

Glass: Casting, ACR 333-1

Spring 2026, Course Syllabus

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Course Description:

Intermediate glass casting and kiln forming. 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: ACR 233. Open only to art majors. Open only to School of Art majors and minors. Or permission by instructor.

Course Overview:

Student will be introduced to various modeling, mold making, and casting techniques and given time to experiment with materials, process, and firing schedules as they work towards main projects. Projects will have learning objectives towards process and artistic expression.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should demonstrate understanding and application of skills and knowledge in the following categories:

Vocabulary: The ability to understand, define and articulate terms and concepts applicable to glass as material, glass casting techniques and firings, model and refractory mold materials, and glass studio safety.

Materials & Process: Develop and refine the use of modeling materials, refractory materials, glass materials, and kilns to execute the parameters of the assignments and projects.

History: Awareness of artists/designers within the glass field from a historic context to contemporary artists.

Critique: Employ varied critique strategies to develop responses to, analyze, and interpret work of others as well as receive and understand constructive criticism of one's own work.

Creativity and Decision Making: Pursue individual research and work through challenging design problems in the creation of new work.

Suggested Text:

Glass Notes, A Reference for the glass artist by Henry Halem, Firing Schedules for Glass, The Kiln Companion, by Graham Stone, Pate deVerre and Kiln Casting of Glass by Jim Kervin and Dan Fenton, Mould Making for Glass by Angela Thqaites, Engraved Glass, International Contemporary Artists, by Tom and Marilyn Goodearl, and The Joy of Coldworking, by Johnathon Schmuck.

The Glick Center for Glass and Ball State University Library have a wonderful collection of art books which are suggested to use when researching and designing.

Course Modality / Structure:

The format for this class will combine lecture, demonstration, group discussion, studio work time, group work time, and critique.

Attendance Policy:

Students are to attend all regularly scheduled classes. More than three un-excused absences will lower your final grade by 1/3 letter grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class period and students regularly arriving late or leaving class early, will be marked as having one absence.

Any student missing class will be responsible for any new projects that may be assigned or any class work that may be collected on that day. If you must miss class on the day work is due, the work must be delivered to the studio, and I must be notified for you to receive full credit. **If you happen to miss a class demonstrating a tool/equipment, you will not be permitted to use that tool, due to safety.**

Student's attendance to finals is mandatory.

In The Event of Illness:

If a student is ill for an extended period, the professor reserves the right assign an alternative assignment, which may take the form of an at-home project or research related to the process. Incompletes may be an option, depending on the situation and the student's academic standing in the class.

Classroom Participation:

Students are required to come to class prepared to work with the designated materials necessary for the current assignment. If a student comes to class unprepared, they may be counted as absent for that class day. Verbal participation in the class is very important and students are encouraged to ask questions and to express opinions. The studio does tend to get messy and periodically we will have cleanup times where everyone is expected to participate.

Phones/Devices:

Phone will only be allowed for instructional use during class – if a student is researching information for an assignment or referencing Canvas for this class.

Assignment Collection Policy:

All class work and assignments will be accepted on a specific due-date, and any late work will receive a lower grade. All work is due at the beginning of the class period on the specified date. At times kiln space and kiln programs can prolong time needed to complete work. Professor will work with students on project groupings, schedules, and adjusted timelines when appropriate.

Student Academic Ethics Policy:

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.

Glass Casting Projects (3):

Each project is 50pts towards the final grade.

- Project 1, Process Focus: Pate de Verre
- Project 2, Process Focus: Positive
- Project 3, Process Focus: Negative

As stated in the course overview, students are to focus on process and artistic expression.

Note that all projects are open to mixed media

Glass Casting Assignments (7):

Project Proposals require artist/content research and design drawings. Each Project Proposal is 12pts towards final grade.

- Project 1, Project Proposal (drawings and research)
- Project 2, Project Proposal (drawings and research)
- Project 3, Project Proposal (drawings and research)

Casting glass can require multiple steps and throughout the semester the following steps will be graded for technical or experimental achievement. Each will be 16pts towards final grade.

