

ART 3307 CRN 12622 FOCUS ON FUNCTION – RITUALS AND CEREMONY – FALL 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title – Special Topics in Art Focus on Function – Rituals and Ceremony
Course Prefix CRN- 12622 Course Section – ART 3307
Course Location – Fox Fine Arts, Room 250
Course Meeting Times – Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM to 11:50 AM

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor's Name – Professor Dina Perlasca
Instructor's Office – Fox Fine Arts, 250 B
Instructor's Office Hours – T-Th 8 – 9 AM - by appointment
Instructor's Email dpperlasca@utep.edu

INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION

Dina Perlasca is a Mexican American artist from the Paso del Norte Region. She holds a BFA degree in Ceramics from The University of Texas at El Paso and an MFA in Ceramics from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. Dina works in photography, ceramics, and domestic materials informed by her Mexican upbringing and borderland cultures. Dina actively exhibits her work regionally and nationally throughout the United States. She holds the Vice President position on the board of Directors of Artaxis, visit artaxis.org, as well as Co-Leader at Bravo Studios at the Interdisciplinary Research Building at the University of Texas at El Paso.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ceramics 3304 is an intermediate-level course covering the discipline of functional ceramics. This course will provide instruction and practical forming experience as it relates to the design and production of wheel-thrown functional ceramics. Students will develop skills required to plan and execute intermediate-level forming problems specific to functional ceramics and engage in a group environment, fostering collaboration and critical assessment. This course will utilize and reiterate concepts and terminology previously covered in

Intermediate Ceramics is a studio practice course designed primarily to serve the needs of the studio-based art major. Course style can be described as “hands-on” studio/lab with demonstrations, lectures and in-class work time. In-class work time is structured to provide individualized instruction and assistance with the design/build process. This course will require significant additional work time outside of class. Students should anticipate spending 6 hours in class per week and an additional 6-10 hours outside of class per week to satisfactorily complete this class. Required texts and materials – Clay and clay tools, which have already been purchased for you, will be distributed in class. Generally, students should be prepared to spend \$50 for supplies not covered by the Department of Art.

COURSE PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

Students taking Intermediate Ceramics are required to have completed CERM 2314, or instructor approval. A student seeking prerequisite waiver must contact the instructor

REQUIREMENT FOR THIS COURSE

Note: Competency is defined, for this course, as a developed understanding and mastery of skills and knowledge needed to complete a task to a successful intermediate level. Competency can be demonstrated while designing a project, building a project, using the equipment in the ceramic's facilities, etc. Competency is a measure of how well you understand and use a process or skill. Confidence is defined as a student's willingness and self-trust in their own abilities to use the skills and processes learned during this course. Confidence is built throughout the semester and is demonstrated by the way that a student develops skills or competencies and their willingness to utilize these new skills.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- An intermediate level experience in the development and production/formation of functional ceramics.
- Additional understanding of the history of functional ceramics, with an emphasis on contemporary ceramics
- Intermediate level technical aspects of ceramic production, including glaze mixing, glaze application, and kiln firing
- Development of improved visual communication skills as they relate to 3-dimensional art.
- Development of self-expression, creative thinking and planning skills.

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Experience and intermediate level competency in the planning and production of functional ceramics.
- Intermediate level competency and confidence in the use of the ceramic's facilities equipped with ceramic forming tools.
- An improved understanding of the history of functional ceramics.
- An improved understanding and competency of the contemporary art world.
- An improved understanding and competency in their ability to realize and express their ideas both verbally, and in 3-dimensional terms.

