

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 5460 *Ceramics Materials and Methods*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
Graduate standing
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course allows the graduate student to approach the ceramic arts from the most fundamental elements and progress through each stage of production, both in wheel-thrown and hand-built work, from clay preparation to production, alterations, glazing, and firing. A broad overview of construction methods, decorating, and firing process is employed in this course. (Lab fee required)
- V. RATIONALE
This course serves as a form of introductory class for graduate students who want to explore the creative and expressive possibilities of clay as an artistic medium, but do not have any undergraduate experience in ceramics or the equivalent of such experience.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
 - A. Explore basic wheel throwing and hand-building techniques.
 - B. Become familiar with common ceramic studio equipment such as a slab-roller, pug-mill, extruder, and potter's wheel.
 - C. Become familiar with the firing process of ceramic pieces, including loading and unloading a kiln, preparing kiln shelves for loading, and the firing of the kiln itself.
 - D. Acquire a basic understanding and knowledge of ceramic art history and how it applies to contemporary ceramic work, including their own.
 - E. Learn to utilize the expressive nature of clay in terms of form and texture.
- VII. COURSE TOPICS
 - A. Clay preparation: mixing, wedging for wheel working, and storage and maintenance.
 - B. Wheel-throwing techniques: producing a cylinder, bowl forms, shaping tools, direct decorative techniques, trimming tool use.
 - C. Hand-building techniques: using the slab roller and extruder, basic coil construction.

- D. Decorating and glazing: firing sequences, waxing bisque ware, glazing techniques.
- E. Ceramic art history: universal nature of forms, themes in global ceramic art, motifs and patterns, roles of ceramic work in different cultures.

VIII. EVALUATION

See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation.

IX. REFERENCES

Birks, T. (1993). *The complete potter's companion*. Canada: Bulfinch Press Book, Little, Brown and Company.

Conrad, J. W. (1979). *Contemporary ceramic techniques*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Flight, G. (1991). *Introduction to ceramics*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Gonen, R. (1993). *Fired up! Making pottery in ancient times*. Minneapolis, MN: Runestone Press.

Hamer, F. (1986). *The potter's dictionary of materials and techniques*. New York: Watson-Guptill.

Kenney, J. B. (1976). *The complete book of pottery making*. Radnor, PA: Chitton Book Co.

Nelson, G. C. (1994). *Ceramics: A potter's handbook*. St. Louis, MO: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Peterson, S. (2000). *The craft and art of clay*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Peterson, S. (1999). *Working with clay: An introduction*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Woody, E. S. (1975). *Pottery on the wheel*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Zakin, R. (1995). *Hand-formed ceramics*. Radnor, PA: Chilton Book