

COURSE OUTLINE

Art 187 Intermediate Ceramics

I. Catalog Statement

Art 187 is a continued study in the fundamentals of the ceramic process that focuses on wheel throwing techniques. These skills are sharpened by concentrated exercises to increase the student's ability to produce work of greater quality, size, and range of form. Students will research, formulate, and test a glaze of their own choice. Various methods of firing ceramic vessels will be explored.

Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 2.0

Total Studio Hours -- 4.0

(Faculty Studio Hours -- 2.0 + Student Studio Hours -- 2.0 = 4.0 Total Studio Hours)

Prerequisite: Art 186.

II. Course Entry Expectations

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

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. create ceramic vessels using a variety of methods including wheel-throwing and hand building;
2. apply surface design to a pottery form by methods such as stamping, carving, and painting;
3. glaze pottery forms by a variety of techniques including wax resist and oxide design;
4. identify the various types of clays and their working properties;
5. identify the steps in the ceramic process;
6. identify the main ingredients in ceramic glazes and explain their individual functions;
7. identify the main types of kilns and explain how they function;
8. evaluate their work and that of others through oral critique.

III. Course Exit Standards

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

1. create wheel thrown ceramic vessels of at least 6" in height or width;
2. create wheel thrown lidded forms with at least two different types of lid fittings;
3. create multiple forms from one piece of clay ('throwing off the hump');
4. create forms by assembling separately thrown parts;
5. apply surface design to pottery forms by methods such as sgraffito;
6. glaze pottery forms by a variety of techniques including wax resist and oxide design;
7. identify the differences between low temperature and high temperature clays;
8. identify the coloring oxides used in high temperature ceramic glazes and explain their individual functions;
9. formulate and test a high temperature glaze;
10. explain the differences between oxidation and reduction firing procedures;
11. report in writing on ceramic design techniques;
12. evaluate their work and that of others through group oral critiques.

IV. **Course Content**

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| A. Orientation | 4 hours |
| 1. Overview of the class, required projects, grading procedures | |
| 2. Overview of studio rules and procedures | |
| 3. Slides of representative projects and contemporary ceramics | |
| B. Choice of clay bodies to be used | 6 hours |
| 1. Discussion of earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain clays | |
| 2. Representative examples of these clays are shown to contrast their appearance and characteristics | |
| 3. Students prepare test pieces of the various clays for glaze testing | |
| C. Review of wheel throwing basics | 8 hours |
| 1. Wedging of clay to remove air | |
| 2. Centering the clay on the wheel | |
| 3. Opening of the centered mound | |
| 4. Lifting for height | |
| 5. Shaping of desired forms | |
| 6. Throwing of simple cylinder forms for use in trimming and glazing tests | |
| D. Wheel throwing and trimming of pottery forms | 20 hours |
| 1. Designing and throwing bowl forms for various functions | |
| 2. Trimming methods to create a footring and remove excess clay | |
| 3. Designing and throwing cups and pitcher forms | |
| 4. Designing and throwing various lidded forms | |
| 5. Designing and throwing plate forms | |
| E. Surface design and glazing techniques | 10 hours |
| 1. Surface design utilizing the sgraffito technique | |
| 2. Surface design utilizing the oxide painting technique | |
| 3. Surface design utilizing the wax resist technique | |
| 4. Surface design utilizing the glaze overlap technique | |
| F. Introduction to glaze composition | 10 hours |
| 1. History of glaze technology and early glaze formulation | |
| 2. Lecture on the types of glazes, their chemical compositions | |
| 3. Demonstration of proper methods of glaze preparation | |
| 3. Special types of glazes | |
| 4. Analysis of sample glaze formulas | |
| 5. Safety issues associated with handling glaze materials | |
| 6. Students prepare and test at least one glaze of their own choice | |
| G. Introduction to kilns | 6 hours |
| 1. Historical overview of the evolution of the kiln design | |
| 2. Discussion of the influence of kiln temperature and atmosphere on glaze and clay color | |
| 3. Use of pyrometric cones and pyrometers to determine the end point of a firing | |
| 4. Contemporary kilns | |
| a. Natural gas | |
| b. Electric | |
| 5. Safety issues associated with kilns | |

V. Methods of Presentation

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 films and videos.

VI. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation

1. Students are assigned projects to develop both technical and aesthetic concepts and skills.
2. Students present their works-in-progress to the instructor.
3. Students present works-in-progress to the class for peer evaluation.
4. Students participate in a mid-term and a final project critique.
5. Students research and write a 5-page paper on a method of surface design of their own choice.

VII. Textbook(s)

Nelson, G. and Burkett, R. Ceramics, A Potter's Handbook. Sixth Edition.
Independence, KY, Wadsworth Publishing, 2001
10th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0030289378 (paperback).