COURSE EVALUATION/GRADING

- Grading will be based on the completion of all projects, special assignments, quizzes, mid-term and final exam, class participation and attendance.
- 60% Projects - up to 4 projects (will be introduced in class)
- 20% Blackboard Research Assignments- research assignments will be given to supplement current areas of study, i.e., preparatory professional drawings, research, reviews of exhibitions, and or journal articles.
- 10% Being Present during Self-Assessments, Discussions and Critiques, Final Critique as well as Final Cleaning Day- You must be present in all self-assessments, critiques, discussions, and final critique and cleaning day as well to return all the borrowed tools in good condition on the last day of classes.
- 10% Cart, Classroom Cleanliness, and Class Participation - participation in all art classes is highly encouraged if true learning is going to occur. The free exchange of ideas between students and the instructor is a valuable tool, and this interaction or lack thereof will be noted and recorded. Work will be done in class under the instructor's supervision. **Outside of class time, you will be required to complete some projects. Cleanliness and good organization of the assigned studio storage space are part of class participation, which promotes a healthy studio community.**
- Assignment Demonstrations dates and assignment due dates will be announced in class and in Blackboard. Late work will not be accepted in this course. Make-up work in the form of research will be granted only with a valid excused absence and should be discussed immediately with the instructor.

DESIGN STUDIO ETIQUETE

- Be present
- Be on time
- Pay attention
- Communicate effectively
- Be respectful, kind, considerate and courteous to yourself and others
- Maintain a clean space and pick up after yourself
- Remove personal work and tools from community areas in the studio

BASIC GRADING CRITERIA / ASSIGNMENT AND TASKS

The project grades will be established using full-class and individual critiques at the instructor's discretion. All students are expected to participate in all critiques, which includes discussion of their own projects as well as the projects of other students. At specific points in the timeline of each project, the instructor will

evaluate the project success by assigning a letter grade for each of the following 5 criteria:

- Initial preparation-drawings, models, evidence of thoughtful research
- building craft-technical skills of material manipulation
- glazing and firing-technical skills in glaze mixing, application, and firing
- concept-intellectual basis for work
- finished analysis-participation in critiques, self-assessment, evidence of finished research necessary to complete work, final documentation of completed work
- The letter grades for each project will be averaged into one final letter grade.
- Once a final course average is calculated, attendance penalties (if applicable) will be deducted and the final grade established

GRADING SCALE

- A = (100 – 90) Clearly Superior - concept, execution, presentation. Goes above and beyond the stated requirements
- B = (89 – 80) Good - Appropriate elements and principles of design, technical skills and materials are being used to render a satisfactory project. Deficiencies remain and have been identified in critiques.
- C = (79 – 70) Average - Meets only the stated requirements.
- D = (69 – 60) Poor - The completed works and the student's attitude both show serious deficiencies with regards to the understanding and application of basic concepts as identified in the class.
- F = (59 – 0) Failing - The student consistently fails to meet deadlines and produces projects that fail to utilize design, techniques or material

ASSIGNMENTS

Intermediate Ceramics is designed around Rituals and Ceremony functional ceramics themes, assigned projects, and tasks. Each assignment will be introduced via a presentation by the instructor and a detailed assignment sheet. Each of the assignments must be submitted in a completed condition at the time of the project grading critique. Grades established for these primary project assignments will constitute 60% of the final grade for this course. Please note that the Professor reserves the option to change, add or remove the assignments from those described. Assignments will be complimented by assigned readings and research. Potential outcomes may include a reflection paper, critical essay or presentation to the class, at the teacher's discretion.

CRITIQUES

- There will be individual and group in-progress critiques to help each student individually and formulate a plan to finish.
- Group critiques are scheduled at the completion of most assignments. Attendance is required to all critiques. Critiques are used to gauge the student understanding of the core concepts covered for that project and cumulatively throughout the semester.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance, punctuality, participation and appropriate class conduct is considered performance criteria for this class. Failure to perform required standards will result in strong grade penalties and can cause failure of this course.
- Each student is permitted 3 absences during the semester without penalty. Every absence after that will lower your grade a full letter grade per absence. This can quickly turn into a bad grade, and you might consider dropping yourself from the course, failure to do so might result in an F; After the 5th unexcused absence you will be asked to drop the course.
- Excused absences are defined as documented illness, serious illness, death in the immediate family or official UTEP related academic requirement. Please email as soon as you can and please provide me with your excuse slip and let me know about your situation. Court dates are unexcused absences. Discuss absence concerns immediately with the instructor.
- Attendance will be taken every single class at the start of class. Followed by announcements.
- All students are required to attend class on-time and to remain in the class the entire time. Entering class late, leaving early and or leaving a mess for me to clean is disruptive to the learning environment and the student community.

