Degree Applicable

Glendale Community College
June 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Art 186 (C-ID Number: ARTS 230)
Ceramics I (C-ID Title: Introduction to Ceramics)

I. Catalog Statement

Art 186 is an introductory study in the field of ceramics. Students 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 are covered. Introductory clay and glaze composition are covered as well as basic kiln design.

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. 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 classmates' work through oral critique.

IV. Course Content — Total Faculty Contact Hours = 64

A. Orientation — Lecture 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

B. Introduction to Soft Slab Construction — Lecture 2 hours / Studio 4 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 — Lecture 2 hours / Studio 4 hours
1. Design requirements for ceramic tiles
2. Demonstration of methods of carving tiles
3. Creating six, 4 inch x 4 inch, carved tiles

D. Introduction to Wheel Throwing — Lecture 4 hours / Studio 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 — Lecture 4 hours / Studio 8 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 — Lecture 4 hours / Studio 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 — Lecture 4 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 — Lecture 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 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 throwing and glazing skills);
2. museum research report (e. g. students attend a local museum, select one historical ceramic vesssel, 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. mid-term and a final project critique;
2. mid-term and final written examination.

VIII. Textbook(s)

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. construct functional and sculptural forms using different forming methods;
2. glaze forms using different glazing techniques.