COURSE DESCRIPTION: Intermediate Ceramics provides an overview of the medium of ceramics and its possibilities in wheel throwing. This class will focus on throwing tableware on the potter’s wheel. Through demonstrations and lectures the student will become familiar with basic methods of construction, decorating, glazing and firing techniques. At the end of the semester students should have a working knowledge of various ceramic forming techniques and an understanding of visual elements and principles of design. You will also learn the safe usage of materials and equipment in the studio.

TEXTBOOK: There is no required textbook for this course. There is a required tool list: see below. If you want to have good basic book on ceramics, I recommend one of the following: Working with Clay by Susan Peterson; Craft and Art of Clay by Susan Peterson; or Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight. Books specific to throwing and functional forms: The Basics of Throwing by David Cohen; A Potter’s Workbook by Clary Illian: Functional Pottery: Form and Aesthetic in Pots of Purpose by Robin Hopper. You are required to sign up for an email list from http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org/ . They send out several emails a week with tips on techniques and artists. This website is a great place to start exploring clay on the internet.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be five graded assignments throughout the semester. When I introduce each new assignment I will give you an assignment sheet explaining my expectations.

#1 Cylinders
#2 Bowls
#3 Mugs
#4 Lidded forms
#5 Free Choice

SKETCHBOOK: You are required to keep a sketchbook/notebook for this class. For each assignment your sketchbook should contain notes on demonstrations, sketches and ideas for forms and imagery, glaze notes and a self evaluation of your success with the project.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURES: For each assignment I will be demonstrating techniques and/or giving lectures on relevant information. These demonstrations and lectures will usually take place at the beginning of class so it is important that you arrive on time. If you miss a demonstration or lecture it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

CRITIQUES: We will have critiques at the start of class on Thursdays. You should present your best
work from each assignment. Critiques are when I grade your work; they are the equivalent of an exam. *Do not miss critiques.* It is your responsibility to know when critiques are to be held. You should have your assignment finished and ready for critique at the start of class on critique days.

*If you miss a critique your grade for that work will drop one full letter grade and it is your responsibility to contact me about evaluating your work.*

**GRADING:**

Assignments will be graded during 5 individual or group critiques held every Monday. Each project will be graded on the following criteria: Production level and/or completion of assignment: technical skill: progress in skill: effort: creativity and sketchbook.

Your final grade for the class will be based on:

- 80% Work presented at critique
- 20% Class Participation.

**A:** (90-100%) An honor grade; indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required.

**B:** (80-89%) Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance.

**C:** (70-79%) Indicates an average level of performance and completion of all assignments.

**D:** (60-69%) Indicates work of below-average quality and performance

**F:** (59% and below) Indicates failure

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Ceramics is a community activity. Through mixing clay and glazes to firing kilns, you will rely on each other to complete your projects. This part of your final grade will be graded in relation to your fellow students. Each time you mix clay, glazes, load kilns, etc. you will earn 5 points. At the end of the semester those with the most participation points will receive an “A” in participation with everyone else being graded in relation to them. For example, if StudentA has 100 participation points for an “A” then StudentB with only 70 participation points would have earned a “C”

**ATTENDANCE:** This is a studio art course and there is a direct relationship between your attendance and your success in this class. **Attendance is required.** I will be taking attendance at the start of each class. If you are late or leave early you will only get half credit for that class. If you have 3 unexcused absences your final grade for the course will drop one letter. Excused absences include only illness with a doctor’s note or official university functions with a note. If you miss a significant number of classes, even if they are excused, you will find it difficult to pass this class. If you do miss class it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. I will allow you to make up 2 absences by attending approved art related functions and writing a 1 page (200 word) response

**TOOLS REQUIRED**

- Basic pottery tool kit
- Serrated rib (or fork or scoring tool)
- Calipers (for lidded forms)
- Variety of brushes
- Small bucket for water
- Large sponge to clean up
- Clear plastic to cover your work.
- Sketchbook
● You may need to purchase additional tools for some of the projects.
● You may want an apron, towel, and ruler.

MATERIALS: Your **lab fee** covers a reasonable amount of clay, glazes and firings for the semester. If you use an excessive amount of clay you may be asked to pay an additional fee.

**Mixing Clay:** Clay is only to be mixed during class time or with prior approval from instructor. You must fill out the mixing log posted by the mixer each time you mix clay.

** You will be making clay as a class; no special clay bodies will be mixed in this class.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:
● Clean up when you are finished. This means cleaning off the tables and wheels with a wet sponge, sweeping up the floor if necessary, and putting your work away on the shelf. Make sure to cover the clay bin. Do not put clay down the sink. Do not leave your work on the tables.
● **Leave the studio cleaner than when you found it.**
● Everyone will be expected to help mix clay during the semester
● You are expected to work hard and show progress. To complete the projects you will need to work outside of class time. Expect to spend at least 6 additional hrs a week.
● You will have 24hr access to the studio. Use it.
● If at any time you do not understand an assignment, expectation or use of equipment, it is your responsibility to contact me. **Do not use any equipment that you have not instructed in the proper and safe use of by the instructor.**
● Absolutely no clay, glaze materials or equipment can be removed from the building.
● Only currently enrolled ceramics students have access to the ceramics studio. This means no kids, spouses or friends. Your friends and family can visit you outside of class time, but they cannot use any materials or equipment.
● No cell phones during class time.
● iPods: you must be able to hear me at all times during class time. You may listen to your iPod on work days as long as you can still hear if I make an announcement. No iPods during critiques or demonstrations. If I feel that it is becoming an impediment to the class I will require that you put them away.

**On the final day of class all work must be removed from the studio and lockers cleaned out. Work and tools left in the studio after this date will be thrown away.**

Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to
students with disabilities