

COURSE OUTLINE

Art 186 Introduction to Ceramics

I. Catalog Statement

Art 186 is an introductory study in the field of ceramics. Students will learn various forming techniques, with an emphasis on wheel-throwing and the production of functional pottery forms. Surface design techniques, such as stamping, carving, slip and oxide decoration, wax resist and glaze application methods will be covered. Introductory clay and glaze composition are covered as well as basic kiln design.

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: 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. 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 main ingredients in ceramic glazes and explain their individual functions;
6. identify the main types of kilns and explain how they function;
7. evaluate their work and that of others through oral critique.

IV. Course Content

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| A. Orientation | 8 hours |
| 1. Overview of the class, required projects, grading procedures | |
| 2. Overview of studio rules and procedures | |
| 3. Introduction to the types of clays and their working properties | |
| 4. Overview of the steps in the ceramic process | |
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B. Introduction to soft slab construction |
8 hours |
| 1. Wedging of clay to prepare for work | |
| 2. Rolling out slabs of even thickness | |
| 3. Exploration of textural possibilities using stamps and impressions | |
| 4. Construction of several 'soft slab' cups for use in glaze testing | |
| C. Introduction to hard slab construction | 8 hours |

1. Design requirements for ceramic tiles
 2. Demonstration of methods of carving tiles
 3. Students create 6, 4" x 4", carved tiles
- D. Introduction to wheel throwing 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 simply cylinder forms for use in trimming and glazing tests
- E. Wheel throwing and trimming of pottery forms 12 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
- F. Surface design and glazing techniques 8 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
- G. Introduction to glaze composition 8 hours
1. History of glaze technology and early glaze formulation
 2. Lecture on the types of glazes, their chemical compositions
 3. Special types of glazes
 4. Analysis of sample glaze formulas
 5. Safety issues associated with handling glaze materials
- H. Introduction to kilns 4 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 slides, 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 complete a mid-term and final written examination.

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).