

MINORS

CONTEMPORARY CLAY MINOR

Our Mission:

The Contemporary Clay Minor provides students the opportunity to explore several aspects of working in clay from the handmade to the mass produced, including utilitarian objects, unique sculptures, and installations utilizing the multiple. Students learn a combination of hand-building, potter's wheel throwing, slip-casting, glazing, and firing techniques as well as emerging digital technologies. Environmental and financial sustainability is also emphasized.

Participating Departments:

Program Learning Outcomes

Otis College Interdisciplinary Studies: Contemporary Clay Minor Program Learning Outcomes are action words describing our approach to learning, and what we commit to our students.

Contemporary Clay Minor Students Will:

Grow

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate: Disciplinary knowledge and skills • Proficiency in industry-standard skills, technologies, and processes Proficiency in ceramics techniques including hand-building, wheel throwing, slip casting, glazing, kiln stacking and firing, and an introduction to current digital technologies. Cross-disciplinary awareness and practice • Audience-focused research, historical context, and field-specific discourse Developed practice grounded in two or more disciplines, understanding the place of ceramics within historical and contemporary art, design, industry, and global cultures.

Dare

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate: Innovation • Experimentation and play • Challenge to the status quo • Bravery in their work and their interactions with others Capacity to push the boundaries of what clay as a material can do in various contexts and for a variety of purposes (artistic, functional, industrial, etc.), and what ceramic artists/designers can do in combination with or in relation to their majors.

Reflect

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate: Capacity to communicate (orally, written, and/or visually) about their practice Ability to clearly articulate the relationship between their work in clay and their majors, and how these studies will help them achieve personal and professional goals. Analysis of both ethical and aesthetic impacts of art and design Analysis of the ethical and aesthetic impacts their work has on their fields of study as well as society, culture and the environment.

Connect

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate: Ability to work well, collaborate, and build relationships across differences in identity, perspective, aesthetics and disciplines in a communal ceramics studio, and among local artists, designers and curators in the contemporary ceramics community. Integration of skills and concepts: Successfully integrate skills, information and concepts between their majors and Contemporary Clay minor, while understanding and articulating their positionality in their chosen fields.

Shine

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate: Ability to define aspirations, future goals and their role within the creative economy. Defined aspirations, future goals and one's role as an interdisciplinary creative within the creative economy. Compelling presentation and exhibition skills, through Annual Exhibition, Capstone, and portfolios. Successful completion and presentation of original work in clay with or without other materials, that resonates with intended audiences. Proficiency in budgeting, time and project management. Functional knowledge of basic business practices, including budgeting, time and project management.

Course Descriptions

PRDS 362 - Beginning Ceramics (3.00)

This course introduces students to a wide range of ceramic practices through cross-cultural, thematic, and technical approaches. Students explore functional, sculptural, and production ceramics, beginning with sketched ideas or sketch models and culminating in finished ceramic pieces.

SCNG 236 - Ceramics (3.00)

This sculpture elective will teach fundamental skills of working with clay. You will learn the foundational skills of wheel throwing and hand building: centering and forming shapes on the wheel, wedging, pinching, coiling, soft and hard slab construction, building and assembling in parts, using a banding wheel, and various ways to manipulate the surface of the clay, such as carving, stamping, printing, drawing, painting, and glazing. You will learn how kilns work and various ways to fire the clay, with an introduction to how different glazes and clays react to different firing techniques. Exposure to the historical use and international variety of techniques in ceramics will be integrated into the contemporary context. This is an introductory course; no experience is necessary.

CLAY 299 - Clay Electives (3.00)

Students will choose Clay Electives from the Minors Course Lists, selected by the Interdisciplinary Studies Director and Minor Area Head, in collaboration with each Academic Department. Clay Electives include any ceramics class offered across the college, as well as other applicable courses on related topics as determined each semester by the Minor Area Head and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies. Examples include: CAIL200 Made in USA, LIBS314 Business of Creativity, ENTR300 Intro. to Entrepreneurship, INTR330 ST: Design Lab, and PRDS462 ST: Packaging

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Electives

Course Title	Course Number	Credits
Ceramics	SCNG 236	3.00
Beginning Ceramics	PRDS 362	3.00
Intermediate Ceramics	PRDS 363	3.00
ST: Design Lab	INTR 330	3.00
Mathematics of a Startup	MATH 137	3.00

Elective Descriptions

SCNG 236 - Ceramics (3.00)

PRDS 362 - Beginning Ceramics (3.00)

PRDS 363 - Intermediate Ceramics (3.00)

INTR 330 - ST: Design Lab (3.00)

Upper division studio courses that facilitate student work across media, genres and disciplines, while also developing skills in interdisciplinary thinking in a supportive community. Topics vary each semester. Examples include: Design Lab, Interdisciplinary Practices, Interdisciplinary Career Pathways Fulfills studio electives.

MATH 137 - Mathematics of a Startup (3.00)

The Business Model Generation Canvas is a tool used by innovators and entrepreneurs around the world in different stages of the business life cycle: planning, raising capital, evaluation, restructuring, testing innovative ideas, mergers and acquisitions, and development. Students will study the nine building blocks of a business, analyze financial statements, and discuss their mathematical components. This is a project-based course where students will apply the principles they learn to create their own business model or analyze a start-up venture and present their assessment. Required for Entrepreneurship minors.

The five required courses to complete the Contemporary Clar minor replace studio electives or in some cases up to one LAS elective.