. Frank and Janet Hamer The Dictionary of Materials and Techniques
8. Glenn C. Nelson. Ceramics "A Potters handbook" Fourth Edition Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1978.
9. Harry Frazer Ceramic Faults and their remedies.
10. Harry Frazer Glazes for the craft potter.
11. Henrick Norsker, James Danish Forming Techniques for the self-reliant potter
12. Henrik Norsker Refractories and Kilns for the Self-Reliant Potter
13. Henrik Norsker, James Danish Glazes for the self-reliant potter
14. John Colbeck Pottery Technique of Decoration, BT Batsford Ltd, London 1991
15. Peter CosentineCreative Pottery, "A complete guide to designing, making and decorating ceramics" Ebury Press, London, 1987.
16. Peter Dormer The new ceramics: Trends and Traditions.
17. Peter Lane Contemporary Porcelain
18. Richard Zakin, Ceramics, Mastering the craft
19. Taylor, B.,The Art of Today, London, Every man, Library, 1995.