

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 5461 *Ceramics Studio I*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
ART 351 or equivalent
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course structure focuses on both wheel-thrown and hand-built processes, with emphasis on advanced techniques and skill development. (Lab fee required)
- V. RATIONALE
The goal of this course is to provide students with opportunities to concentrate on advanced wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques. Wheel-throwing is a skill that takes years of practice to master. A focus on wheel-throwing is necessary to help students: develop control over pleasing pottery shapes, create pottery forms with walls of uniform thickness, and apply appropriate trimming and glazing techniques to their work. Hand-built ceramic work presents its own set of challenges and opportunities. The student must develop a greater understanding of the process of creating complex hand-built pieces, including the relationship between clay thickness, form, and the drying process.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
 - A. Become proficient in basic wheel throwing and hand-building techniques.
 - B. Throw or construct simple cylinder shapes before adding shape to tall pottery forms.
 - C. Become familiar with throwing or building a variety of pottery shapes such as open, enclosed, organic, and sculptural forms.
 - D. Formulate an artist's statement which is pertinent to the student's work in ceramics.
 - E. Research the cultural and historical aspects of ceramic art and apply them as desired to their own body of work.
 - F. Explore the functional aspects of ceramics.
 - G. Explore the sculptural aspects of ceramics.
- VII. COURSE TOPICS
 - A. Clay and clay bodies: definition, formation, types, and preparation of clay and clay bodies.

- B. Wheel-throwing techniques: wedging, centering, opening, shaping, trimming.
- C. Hand-building techniques: pinch and extended pinch, coil, and slab methods.
- D. Decorating and glazing: glazing techniques
- E. Ceramic art history: Greek, African, European, Asian, Native/Latin American, Contemporary.

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-Guption.
- Kenney, J. B. (1976). *The complete book of pottery making*. Radnor, PA: Chilton 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

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