

COURSE OUTLINE

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

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: 2.5

Total Laboratory Units: 0.5

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 40.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 24.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 64.0

Prerequisite: None.

Course Entry Expectations

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

N/A

Course Exit Standards

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

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

Course Content

Orientation (5 lecture hours)

Overview of the class, required projects, grading procedures

Overview of studio rules and procedures

Introduction to the types of clays and their working properties

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 64.0

- Overview of the steps in the ceramic process
- Introduction to Soft Slab Construction **(5 lecture hours, 5 lab hours)**
 - Wedging of clay to prepare for work
 - Rolling out slabs of even thickness
 - Exploration of textural possibilities using stamps and impressions
 - Construction of several 'soft slab' cups for use in glaze testing
- Introduction to Hard Slab Construction **(5 lecture hours, 5 lab hours)**
 - Design requirements for ceramic tiles
 - Demonstration of methods of carving tiles
 - Creating six, 4-inch x 4 inch, carved tiles
- Introduction to Wheel Throwing **(5 lecture hours, 5 lab hours)**
 - Wedging of clay to remove air
 - Centering the clay on the wheel
 - Opening of the centered mound
 - Lifting for height
 - Shaping of desired forms
 - Throwing of simply cylinder forms for use in trimming and glazing tests
- Wheel Throwing and Trimming of Pottery Forms **(5 lecture hours, 5 lab hours)**
 - Designing and throwing bowl forms for various functions
 - Trimming methods to create a footring and remove excess clay
 - Designing and throwing cups and pitcher forms
 - Designing and throwing various lidded forms
 - Designing and throwing plate forms
- Surface Design and Glazing Techniques **(5 lecture hours, 4 lab hours)**
 - Surface design utilizing the graffito technique
 - Surface design utilizing the oxide painting technique
 - Surface design utilizing the wax resist technique
 - Surface design utilizing the glaze overlap technique
- Introduction to Glaze Composition **(5 lecture hours)**
 - History of glaze technology and early glaze formulation
 - Lecture on the types of glazes, their chemical compositions
 - Special types of glazes
 - Analysis of sample glaze formulas
 - Safety issues associated with handling glaze materials
- Introduction to Kilns **(5 lecture hours)**
 - Historical overview of the evolution of the kiln design
 - Discussion of the influence of kiln temperature and atmosphere on glaze and clay color
 - Use of pyrometric cones and pyrometers to determine the end point of a firing
 - Contemporary kilns
 - Natural gas
 - Electric
 - Safety issues associated with kilns

Methods of Instruction

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

- classroom lectures and demonstrations;
- instructor analysis of student work;
- peer analysis of student work;
- individual instruction of students;
- screening of slides, films and videos.

Out of Class Assignments

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

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

Methods of Evaluation

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

- mid-term and a final project critique;
- mid-term and final written examination.

Textbooks

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

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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