

Degree Applicable

Glendale Community College
May 1988
(Revised February 2007)

COURSE OUTLINE

Raku
Art 193

I. Catalog Statement

Art 193 - Raku - 3 Units

Prerequisite: Art 186 or Art 190. Recommended: Art 130.

Note: This course may be taken 4 times; a maximum of 12 units may be earned.

Art 193 is an introductory course in ceramics dealing exclusively with the raku firing process. Projects are drawn from a variety of forming methods including coil, slab, pinch and wheel, which will be fired by the Japanese raku process. Students will also prepare raku clays and glazes to use in the execution of their projects.

Lecture 2 hours, studio 2 hours.

II. Instructional Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Construct ceramic forms for the raku firing process.
2. Analyze and choose glazes suited for raku firing.
3. Apply surface decoration to raku wares.
4. Load and fire their projects using a special raku kiln.
5. Incorporate historical raku techniques and aesthetics into their projects.

III. Text

Raku, A Practical Approach, by Steve Branfman, Chilton Books, Publisher

IV. Course Outline

A. Introduction

4 hours

1. History
2. Philosophy
3. Practice
- B. Clay bodies for raku 4 hours
 1. Special composition
 2. Special characteristics
- C. Methods of forming raku 8 hours
 1. Special attitudes and sensitivities
 2. Spontaneous, unrefined effects
 3. Enjoyment of ordinary and accidental
- D. Practice in forming Raku 16 hours
 1. Pinch method
 2. Slab building
 3. Coil building
 4. Wheel throwing
- E. Production of pieces 8 hours
 1. Traditional
 2. Non-traditional
 3. Original
- F. Demonstration in decorating raku 8 hours
 1. Slips (engobes)
 2. Surface treatment
 3. Glazes
- G. Bisque Firing 4 hours
- H. Glazing work - Apply and dry 4 hours
- I. Glaze firing 8 hours
 1. Descriptions of various kinds of furnaces
 2. Tools
 3. Heating surface
 4. Loading and unloading
 5. Smoking
 6. Quenching

V. Examination/Evaluation Procedures

Finished projects will be critiqued and evaluated as a group and on an Individual basis. At mid-term and at the final examination, a written, 5-page paper covering the historical origins of the raku process is required. The final examination requires a written essay that will evaluate the student's technical knowledge of raku.

VI. Special Features

Field trips when applicable will be taken, plus attendance will be required at special workshops presented on campus. Students are encouraged to participate in the semiannual ceramic sales and the student art exhibit. Using the raku kiln, students will experiment with firing of their own projects.