Spring 2026 CERM 3324 Intermediate Ceramics 5

COURSE INFORMATION
Course title –Intermediate Ceramics – Ceramics 5
Course prefix and number – CERM 3324 – CRN: 20549
Course meeting location – Fox Fine Arts Studio 252
Course meeting times – T/TH - 1:30 AM – 4:20 PM

INSTRUCTORS CONTACT INFORMATION
Instructor's name – Dina Perlasca
Instructor's office # - Fox Fine Arts 250 B
Instructor's office hours – T / TH 10:00AM to 11:00AM and by appointment.
Instructor's email - dpperlasca@utep.edu

INSTRUCTORS INTRODUCTION
Dina Perlasca is a Mexican American artist from The Paso del Norte Region, where she grew up on the border of Mexico and the U.S. Dina lives with her children in El Paso, Texas, the border of Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, where she travels often for family visits. Dina has an active studio practice at Bravo Studios in the Research Interdisciplinary Building at The University of Texas at El Paso. She obtained her BFA in Ceramics from The University of Texas at El Paso and her MFA in Ceramics at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. She has been a ceramic sculpture instructor at the El Paso Museum of Art in her undergraduate years and an Art Consultant in the Gadsden District in Santa Teresa, NM. Dina has also ventured into personal creative adventures, such as being the ranch manager for 2 years at her grandfather's Hacienda Xicalango in the middle of the Huastecan jungle mountains, at the heart of the Mexican Republic in the State of Hidalgo. She teaches undergraduate ceramics and design at The University of Texas at El Paso. She actively exhibits her artwork regionally, nationally, and internationally. Dina serves as President on the Artaxis Board of Directors and is the recipient of Clay-Houston's Texas BIPOC Emerging Artist award. She is part of The Color Network mentoring program, and her recent exhibitions include the Roswell Museum, the Juarez Museum, and Silver City's Clay-Fest, where she won first place. For additional information, please visit Dina's website at www.dinaperlasca.com and her Instagram @dinaperlasca

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS
Clay will be provided by the ceramic area and "on loan clay tools and bags." Clay bags and tools should always be kept in a safe place; a locker is recommended. Each student is responsible for their bag and tools and will return them at the semester's end. If an item has been lost, the student is responsible for replacing it before the last day of classes. Please keep in mind that you must account for shipping time as these tools are only available online through several online sources, such as newmexicoclay.com, amazon.com, or dickblick.com. Failure to return the bag and all the tools will affect your grade by one letter.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Ceramics 3324 is an intermediate/advanced level course that covers sculptural approaches to ceramics. This course will provide instruction and practical forming experience as it relates to the design and production of sculptural form. Each student will design and build projects fulfilling requirements set forth in the course assignments. Students will develop skills required to plan and execute forming problems focused in sculptural ceramics, and engage in a group work environment fostering collaboration and critical assessment. These courses will utilize and reiterate concepts and terminology previously covered in Ceramics 3314.

Ceramics 3324 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 in order 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.

COURSE PREREQUISITE INFORMATION
Students taking Ceramics 3324 are required to have completed CERM 3314, or instructor approval. A student seeking prerequisite waiver must contact the instructor.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CERAMICS 5- 3324 INCLUDE

Goals and objectives targeted in Ceramics 3324 include:

-An intermediate/advanced level experience in the development and production/formation of sculptural ceramics.
-An intermediate/advanced level exposure to the history of sculptural ceramics.
-Intermediate/advanced 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

Students who complete these courses will have:

-Experience and intermediate level competency in the planning and production of sculptural ceramics.
-Intermediate level competency and confidence in the use of the ceramics facilities equipped with ceramic forming tools.
-An improved understanding of the history of sculptural 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.

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/advanced level. Competency can be demonstrated while designing a project, building a project, using the equipment in the ceramics facilities, etc. Competency is a measure of how well you understand and use a process or skill.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is designated as a hybrid course, which requires work outside of the UTEP studios. This may include at-home artwork assignments, online research, and individual and/or group critiques. You must have a digital device to support these remote tasks. You will need a decent internet connection. Please note that we will use Blackboard throughout the semester. In other words, you will be logging in on Blackboard often. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard, and you will be tasked with taking quizzes and exams and uploading written assignments and photographs of your artwork to discussion folders.

COURSE STRUCTURE

We will meet in person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. UTEP will have monitored open studio hours for you to complete your work outside of class time. The Monitored Hours and open studio times will be posted on the doors of the ceramic studio. We generally have an open studio policy during the week; just be mindful of when other classes are in session. I will also announce the schedules for this semester through Blackboard within the first two weeks of class.

EXAM

One examination covering terms and concepts used in Ceramics 3324 will constitute 10% of the final course.

CERAMIC STUDIO ETTIQUETE

-Be on time
-Keep a clutter-free cart; only projects you are working on should be on your cart; tools and any other items must be kept under lock in your locker.
-Clean up after yourself every time you are in the studio
-Be courteous to each other
-Remove your work and tools from studio community areas after you are done working

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be introduced individually through lectures, related contemporary artists, articles, videos, podcasts, and technique demonstrations. Assignment lectures, introductions, and demonstrations will only be done once, with no exceptions.

