Class Title: Explore Ceramics: An Introduction to Working with Clay
Instructor: Erica Groff

Days: Thursdays  
Time: 9:30am – 12:30 pm

Class Description:
Explore the tactile and fun nature of clay in this introduction to the medium. Emphasis will be on the fundamental skills, vocabulary, equipment, materials, and preparations specific to ceramics. Each 5-week series will focus on a specific project. Students should come prepared with creative ideas for personalizing their projects, as well as ideas for building their own original clay creations.

Class Goals:
Learn basic clay skills as well as becoming familiar with the tools, materials, and terms associated with clay building and ceramics. Students will begin to build a repertoire of techniques that can be applied to any future clay project. The class will also be an exercise in imagination and how to apply your ideas to clay.

Class 1:
Introduction to the pottery studio, demonstration, questions & answers. Then we'll dive right in and begin making your ceramic project of choice with step-by-step instruction as you build your creation.

Class 2:
Continue and complete the project and introduce a second project or multiple pieces.

Class 3:
Discuss parameters of the project and how it can be expanded in a future projects.

Class 4:
Introduce glazing techniques for and begin applying under glazes (if your project requires them), which by this class, will have been bisque fired and ready for glaze.

Class 5:
Demonstration on glazing. Students will finish glazing all ceramic projects. (During the next week student work will be fired and will be ready for pick up within the following week to week and a half).
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Students will have learned techniques that will allow them to approach clay with some confidence and be able to translate ideas into clay forms.

Required Materials:

Paper and pen/pencil for notes and making sketches.
The pottery studio has the tools you'll need for these projects but students are encouraged to bring their own pottery tool kit and apron if they have one (Basic pottery tool kits that can be found at most any art supply store contain: potter's rib, steel scraper, wood modeling tool, needle tool, ribbon tool, loop tool, sponge, and wire clay cutter).
Most important: an open mind and willingness to have a good time.

NOTE: Price includes up to 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing. Additional clay may be purchased from EAC. Students must adhere to the EAC’s Pottery Studio Policies and Procedures.

Purpose of this Syllabus: The purpose of this syllabus is to inform students of the goals, activities, and specific policies of the course, as well as outline the students’ responsibilities in the learning process. It is the responsibility of the instructor to communicate this information in a clear and specific manner to students the first day of class. Since a syllabus is developed by an instructor before the class begins, it is considered a plan and is subject to revisions based on the judgment of the instructor. Course activities, projects and deadlines can be revised. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the requirements of the course after such information is presented by the instructor. This syllabus is a preliminary outline of the class/workshop and can be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

Health and Safety: Ringling College of Art and Design and its divisions are committed to providing students, faculty, instructors and staff with a safe and healthful learning and work environment and to comply with all applicable safety laws and regulations and safe work practices.