

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 6461 *Ceramics Media Practices I*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
ART 351 or equivalent
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course structure focuses on a wider spectrum of media involved in the production of ceramic artwork, including the use of plaster as a mold-making medium for the use in ceramic art production, and other media used outside the usual parameters of the studio production potter or traditional ceramics craftsman. (Lab fee required)
- V. RATIONALE
The goal of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to utilize media and production techniques in ceramics beyond, or in combination with, traditional wheel-thrown or hand-built methods. There is a long history of ceramic art, which spans over several centuries and many cultures. The varying techniques in construction, decoration, and firing that can be found throughout these cultures present a wealth of creative potential for the graduate ceramics student. The goal of this course is to explore and gain proficiency in some of these techniques.
- VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES
 - A. Continued advanced exploration of wheel throwing and hand-building techniques.
 - B. Exploration of the use of plaster as a tool for mold-making.
 - C. Focus on culturally specific styles of ceramic artwork.
 - D. Continued development and elaboration on the artist statement begun in Ceramics Studio I, which is pertinent to the student's work in ceramics.
 - E. Research a specific cultural or historical aspect of ceramic art and application of it as desired to their own body of work.
 - F. Continued exploration of the functional and sculptural aspects of ceramics.
 - G. Greater depth of research into firing methods and processes.
- VII. COURSE TOPICS
 - A. Plaster mold making: spring and relief molds, molds of 3D forms, commercial old applications.

- B. Wheel-throwing techniques: altered wheel-thrown, platter/plate, and sectional forms, controlling the drying process, additions in the leather-hard stage.
- C. Hand-building techniques: organic “free form” pinch construction, coil methods incorporated in wheel-thrown work, surface enrichment of slab forms.
- D. Decorating and glazing: wax resist as a decorative element, Raku/primitive glazing and firing.
- E. Highlights of ceramic history: Greek black figure pottery, African masks/tribal pieces, European functional ware, Japanese traditional and contemporary ware, Native/Latin American use of patters and repetition, Contemporary fine art influences.

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, PN: 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 Co.