

FA107 Ceramics

Seminar Leader: Joon Park

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Course: Ceramics workshop at the Factory / Mon 14.00 - 17.15

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This studio course covers the broad ceramics-making techniques at the foundational level. It explores a variety of ceramic materials and methods for producing functional ware and ceramic art objects. Students learn basic skills of clay preparation, wheel-throwing, hand-building, glazing, and applying decorations.

Requirements

It is required that students,

- Turn off phones during class time
- Headphones are not allowed during class time.
- 50 Euros Material fee per student.
- Show autonomous and robust work ethic to finish assignments outside of class.
- Demonstrate a considerate shared studio practice, such as cleaning up the studio after every session.
- Have attentive and autonomous project care
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and / or any personal belongings before the end of the semester. Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Donating unrequested artworks and / or art materials is not permitted and will still be considered student property, expected to be removed by your inspection deadline.

Ceramics is a beginner's level studio course designed to help students learn about the basic skills and techniques of pottery/ceramic art. Students will learn the context of ceramics from both historical and technical perspectives and apply the acquired knowledge to develop their artistic and practical ideas further. This course consists of slide presentations, studio demonstrations, off-campus glazing workshops, and group discussions as an integral part of the final project presentations.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

It is vital that students attend the glazing class (date TBC) as this is a one-off class in which the work will be glazed before firing.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes (In this course, a total of 4 classes), regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

Assessment

The instructor assesses the performance on

- Evidence of an understanding of the technical aspects of the assigned projects
- the degree of involvement apparent in finished assignments, emphasizing improvement over the semester
- the quality of craftsmanship and the degree of creativity shown in the Final Project.

Assessment 1: Throw two bowls and two cups. (trimmed) Due 15. Sep

Assessment 2: Throw one cylinder 15 cm or higher with a base diameter of 10cm or narrower. (untrimmed) Due 22. Sep

Assessment 3: Make a handbuilt object. (trimmed, decorated but unfired). Due. 6. Oct

Assessment 4: The review of 4-5 selected glazed/decorated ceramic objects. (glaze fired). Due 20. Oct

****Please note that students must submit selected/finished works latest by 6. Oct / 1. Dec 2025 to allow for drying, firing, and glazing.****

Assessment 5: Final project/presentation. 8.Dec

Participation: 40% on attendance/punctuality, 40% Studio maintenance/clean up, 20% group participation

Grade Breakdown

Assessment 1: 10%

Assessment 2: 10%

Assessment 3: 10%

Assessment 4: 10%

Final project: 40%

Participation: 20% (15% weeks 1-9, 15% week 10-15)

Schedule

Week 1 Wheel Throwing: Wedging fundamentals, centering, throwing a bowl

Week 2 Wheel Throwing: Trimming fundamentals, throwing a cup

Week 3 Wheel Throwing: throwing a cylinder using the collaring/choking technique

Week 4 Wheel Throwing: Plates using bats

Week 5 Hand building & Decoration techniques Introduction

Week 6 Hand building & Decoration techniques continued/ selected 4-5 pieces of green-ware due, bisque firing

Week 7 Glazing workshop/ glazeware due latest by 13.Oct

Week 8 Fall break

Week 9 Group discussion on the fired works, Intermediate throwing / handbuilding techniques workshop, Final project draft/presentation due 20 .Oct

Week 10 Final Project Week 1, Studio production

Week 11 Final Project Week 2, Studio production

Week 12 Final Project Week 3, Studio production

Week 13 Final Project Week 4, Green-ware due

Week 14 Final Project Week 5, Glazeware submission

Week 15 Final project presentation, studio clean up

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Grades Submission

Mid term assessment will consist of assessments 1+2+3+4 and half of the Participation grade.

The final assessment will include the final project presentation and half of the Participation grade.

Facility Guidelines:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

The Factory Policy Agreement

- 1) "The Factory" at BCB (Eichenstrasse 43) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Mandatory in-class orientations are required to retain chip access to the Factory. Chip access to The Factory is from 7am to 10pm everyday during the semester. At 10pm students will be asked to leave the building by BCB security personnel.
- 2) Students agree to only use the common spaces that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits. For requesting to reserve the dance / theater space and / or Seminar Room 6, please fill out the online [Factory Reservation Form](#). The Factory Staff will get back to you within two weekdays. (Monday - Friday).
- 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
- 4) Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) Spray painting and handling of any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not allowed inside the building. Contact the Studio Arts Manager concerning working with these materials. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be properly protected with a drop cloth or a packing paper provided by the workshop.
- 6) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside the workshop and studio 6.
- 7) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 8) If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 9) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with the Studio Arts Manager.
- 10) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. Final grades may be penalized and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
- 11) Contact Studio Arts Manager directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu