

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE

ART 351

Ceramics I

3 semester hours

II. PREREQUISITES

Department Chair Approval

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to basic ceramic construction techniques including slab, coil, and wheel-throwing methods. Includes study and experimentation with glazing and firing. (Extra \$25 lab fee.)

IV. RATIONALE

The main goal of this course is to introduce the student to basic hand-building and wheel throwing techniques for the purpose of providing creative experiences with ceramic materials. Transforming an amorphous lump of clay into a form with structure, design, and surface decoration is a challenging and yet rewarding experience. Working with ceramic materials allows the mind to search for alternate solutions to three-dimensional problems. In this course students will actively participate in visualization, problem solving, and learning to manipulate the clay for expressive and utilitarian purposes, which are all part of the creative process.

V. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Utilize different handbuilding techniques to achieve desired expressive results.
- B. Understand clay as a material for artistic expression.
- C. Articulate, to some degree, their thoughts and criticisms while utilizing a vocabulary conducive to aesthetic discussion.
- D. Understand the fundamentals of glazing ceramic work and other possible surface treatments.
- E. Understand the process of loading and firing an electric kiln.
- F. Be familiar with and able to use such ceramic studio equipment as a slab roller, pugmill, and extruder.
- G. Cultivate a Christ-like servant attitude towards their studio in the areas of maintenance and cleanliness.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Methods for instruction will include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstrations

- C. Slide presentation
- D. Video presentation
- E. Instructor and student critiques

GRADING SCALE

A = 93-100

B = 85-92

C = 76-84

D = 65-75

F = 0-64

I = "Incomplete" may be given to a student who has been unavoidably hindered from completing work required in a course, provided that:

- a. semester attendance requirements have been met;
- b. the request is made at a point beyond the last date to withdraw from a class;
- c. in the opinion of the professor, the student has completed the vast majority of work required for the course and the remaining work can be accomplished independently and without significant oversight by the professor;
- d. the student is doing passing work; and
- e. the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty member to complete the remaining work.

The grade of I affects (sic) the grade point average, because it carries no grade points and the course hours are calculated as hours attempted. The grade of I must be removed promptly or it becomes an F; it cannot be removed by repeating the course."

VII. LIST OF MATERIALS

Sponge for wheel throwing

Wooden/plastic rib tool

Metal rib tool

Loop trimming tool

Wire cutter

Needle tool

Plastic bags

Towel

Assortment of paintbrushes

Airtight container (Tupperware/Rubbermaid)

Large sponge for cleaning

VIII. REFERENCES

Bibliography

Birks, Tony. (1993). *The Complete Potter's Companion*. Bulfinch Press Book, Little, Brown and Company, Canada.

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-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. 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.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY

See Addendum to the syllabus for attendance policy and other departmental policies.

*** In this class, the student is given three free absences. After those three, the student will have his or her grade lowered by 1 point for each absence. Attendance is crucial. If the class is a night class meeting one night a week, the number of free absences is one.**

***Students are expected to work OUTSIDE OF CLASS a MINIMUM of 3 HOURS PER WEEK. This outside work time is equivalent to homework and is crucial for success in completing assignments to a satisfactory degree.**