-Coming to class late or leaving early, and or leaving a mess for me to clean is regarded and graded as half an absence in a 15-minute window. After 15 minutes, you will be counted absent and cannot stay in the class. If you miss part of the announcements, do not interrupt me and ask me to start over. It is your duty to check the blackboard announcements for the day or ask one of your classmates after I finish. You may take breaks during your working time, not during attendance, announcements, lectures, and demonstrations.

-Demonstrations, Lectures, and Assignment Introduction will start 15 minutes after the class has started. When giving a demonstration, I will lock the doors. I expect your full attention during these times. Please put your phones on silent, no headphones or earbuds, and refrain from conversing or interrupting me during these times. You may have one earbud only during worktime. If you are disruptive or not paying attention, I will give you a warning in class; if it is done a second time, I will ask you to leave class, and you will be counted absent. I will address these issues through email. After 2 emails about class lack of attention and distraction issues, I will ask you to drop the class.

-For those who are in attendance: Thank you, thank you for taking your time and my time seriously. Please make sure to be ready at the beginning of class, go to the restroom, go get your coffee, water, snack, whatever you need to be ready to have your full attention for the duration of taking attendance, announcements, lecture and demonstration time. You should not step out of the classroom during these times as you will miss information and will get locked out.

-For those who did not make it and are more than 15 minutes late, please don't knock on the door. If the doors are locked, you will be marked absent and cannot come in. If you are absent on an Assignment Introduction and Demonstration Day, you will lose the privilege of completing the assignment that has been introduced and will get a 0 for that assignment. My time is valuable, and it is for those who have gone through the lecture material that I have prepared and have questions about the project once they have started, not to catch up students who were not there. I have this rule in place out of respect to myself as your professor and the time I invest to prepare a good lecture and demonstration. I also have these rules in place to acknowledge students who are interested in understanding and learning from the content of my class. If you have missed an introductory lecture or demonstration and you have lost the privilege to complete the assignment, please email me to let me know. I will take this case by case and email you back to either ask you to drop the class or let you know when you can return to attempt the next assignment.

-I value the students who are on time, take notes, make inquiries and are ready to learn during demonstrations; Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent. Information missed during an unexcused absence is the sole responsibility of the student.

CLASS CONDUCT COURSE PARTICIPATION

- Participation in all discussions, critiques and class days is required for this course.
- Development and execution of class projects must be done utilizing all class meetings. Projects executed solely out of class will not be accepted.
- Participation in the collaborative group environment of the studio is essential to the successful completion of this course.

SICK POLICY

If you are not feeling well or if you are sick, then you should not come to this class under any circumstances. You should instead seek medical care, and/or recuperate at home. Email me when you are able and let me know the circumstances. Please attach the doctor's note, and I will help you catch up in class when you are feeling better. If you are pregnant or have other physical issues, such as allergies to dust, respiratory issues, or anything that I should be aware of, please inform me of this immediately, and we will work to make you safe and comfortable. If a family member is ill, and you need to care for that person, please email me and let me know what your situation is.

GUESTS

– Guests are not permitted at any time during class. Please tell your friends, family members, partners, that they may see you before or after class time. You are expected to remain engaged in class and may not step-out to visit with guests during class. You will be held responsible for adhering to this policy, and I will give you one warning. After that, I will ask you to leave class and you will be counted absent for that class period.

CHILDREN

– Children are not permitted at any time, ever, to be in the studios. The studios can be very dangerous places and constant supervision requires unfocused course work.

GIFTS

– Gifts of any kind cannot be accepted. While the thought is appreciated, professionally speaking, it is not permissible.

CELL PHONES

– Please silence your cell phones during class time. You will be asked to leave if your phone or pager goes off during class and be counted absent for that class period.

