

COURSE OUTLINE

**Art 190  
Ceramic Handbuilding**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Art 190 is an introduction to basic ceramic handbuilding techniques and processes. Traditional methods of forming, joinery, and construction are introduced. Students learn to design and analyze functional and nonfunctional objects. The class explores traditional hand-built pottery as well as contemporary, expressive, hand-built forms.

Total Lecture Units: 2.0

Total Studio Units: 1.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 32.0

Total Studio Hours: 32.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 64.0**

Prerequisite: None.

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 2

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. analyze and design functional and non-functional hand-constructed ceramic objects
2. construct ceramic forms by a variety of non-wheel techniques
3. integrate surface texture into the design of a form
4. choose and apply glaze to ceramic objects
5. select appropriate firing procedures for each project.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 64**

- |                                                                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| A. Introduction and Orientation                                                                     | Lecture 2 hours |
| 1. Course content and management of the class                                                       |                 |
| 2. Discussion of the basic clay types, their characteristics, working properties, and firing ranges |                 |
| B. Surface Exploration                                                                              | Lecture 2 hours |

1. Preparation of the clay: wedging Studio 4 hours
  2. Exploration of surface possibilities with an emphasis on texture: rolled, incised, stamped, impressed, clay additions
  3. Slides and discussion of basic surface design elements
  4. Students execute a minimum of 20, 5" x 5" tiles, from which 5 will be selected and fired as glaze tests
- C. Hard-slab Construction Lecture 4 hours  
Studio 8 hours
1. Slides and examples of six-sided, hard-slab containers
  2. Demonstration of surface enrichment possibilities before and after construction
  3. Demonstration of layout, cutting and joining techniques
  4. Traditional carving techniques of sgraffito and mishima will be introduced
- D. Hard-slab Flower Container Lecture 4 hours  
Studio 4 hours
1. Slides and discussion of designing a container for specific flower arrangements
  2. Demonstration of varied possibilities in constructing a hard-slab flower container
  3. Rough sketches required
  4. Use of the slab-roller and clay extruder as production tools will be introduced
- E. Soft-slab Construction Lecture 4 hours  
Studio 4 hours
1. Introduction and demonstration of possibilities of soft-slab cups
  2. Examples and slides of soft-slab cups
  3. Discussion on design elements of a cup
  4. The uses of washes, stains, and slips will be introduced
- F. Soft-slab Tea Sets Lecture 4 hours  
Studio 4 hours
1. Demonstration and slides of soft-slab tea sets
  2. Students will design and execute a functional or non-functional soft-slab tea set
  3. The use of hump and slump molds will be introduced
  4. Underglazes and underglaze pencils will be introduced
- G. Coil Construction Lecture 4 hours  
Studio 4 hours
1. Introduction and demonstration of historical and contemporary methods of forming with the coil technique
  2. Slides and examples of historical and contemporary, functional and non-functional objects created with the coil technique
  3. A small warm-up coil pot will be executed
  4. Students will design and execute a sculptural planter with functional and environmental considerations, to be not less than 24" tall
- H. Pinch Construction Lecture 2 hours

1. Slides of functional pottery and large architectural forms Studio 2 hours
2. Demonstrations of the pinch technique
  
- I. Glazing Lecture 2 hours  
Studio 2 hours
  1. Preparation and mixing
  2. Methods of glaze application
  3. Introduction to metallic oxides
  4. Surface development without glaze
  
- J. Firing Procedures Lecture 4 hours
  1. Loading
  2. Formation of glaze in the fire
  3. Reduction firing and reduction glazes
  4. Oxidation firing and oxidation glazes
  5. Kiln practice in reduction firing

**V. Methods of Instruction**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. classroom lectures and demonstrations;
2. instructor analysis of student work;
3. peer analysis of student work;
4. individual instruction of students;
5. screening of slides, films and videos.

**VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

1. students are assigned lab practice time (e.g. students create ceramic vessels to build forming and glazing skills);
2. museum research report (e. g. students attend a local museum, select one historical handbuilt ceramic vessel, write a 5-page report on techniques used and cultural context of the vessel using primary and secondary sources);
3. portfolio (e.g. students create a portfolio of representative ceramic vessels).

**VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

1. students participate in a mid-term and a final project critique;
2. students complete a mid-term and final written examination.

**VIII. Textbook**

Peterson, Susan and Peterson, Jan. *The Craft and Art of Clay: A Complete Potter's Handbook*. Laurence King Publishing, 2012. Print.

11th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-1856697286

**IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. form ceramic objects using basic handbuilding techniques;
2. glaze ceramic objects using a variety of techniques.