

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE

ART 6552

Ceramics: Surface Enrichment

3 Semester Hours

II. PREREQUISITES

None

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers philosophical and critical inquiry focusing on aesthetic value theories as they apply to historical and contemporary settings.

IV. RATIONALE

The main foal of this course is to provide students with opportunities to experiment with different surface decoration techniques as a way of improving the expressive quality of their work. Surface decoration techniques are frequently neglected in ceramic course because leaning to throw and being concerned with overall shape and design require much concentration. When challenged with how to decorate a ceramic form, many students are not aware of the many possibilities available to them and are intimidated with how to treat the clay surface. Therefore, a focus on surface enrichment will allow students opportunities to discover various methods of expression to enhance their clay forms.

V. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Apply different methods of stamping to clay forms in a complementary manner.
- B. Create clay sprigs from plaster and clay molds and include them on focal areas of clay forms.
- C. Decorate pottery with various slip decoration techniques.
- D. Learn various methods of working with colored clays.
- E. Gain practical knowledge of underglaze mediums
- F. Research historical surface enrichment techniques and apply knowledge gained in creative clay assignments.
- G. Experiment with various methods of carving into clay including but not limited to incising, piercing, fluting, faceting, sgraffito and combing.
- H. Apply different methods of stenciling to clay forms.

VI. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- A. Introduction to Surface Enrichment
- B. Tools and Material
- C. Techniques:
 - a) Stamping
 1. Cylinder end carvings
 2. Pinch impressions
 3. Roulette impressions

- 4. "Totem-pole" impressions
- b) Sprigging
 - 1. Clay molds
 - 2. Plaster molds
- c) Slip decorations
 - 1. Marbling
 - 2. Feathering
 - 3. Slip trailing
- d) Colored Clay Decorations
 - 1. Millefiore
 - 2. Agate ware
- e) Piercing
- f) Fluting
- g) Incising
- h) Faceting
- i) Burnishing
- j) Stenciling
- k) Wax Resist
- l) Combing
- m) Underglazes
 - 1. Pencils
 - 2. Chalk
 - 3. Pens
 - 4. Tubs
- D. Historical and Contemporary Examples
- E. Creative Projects

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Methods and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstrations
- C. Lab assignments
- D. Visual examples from various sources (personal, other student work, and books)
- E. Critiques

VIII. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

A. **Ceramic Notebook:** Each student will be required to keep a ceramic journal/notebook that should include: lecture notes, sketches for ceramic projects, glazing notations, oral report notes, photocopies of wheel thrown examples, etc.

Method of Evaluation: The ceramic notebook will be graded on content (inclusion of lecture notes, glazing notations, library research, sketches, examples, etc.), legibility, neatness, and organization. 10%

B. Oral Report: One day during the semester will be dedicated to giving oral reports on surface enrichment topics. Each student will research a wheel throwing topic in the library and give a 5-8 minute oral report of his/her findings. Topics will be related to surface enrichment topics.

Method of Evaluation: The report will include a bibliography, central thesis, main points, visuals, conclusion, and a practical application. Outline and notes should be recorded in a ceramic journal or notebook. 10%

C. Projects (Two dozen surface enrichment exercises followed by a Body of Work with Applied Research): Surface enrichment exercises are designed to allow students the opportunity to experiment with different techniques prior to creating a finishing a body of work with appropriate surface decoration.

Method of Evaluation: At the beginning of each assignment students will receive a critique sheet outlining the criteria and assessment for the glaze formulation assignments.

a. 20-24 Different Surface Enrichment Exercises

b. 12-15 Wheel Thrown Pot Decorated with Best Results of Research

Method of Evaluation: Each assignment will be graded according to a specification checklist. The spec (critique) sheet will be handed out at the beginning of each assignment so that students are aware of applying certain techniques/principles. 70%

D. Final Examination: A comprehensive examination will be required at the end of the semester. The test will be graded according to objective information given in class related to oral reports and lecture notes. 5%

TOTAL 100%

IX. GRADING SCALE

A. = 93-100

B. = 85-92

C. = 76-84

D. = 65-75

F. = 0-64

I. = A incomplete may be given to a student who has been providentially hindered from completing work required in a course, provided that:

1. Semester attendance requirements have been met;

2. Most of the required work has been done;

3. The student is doing passing work and the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty member to complete the remaining work at a later date.

The grade of I must be removed promptly or it becomes an F; it cannot be removed by repeating the course.”

X. LIST OF MATERIALS

Trimming tools (wire loop tools)
Metal, rubber, wooden ribs
Sculpture modeling tools
Scissors and sharp cutting knife (x-acto knife)
Potter's needle
Sponge
Wire cutters
Fettling knife
Clay hole cutters
Texture rib with grooves
Poster board for templates
Assorted sizes of brushes (bristle and sable)
Mini saber saw
Mini clay extruder
Face mask
Rubber gloves
Metal ruler
16"x16" plywood boards for moving slabs of clay and projects
Canvas material (to cover boards, or to spread out on the table)
Spray bottle
Plastic garbage bags
Kitchen fork for scoring
Turn table (lazy susan)
Airtight plastic bucket for storing clay
Wooden paddles
Spoon for burnishing
Hand lotion
Notebook and pencil for recording notes and drawings
Calipers

XI. REFERENCES

Available by request from the professor.