-In addition to ceramic studio projects, students will be required to do research projects supporting their sculptural clay projects.

These Include:
-Artist Talk – Reaction papers and discussion

-Assignment Terminology Exam. Students will complete a cumulative ceramic terminology/vocabulary exam. The terms and vocabulary will be based on the materials and processes covered throughout the semester.

-Assignment Clayflicks: ceramics in film. Written reviews and reaction papers
-Assignment Podcast review: audio ceramics!
-Assignment Digital Clay and Assigned Articles: CFile contemporary ceramics research review paper

-Most studio-based art assignments include a written paper component. Details will be covered in each assignment.
-The instructor will introduce the assignments through a presentation and a detailed assignment sheet (in person or via Blackboard). -The assignments must be submitted in a completed condition during the project grading critique. The grades established for these primary project assignments will constitute 60% of the final grade for this course. The exam on terminology will comprise 10% of the final grade.

- Blackboard Research Submissions: you will be responsible for uploading all required Artist Research, Reading, Video, and Podcast reviews, along with progress images of the work you are currently working on. Saturday Blackboard Submission will account for 30% of your final grade.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Active communication is key to any successful relationship. Please get in touch with me with any questions, concerns, or life issues that may impact your course participation. In addition to meeting in class, we can also meet in person by appointment. Please let me know if you want to meet so I can prepare for it. The best way to contact me is through the UTEP email system. My email address is dpperlasca@utep.edu. I will make every effort to respond to your email promptly. Please note that I send course announcements via Blackboard to your UTEP email address. I expect you to check your UTEP email regularly.

GRADING STANDARD AND CRITERIA

Evaluation of student performance for this course is done in the following manner:
-All grades are calculated using percentages and converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

90% & above	*= A*	*excellent quality work*
80% & below 90%	= B	above average work
70% & below 80%	= C	average work
60% & below 70%	= D	below average work
Below 60%	= F	unsatisfactory work, failing

-The primary 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 include discussion of their projects as well as the projects of other students. After each project and discussion, the instructor will evaluate the project's success by assigning a rating of 0-10 for each of the three criteria: Concept, Concern, and Craftpersonship. The concept will determine the quality of the idea for the project. The concern will evaluate the dedication, diligence, and effort with which the student designs and completes the project. Craftpersonship will determine the skill and quality of the material manipulation within the project. The three criteria ratings will be averaged to establish a project percentage for each assignment. The project grades will constitute 60% of the course's final grade.

- Research Submissions constitute 30%
-The exam on terminology will constitute 10% of the final grade.
-The project and exam grades will calculate a final course percentage.
Once the final course average is calculated, attendance penalties (if applicable) will be deducted, and the final grade will be established.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance, punctuality, participation, and appropriate class conduct are performance criteria for this class. Failure to meet these standards will result in substantial grade penalties and can result in failure of the course.
Attendance will be taken every single class at the starting time, no earlier or later.

Absences:
-Each student is permitted three excused absences during the semester without penalty.
-Excused absences are documented illness, serious illness, death in the immediate family, or official UTEP-related academic requirement.
-Students with more than 3 excused absences should consider dropping this course and retaking it at a time when the student can commit the proper attention to the course.
-Please do not schedule non-emergency appointments or events during our class time. Examples include: academic advising, job interviews, legal, court dates, dental, medical, weddings, family travel etc. Missing class due to these absence examples constitutes an unexcused absence.
-Email your professor with proper documentation if you have an excused absence within a 2-day window. If you have an excused absence during the Introduction or demonstration of a new project, you will be asked to do an alternate research assignment outside of class, as lectures, introductions, and demonstrations will only be done once.
-4 absences result in a one-full letter grade drop in the final course grade.
- At 5 absences, the student will receive an F and lose the privilege to attend the rest of the class. Students in this situation should consider dropping themselves from the course and retaking it when they can commit the proper attention to the course. The professor will not drop you, if you choose to do so you may drop the class on your own. Otherwise, you will receive an F as a final grade.
-Coming to class unprepared or attending class and not working is regarded as absent.
-Information missed during an unexcused absence is the student's sole responsibility; the student must refer to the information given through the blackboard to catch up. Do not disturb your peers or rely on them to help you during class. As a student, you are not responsible for keeping your fellow students up to date.
Attending class later than 15 minutes or leaving early is considered an absence and graded as such. All students must attend class on time and remain in the class the entire time. Entering class late, leaving early, or leaving for a long time in the middle of the class disrupts the learning environment.

Tardies:
-You are considered tardy if you are not in the classroom when the class starts within a 15-minute window.
- If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to write your name on the sheet designated for students who are tardy on chalkboard. This sheet will be removed after 15 minutes, and if you are not on time or on that list, you will be counted absent.
-2 tardies equals one absence.

Privilege to stay in class if you are tardy:
If it’s a workday and you have walked into the classroom past the 15-minute tardy window, you will be counted absent but may remain in the classroom and work on your project without disrupting any of your peers or professor. However, if it’s a New Project Introduction Day, a Drawing Presentation Day, or a Demonstration Day, the door will be closed, or I will ask you to leave the classroom, and at that point, you will lose the privilege of moving forward with the new assignment. Please be respectful of your professor and peers, and do not disturb the classroom and leave.

