

## Department of Art Syllabus

I. ART 5461 *Ceramics Studio 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 both wheel thrown and hand built processes, with emphasis on advanced techniques and skill development.

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

The major topics to be considered are:

- a. Clay and Clay Bodies
  - i. Definition of clay
  - ii. Formation of clay
  - iii. Clay types and bodies
  - iv. Clay preparation
- b. Wheel Throwing Techniques
  - i. Wedging
  - ii. Centering
  - iii. Opening

- iv. Shaping
- v. Trimming
- c. Hand Building Techniques
  - i. Pinch and extended pinch method
  - ii. Coil methods
  - iii. Slab methods
- d. Decorating and Glazing
  - i. Glazing techniques
- e. Highlights of Ceramic History
  - i. Greek
  - ii. African
  - iii. European
  - iv. Asian
  - v. Native/Latin American
  - vi. Contemporary

#### VIII. EVALUATION

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

#### IX. REFERENCES

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- Hamer, Frank. (1986). *The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques*. NY: Watson-Guption Pub.
- Kenney, John B. (1976). *The Complete Book of Pottery Making*. Chilton 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.
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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.
- Zakin, Richard. (1995). *Hand-Formed Ceramics*. Chilton Book Co. , Radnor, Penn.