

Department of Art Syllabus

I. ART 6461 *Ceramics Media Practices I*, 3 Credit hours

II. PRE-REQUISITES: Introduction to Ceramics ART 351 or equivalent

III. TEXTBOOK

None.

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 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 use in ceramic art production, and other media used outside the usual parameters of the studio production potter or traditional ceramics craftsman.

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 presents 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. Explore the use of plaster as a tool for mold-making.
- c. Focus on culturally specific styles of ceramic artwork.
- d. Continue to develop and elaborate 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 apply it as desired to their own body of work.
- f. Continued exploration of the functional aspects of ceramics.
- g. Continued exploration of the sculptural aspects of ceramics.
- h. Greater depth of research into firing methods and processes.

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- a. Plaster Mold making
 - i. Sprig molds
 - ii. Relief molds
 - iii. Molds of 3D forms
 - iv. Commercial mold applications
- b. Wheel Throwing Techniques
 - i. Altered wheel-thrown forms
 - ii. Platter/plate forms

- iii. Sectional form construction
- iv. Controlling the drying process
- v. Additions in the “leather hard” stage
- c. Hand Building Techniques
 - i. Organic “free form” pinch construction
 - ii. Coil methods incorporated in wheel-thrown work
 - iii. Surface enrichment of slab forms
- d. Decorating and Glazing
 - i. Wax resist as decorative element
 - ii. Raku/primitive glazing and firing
- e. Highlights of Ceramic History
 - i. Greek black figure pottery
 - ii. African masks/tribal pieces
 - iii. European functional ware
 - iv. Japanese traditional and contemporary ware
 - v. Native/Latin American use of pattern and repetition
 - vi. Contemporary Fine Art influences

VIII. EVALUATION

See Department of Art Syllabus Addendum for Grading Scale and Evaluation

IX. REFERENCES

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- Conrad, John W. (1979). *Contemporary ceramic techniques*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- Flight, Graham. (1991). *Introduction to Ceramics*. Prentice Hall. Englewood, Cliffs, N.J.
- Hamer, Frank. (1986). *The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques*. NY: Watson-Guptill Pub.
- Kenney, John B. (1976). *The Complete Book of Pottery Making*. Chitton Book Co. , Radnor, Penn.
- Nelson, Glenn C. (1994). *Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers. St. Louis.
- Peterson, John. (1989). *Glazing and Firing* (videorecording). Glenview, IL: Crystal Production. 738.127 G469.
- Peterson, Susan. (2000). *The Craft and Art of Clay*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River. N.J.
- Peterson, Susan. (1999). *Working with Clay: An Introduction*. Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River. N.J.
- 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.
- Zakin, Richard. (1995). *Hand-Formed Ceramics*. Chilton Book Co. , Radnor, Penn.