

## Department of Art Syllabus

I. ART 5462 *Ceramics Studio II*, 3 Credit hours

II. PRE-REQUISITES: Ceramics Studio I ART 5461

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. It is intended to be a continuation of Ceramics Studio I.

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. This course will pursue further depth in the complexities of process concerning ceramic form construction, and the utilization of different firing processes.

VI. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

- a. Advance in wheel throwing and hand building techniques.
- b. Utilize preparatory sketches to construct preplanned sculptural pieces.
- c. Advance in complexity of form with throwing or building a variety of pottery shapes such as open, enclosed, organic, and sculptural forms.
- d. Elaborate on and add to an artist's statement drafted in Ceramics Studio I which is pertinent to the student's work in ceramics.
- e. Research American Folk Pottery of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- f. Research the influence of Japanese ceramics on 20<sup>th</sup> century American pottery.
- g. Explore further the functional aspects of ceramics.
- h. Explore further the sculptural aspects of ceramics.

VII. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- a. Advanced Throwing Techniques
  - i. tall cylinder
  - ii. rounded bowl/hemisphere
  - iii. choking/collaring cylinders

- iv. rim treatment/ scalloped and pinched
- v. handles
- b. Hand Building Techniques
  - i. application of scale
  - ii. use of positive/negative shapes
  - iii. organic vs. geometric form
- c. Decorating and Glazing
  - i. slip decoration
- d. Highlights of Ceramic History
  - i. Folk potters of American Southeast
  - ii. Japanese Mengei philosophy
  - iii. Bernard Leach

## 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-Guptill Pub.
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- 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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- 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.