- Warm-Up, Experimental Casting (2 small molds)
- Project 1, Pate de Verre, Color Chart Test or Firing Test

- Project 2 or 3, Rubber Mold
- Project 2 or 3, Investment Mold

Canvas Discussion Posts (3):

Canvas Discussion Posts will be remote submissions through the Canvas course site. Each Project will conclude with a discussion post involving documented images of finished work, written artist statement, and written peer feedback. Each Canvas Discussion is 12pts towards final grade.

Canvas Safety Quiz (1):

One quiz will be on the safety guidelines reviewed in the Glick Studio Handbook. This quiz is 10pts towards the final grade.

Studio Maintenance (1):

Throughout the course students will learn more about glass equipment and studio maintenance. This one assignment focuses on community studio wax but also informs how one can reuse sculpture wax within an individual studio practice. This assignment is 8pts towards the final grade.

Final:

Critique of the final main project.

Extra Credit:

Students may earn one extra credit for the course. Extra credit assignment options will be posted on Canvas. A well-earned extra credit can receive up to a third letter grade increase on the final grade.

Semester Grading:

Projects: 47.5%

Technical Assignments: 20%

Project Proposals and Project Discussion Posts: 26.5%

Safety Quiz, Studio Maintenance: 5.5%

-Semester Grade also includes attendance and participation in class, final, and extra credit, if submitted.

-Assignment details, including instructions, relevant readings, due dates, and grading criteria/rubrics will be posted and updated on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly to stay informed and on track.

Grading Scale:

A = 94-100 pts

A- = 90-93

B+= 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+= 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D+= 67-69

D = 64-66

D- = 60-63

F = 0-59

Canvas and Gradebook:

Grades for the class will be posted on Canvas and students can keep track of their progress there.

Written comments will also be posted in Canvas Gradebook for main projects. Canvas will be the main method of communication and relevant course information, so it is important that you check it regularly.

Email Etiquette:

Students are encouraged to email or send a message in Canvas to the Professor if they have any questions or concerns. In order to maintain a level of professionalism, I ask that you use a respectful letter format when contacting your professor through email. The Professor will work to return emails from your official BSU address or Canvas email account within 48 hours during business days, Monday through Friday.

Material Fee:

A material fee of \$330.00 is assessed for materials that are not locally available and are utilized in a group setting. Students will need to purchase general materials and tools for individual projects as materials such as tape, screws, and wire are not provided by the studio. Below are a few items each student will be required to have:

- safety glasses (one set will be provided by the studio to students who have not taken a glass course the semester prior)
- N-95 dust mask with a sealed container
- sketchbook, pencils
- permanent marker
- ruler with cork backing
- old hand towel
- lock (optional for personal locker)

Student's individual projects may require additional materials.

Classroom Lockers:

Individual locker space and group shelving space are available to you but must be cleared by the graduation date of each semester.

Studio Key Card Access

Key card access will be processed after the first week of classes.

Safety and Access Information:

Please refer to the Glick Center for Glass Safety Handbook. This information will be further reviewed in class and a safety quiz will be given through Canvas.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure:

Familiarize yourself with building evacuation routes. There are exits through the hotshop large garage doors and small side garage door, the main entrance door to the lobby, and coldshop back door. In case of a fire, we will exit the Glick Center for Glass through the nearest set of unblocked doors and gather at the nearby pavilion. In case of a tornado we will move to the studio's bathrooms.

Weather:

Ball State announces cancellations by email and on the bsu.edu web site. Ball State University rarely cancels classes. If the professor needs to cancel class, you will receive an email through the Canvas course email system.

Ball State University:

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's [Disability Services](#) office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Course Schedule:

To support a learning experience that is responsive to the needs, interests, and pace of our class community, the course schedule may shift over the semester. The most current version of the schedule will always be available on Canvas. I encourage you to check Canvas regularly for updates and contact me if you have any questions.

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.