-If you find yourself in this situation, email your professor to let her know that you have lost the privilege to pursue that assignment, and your professor will email you, letting you know when the next project will be introduced so you can attend until then and pursue the next assignment. You will receive a 0 for the assignment you have lost the privilege to pursue.

CLASS CONDUCT

-Work ethic and expected behavior in the classroom- All students are expected to be present and attentive and give full attention during the entirety of announcements, lectures, assignment introductions, demonstrations, and working time.

- Asking for clarification from the professor during and after announcements, lectures, assignment introductions, and demonstrations: Please raise your hand and wait until the professor pauses to ask your question. You are welcome to ask questions about specific topics within the assignment. However, you must pay attention; the professor will not give or repeat demonstrations for individual students after she has just given them. You are welcome to ask questions during class. Make sure you understand and ask for clarifications during class time. Your professor has other obligations and other courses in the Art Department; please be courteous and ask all your questions during class or through email.

Classroom peer ethic: Please always be courteous to one another. There may only be four students per table to ensure all students have enough room. You will be asked to move if you are the fifth student on a table.

-Studio class time working ethic- You are expected to work on your assignment during class. If you finish before the class ends, talk to your professor to review your project and see if anything else needs to be done or refined. If the professor considers that you are done. Then, you must leave the classroom and allow the rest of the students to continue working. You should not stay in the classroom to socialize; this is disruptive and disrespectful to your professor and peers.

-Sick Policy – If you are not feeling well or sick, you should not come to this class under any circumstances. You should instead seek medical care and/or recuperate at home. Email me or call me when you can and let me know the circumstances, 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 problems, 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 or call and let me know your situation.

-Guests – Guests are not permitted at any time during class. Please tell your friends, family members, and partners that they may see you before or after class time. You are expected to always remain 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 to be in the studios anytime. The studios can be hazardous, and constant supervision requires unfocused coursework.

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

Cell phones: Please turn off your phones during class. If your phone or pager goes off during class, you will be asked to leave and counted absent for that class period.

-Music—Music is prohibited during instruction, lectures, or critiques. Students may listen to music at a low volume with headphones during any other class time if it does not disturb other students. However, these devices are expected to be switched off when students ask questions of the instructor or when the instructor addresses the class as a group for comments or directions.

Studio Safety: You will be explained all safety procedures throughout the semester, and every effort has been made to create a safe environment for you to work in.

- Cleanliness -You must clean up your work area in the studio every day you work there. If you leave the studio, you must clean up. Please put all your tools, materials, etc., away in your lockers, sweep/wipe down tables, and throw trash away once you finish using the labs. If you have difficulty cleaning up after yourself, you will receive a special tutorial on cleaning up after class. Art Lockers are available for check-out through The DoART Office, #350A.

-Personal Safety – If you must work alone late at night, please 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
Please call the UTEP police immediately (747-5611). Additionally, if you would like an escort to your car at night, please get in touch with the UTEP Police Department; they should accommodate your needs. Please inform me of a problem, and I will address it immediately with the proper authorities.

Work Removal—The instructor of this course must remove finished works by the set date. After this date, all works left in the studio will be removed and disposed of. Any remaining tools and supplies will be considered orphaned and become the department's property.

-Incompletes, Withdrawals, Pass/Fail*:* Incompletes or "I" grades will be considered for students who complete satisfactory or better work and have serious, legitimate situations beyond their control requiring additional time to complete the course requirements. All "I" grades are at the instructor's discretion and with the Department Chair's approval.
If they elect that procedure, students are fully responsible for withdrawing from this course. To drop a course with a "W," withdrawals must be completed on or before the final date. Students who miss this deadline will be issued a grade for their performance in the course.

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without crediting the source of that information or wording; it is also unacceptable. 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 requires manual dexterity and physical abilities to complete the necessary 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. Suppose you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations. In that case, you must 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 ACCOMMODATIONS 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 accommodation, please visit the following website: https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html.

Please return this agreement section to Professor Perlasca after reading the syllabus and confirming your understanding of its content. The tool kit will only be distributed once students have secured a locker near the ceramic studio.

CERAMIC STUDENT TOOK KIT LOAN AGREEMENT Locker # _____ TOOL KIT # _____

The Ceramic Tool Kit and Bag shall be returned to the Lender (UTEP Ceramic Studio) in as good condition as when received by the Borrower (UTEP Ceramic Student), except for reasonable wear and tear. During the 2026 Spring Semester Loan Period, from January to May, the Borrower (UTEP Ceramic Student) agrees to assume all responsibility for and/or replace any lost tools before return. The complete Tool Kit and Bag must be returned by May 7th; failure to return the tool kit will affect your grade.

By signing this document, you are confirming that you have read the entire 2026 Spring syllabus, that you understand it, and that you agree to adhere to its rules and policies; by signing this document, you also agree to adhere to the Ceramic Student Tool Kit Loan Agreement policies and procedures.

Student Name: _____ Ceramic Time Class and Level: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____