MUSIC

– Music is not allowed during any instruction, lecture or during critiques. Students may listen to music at a low volume with ONE headphone during any other class time as long as it does not disturb other students. It is expected that these devices will be switched off when the instructor is addressing the class as a group for comments or directions.

STUDIO TIME

– The studio will be open for you to work in during class time and the rest of Tuesdays and Thursdays all day. Do take advantage of this time. On Mondays and Wednesdays, Ceramic One classes are in sessions from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. DO NOT ENTER THE CERAMIC ONE STUDIO DURING THIS WINDOW OF TIME, OR ASK PROFESSOR BURKE IF YOU CAN WORK ON THE WHEEL DURING HIS CLASS. THIS TIME IS EXCLUSIVE FOR CERAMIC ONE STUDENTS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE OF OTHER CERAMIC CLASSES AND CREATE A WORKING SCHEDULE THAT RESPECTS OTHER COURSES.

STUDIO SAFETY

– All safety procedures will be explained to you throughout the semester, and every consideration has been taken to create a safe environment for you to work in. Expect to get dirty as we are working with art tools and materials. Please dress appropriately, if you do not wish to get your clothes or hands dirty you may consider wearing an apron and gloves to class. Open toe shoes are not allowed, for your safety make sure to always wear closed toe shoes.

STUDIO TOOLS, ORGANIZATION AND CLEANLINESS

- Every time you exit the studio, you are required to clean up and organize your wheel, table space, storage, work area, and community areas you worked on. Please sponge/wipe tables, sweep and mop the area you worked on, and throw away any trash you might have produced. Clean, rinse, dry, and put away (in proper place) all borrowed studio tools. Please get a locker near our class. Art Lockers are available for check-out through The DoART Office, #350A.

ASIGNED STUDIO STORAGE SPACE

You must always maintain a clutter free and organized storage space.

PERSONAL SAFETY

– If you must work alone, late at night at any of the UTEP labs, please be sure to let someone know where you are, and please keep a cell phone with you. If you feel unsafe for any reason, you should call the UTEP police immediately (747-5611). Additionally, if you would like an escort to your car at night, please call the UTEP Police department, and they should accommodate your needs. Please inform me if there is a problem, and I will address it immediately with the proper authorities.

WORK REMOVAL

– Finished works must be removed by the date set by the instructor of this course. All works left in the studio after this date will be removed and disposed. Any tools and supplies left will be considered orphaned and will become the property of the department.

INCOMPLETES, WITHDRAWLS, PASS/FAIL

- Incompletes or "I" grades will be considered for students completing satisfactory or better work and having serious legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All "I" grades are at the discretion of the instructor and the approval of the Department Chair.
- Students hold full responsibility for withdrawing from this course if that procedure is elected. Withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date to drop a course with a "W". Students missing this deadline will be issued a grade for the performance in the course.
- ARTF 1303 Basic Design II is a grade-based course and is not available for audit or pass/fail options.

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for further information.

DISABILITIES

All reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities will be made and or provided. This course does require certain manual dexterity and physical abilities to complete the required projects. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Disabled Student Services Office can also be reached in the following ways:
Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> Phone: 915-747-5148 Email: cass@utep.edu

UTEP FOOD PANTRY

The University of Texas at El Paso, Memorial Gym, Room 105, 101 W. Robinson El Paso, Texas 79968 E: foodpantry@utep.edu P: (915) 747-8053

PROVIDING ACOMODATIONS FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS

The University of Texas at El Paso is a top-tier, open access research university that has long supported a culture of care and belonging for historically underserved students. Title IX is a federal law that requires schools that receive federal funds to provide reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant or have pregnancy-related conditions. This includes pregnancy, pre-natal doctor appointments, childbirth, false pregnancy, miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. If you are a student and need to request an accommodation, please go to the following website: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html>

By choosing to enroll in this class you agree to the conditions of this syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes she sees fit during the term of the 2024 Fall semester.