

Student Images: Summer Ceramics Fundamentals and Ceramics for Non-Majors

Instructor: Megan Thomas
Purdue University Fort Wayne
Summer 2021

Project 1: 10-inch Coil Pot

Project Description

You can build just about anything out of clay coils! The focus of this project will be to practice rolling, attaching, and blending coils to make a smooth-walled form. You will use earthenware to make one 10-inch (25.4-cm) tall cylinder with straight walls. When clay has stiffened to the leather-hard state, slip will be brushed onto the surface. Inlay and sgraffito techniques will be demonstrated in class as options for decorating your pot. After slip has been applied, your project should be dried slowly until it has become lighter in color and no longer feels clammy to the touch (this completely dry state is called “bone dry”). Projects will be bisque-fired, low-fire glazes will be applied, and projects will then be fired a second time.

Hannah Bowen



Autumn Straessle



In-class Assignment: Pinch Pots

Project Description:

Make one cup plus one other object of your choosing using pinch technique. Size range should be 3-4 inches (7.5- 10 cm). Objects will be finished using terra sigillata (burnished clay slip). Terra sigillata should be applied to greenware at a firmer stage of the leather-hard state. Soda ash and borax washes will be brushed onto bisqueware and fired a second time. The addition of these washes will deepen colors and create surface variation. We'll discuss these projects as a group after they have been finished so that observations can inform surface treatment of future projects.



Courtney Lepper



Jessie Weirick



Laura Mergy



Hannah Bowen

Project 2: Historically-Inspired Coil Pots

Project Description:

View the slide presentation on historical vessel-making traditions from around the world. Then choose a pot that inspires you. You may pick a pot from the presentation or use the presentation as a jumping-off point for your own research. The vessel you choose should be one from a museum collection or educational website; museums and other educational institutions provide information along with their collection images which will be useful in helping you complete the assignment. You will replicate the form of your chosen pot as closely as possible using earthenware and working at the scale of at least one cubic foot (about 30 cubic cm). Pots will be finished with slip decoration or terra sigillata. While the form of the pot should be as close to the original as possible, you may take liberties with the decoration if you like--> let the historical tradition inspire something new!

Courtney Lepper



Nupe Terracotta
20th Century
Nigeria





Cycladic Jug with
Griffin Head
675 - 650 BC
Cyclades, Greece



Autumn Straessle



Tang Dynasty Vessel with
Dragon Handles
Late 7th – early 8th
century
Northern China



Isabelle Beezeley



Song Dynasty Vase with
Peony Scroll

11th – early 12th century

China



Emma Becher

Project 3: Wheel-Thrown Cylinders

Project Description

Practice throwing even, straight-walled cylinders. Cylinders should be made from 1.5 - 2 lbs of clay (.7 -.9 kg). Work towards walls that are 6 inches in height (about 15 cm) and about 1/4 inch thick (.635 cm). Practice switching between balls of clay that are about the size of an orange and about the size of a grapefruit. When you switch to a smaller amount of clay after practicing with a larger amount, it should feel easier! For this assignment I'm valuing straight walls and even thickness over height; the height will come with time if you are practicing proper technique. Before removing your cylinders from the wheel, rims should be compressed with a rib or a sponge, and feet should be undercut with your wooden knife. Remember to scratch your name into the bottom of your cylinders before bisque-firing! Cylinders will be made from stoneware. Bisqueware should be glazed using high-fire glazes and placed on the glazeware shelf when ready for firing. Glazeware will be fired to cone 10 in a gas kiln. Turn in your best 4 cylinders for grading.



Courtney Lepper



Hannah Bowen

Project 4: Wheel-Thrown Cups / Mugs

Project Description

Now that you can throw a cylinder, give that cylinder an inviting shape, add a handle, and make it a mug! To get a sense of the possibilities, we'll research contemporary and historical cup shapes and discuss our research in class. Mugs / steins / tumblers should be made from 3/4 lb - 1 lb of clay (.34 - .45 kg). Rims and feet should show attention to detail: rims should be beveled to allow clean dispensation of liquid; feet should not be sharp. Trimmed feet will be demonstrated and will be considered extra credit for this project. The best 4 cups will be graded. At least 2 of these 4 cups should have handles. Different handle-making techniques will be demonstrated in class. Handles should complement the forms to which they are attached. Cups should be made from stoneware and glazed with high-fire glazes after bisque-firing.

Autumn Straessle



Laura Mergy



Mo Eh



Mo Eh



Project 5: Bowl with Trimmed Feet

Project Description

Let's make some bowls! Bowls may be tall (cereal or soup bowls) or shallow (pasta bowls) but each should have a smooth, continuous interior curve and an exterior shape that matches the interior. Each bowl should have a finished rim and a neatly trimmed foot. Trimming will be demonstrated in class and is essential to your grade for this project. I'd like you to work with 1.5 - 2 lbs (.7 - .9 kg) for the purposes of this project, though bowls that are smaller or larger may be considered for extra credit. Bowls will be made from stoneware, glazed with high-fire glazes, and fired in a gas kiln to cone 10. Turn in your best 4 bowls to be graded.

Hannah Bowen



Laura Mergy



Student Images: Summer Ceramics II

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Del Enyart



Katie Hines



Katie Hines



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Madelynn
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