

## Department of Art Syllabus

I. ART 5460 *Ceramics Materials and Methods*, 3 Credit hours

II. PRE-REQUISITES: Graduate standing.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

V. 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.

VI. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- a. Clay Preparation
  - i. Mixing clay
  - ii. Wedging clay for wheel working
  - iii. Clay storage and maintenance
- b. Wheel Throwing Techniques
  - i. Steps in producing a cylinder
  - ii. Bowl forms
  - iii. Shaping tools used on the wheel
  - iv. Direct decorative techniques for the wheel
  - v. Trimming tools and usage
- c. Hand Building Techniques
  - i. Using the slab roller
  - ii. Using the extruder
  - iii. Basic coil construction

- d. Decorating and Glazing
  - i. firing sequences
  - ii. waxing bisque ware
  - iii. glazing techniques
- e. Ceramic Art History
  - i. Universal nature of forms
  - ii. Themes in Global Ceramic art
  - iii. Motifs and Patterns
  - iv. Roles of Ceramic work in different cultures

## VII. EVALUATION

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

## VIII. REFERENCES

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- Kenney, John B. (1976). *The Complete Book of Pottery Making*. Chilton Book Co. , Radnor, Penn.
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- Peterson, John. (1989). *Glazing and Firing* (videorecording). Glenview, IL: Crystal Production. 738.127 G469.
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- Shafer, Tom. *Pottery Decoration: Traditional Techniques* (Videorecording). Geneva, FL: Thoughtful Productions.
- Gonen, Rivka. (1993). *Fired Up! Making Pottery in Ancient Times*. Minneapolis, Minn. : Runestone Press.
- Woody, Elsbeth S. (1975). *Pottery on the Wheel*. NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
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