

Department of Art Syllabus

- I. ART 351 *Ceramics I*, 3 Credit Hours
- II. PREREQUISITES
Art Majors only (Non-Art Majors must receive permission from the Chair of the Department of Art)
- III. TEXTBOOK
None
- IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introduction to basic ceramic construction techniques including slab, coil, and wheel-throwing methods. Includes study and experimentation with glazing and firing. (Lab fee required)
- V. 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.
- VI. 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 fundamentals of glazing ceramic work and other possible surface treatments.
 - F. Understand the process of loading and firing an electric kiln.
 - G. Be familiar with and able to use such ceramic studio equipment as a slab roller, pugmill, extruder and potters wheel.

H. Cultivate a Christ-like servant attitude towards their studio in the areas of maintenance and cleanliness.

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstrations
- C. Lab assignments
- D. Video presentation
- E. Instructor and student critiques

VIII. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

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

IX. LIST OF MATERIALS

Materials to be determined by instructor

X. REFERENCES

Birks, T. (1993). *The complete potter's companion*. Canada: Bulfinch Press Book, Little, Brown and Company.

Conrad, J. W. (1979). *Contemporary ceramic techniques*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Flight, G. (1991). *Introduction to ceramics*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Gonen, R. (1993). *Fired up! Making pottery in ancient times*. Minneapolis, MN: Runestone Press.

Hamer, F. (1986). *The potter's dictionary of materials and techniques*. New York: Watson-Guption Pub.

Kenney, J. B. (1976). *The complete book of pottery making*. Radnor, PA: Chilton Book Co.

Nelson, G. C. (1994). *Ceramics: A potter's handbook*. St. Louis, MO: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Peterson, S. (2000). *The craft and art of clay*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Peterson, S. (1999). *Working with clay: An introduction*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Woody, E. S. (1975). *Pottery on the wheel*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Zakin, R. (1995). *Hand-formed ceramics*. Radnor, PA: Chilton Book Co.

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