

Art 1405 Ceramics 1

Syllabus



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Description:

This course is intended for those studying ceramics for the first time and is a comprehensive introduction to the art of pottery and clay work with equal emphasis given to the skills of designing and constructing. In this class we will explore hand-construction as well as working on the potter's wheel. You will learn to throw, trim and glaze pottery using a variety of decorative techniques. The primary emphasis is on studio work leading to a diverse portfolio of finished pieces by the end of the semester. You will also be responsible to complete one field study experience independently. Periodically throughout the term, I will show examples, slides or films to help illustrate what you are learning.

General Education requirements to be assessed:

5. Understand and effectively use technology

Assessment will be determined by the use of Moodle, Field Study Presentation, and Operation of Studio Equipment

8. Analyze critically and produce creative art

Assessment will be determined by class critiques and final three-dimensional portfolios

Art Education Candidates will address the following standards within this course:

- Art Standards 1 and 2
- Technology Standards 1, 2 and 5
- Core Standards 1 and 2

Class Attendance and Academic Expectations:

- **Attendance:** It is very important that you are on time and present for each class. Class will begin with lectures and instructions. Please send an e-mail (before class) if you are unable to attend. You are responsible to sign in and out of the studio each time you are present. This is your official attendance record ! Three tardies to class will be counted as one absence. After three absences your grade will be lowered 2 points for each recurring absence. After 6 absences you will be dropped from the course. In the case of an excused absence, students are expected to retrieve the missed information on their own.
- **Participation:** Be prepared, **attentive** and participate in class. Help others in the class to succeed and remain healthy. Help keep the studio clean!!!!
- **Assignments:** Assignments are due on the dates designated on the class calendar. Late assignments will result in a grade letter reduction for EACH DAY they are late. Class information and calendar will be posted on Moodle.
- **Cell Phones:** Cell phones should remain off during class. If there is a need to have your phone on vibrate, please see me before class.

Laboratory Expectations and Safety:

- Help others in the class to succeed and remain healthy. Help keep the studio clean!!!
- For safety reasons, we are unable to accommodate your children or friends. Please do not bring them with you to class. They may stop in for a brief visit, but cannot stay.
- You are welcome and encouraged to use the open lab hours we provide. It is important to care about the work you are doing for class and see it through. Visit the ceramics studio between classes to move your work along. This is valuable “uninstructed” time.
- All work you make in class must be signed legibly with your last name only. Unsigned work will not be fired or graded.
- Projects will not be glaze fired without a glaze record sheet.
- Lockers should be cleaned out and locks removed by Monday, April the 28th. Remaining locks will be cut off after that date.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED FOR CLASS:

Ceramic tools – can be purchased in the GC bookstore for approx. \$12.95. You will need plastic bags, a plastic storage container, an old towel, a large shirt or apron to cover your clothes, a lock, and a *three ring notebook.

Topics and Course Outline:

1. Tools and studio equipment
 - A. Terminology of ceramic processes
 - B. Definitions of ceramic products and tools
 - C. Demonstration of ceramic equipment's functions
2. Clay bodies
 - A. Types of clay bodies
 - B. Clay properties
 - C. Stages of clay and ceramic materials
 - D. Storage
 - E. Health and safety factor
3. Hand building techniques
 - A. Coil
 - B. Slab
 - C. Pinch
 - D. Composite Pots
4. Wheel throwing
 - A. Centering and opening
 - B. Basic forms
 - C. Trimming
5. Surface decoration
 - A. Carving
 - B. Oxides
 - C. Embossing
 - D. Sprigging
 - E. Wax Resist
6. Firing methods
 - A. Loading and unloading of kilns
 - B. Oxidation and reduction glaze firings
7. Aesthetics and criticism

Expected Learner Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of the appropriate tools for ceramics
2. Knowledge of the equipments uses and limitations
3. Knowledge of the types of clay and their physical properties
4. Knowledge of the stages of clay and how they can effect production
5. Knowledge of the health and safety factors of clays and ceramics chemicals
6. Knowledge of the firing process
7. The ability to throw on the potter's wheel
8. The ability to construct clay projects in the slab, coil and pinching techniques
9. The ability to utilize a variety of techniques in surface decoration

Course Competencies:

1. The learner will utilize the terminology of ceramics
2. The learner will demonstrate appropriate utilization of all the ceramics hand tools
3. The learner will be able to construct ceramic projects in the wet and leather hard stages of clay
4. The learner will be able to construct ceramic projects on the potter's wheel
5. The learner will be able to control the ceramic media in a way that emphasizes good craftsmanship
6. The learner will be able to dry a ceramic projects without breakage
7. The learner will be able to apply glazes, slip, stains, and decorations at the appropriate stage of ceramic materials
8. The learner will be able to research and present projects from various written and web sources in electronic form
9. The learner will be able to form and defend judgments about the characteristics and structure of the ceramics projects (criticism)
10. The learner will be able to identify and describe various historical characterizes in their own ceramic works.

Assessment of Learner Outcomes

1. Regular and prompt attendance
2. Class participation
3. Proper use of tools and equipment
4. Creativity in three dimensional forms and two dimensional surface motifs
5. Project completed
6. Compile research for form and design solutions
7. Care of tool, equipment, and area cleaning

Grades will be based on the following:

20% Growth and development of skills and craftsmanship, including technique and creativity

This evaluation is based on the visible improvement of your work from the beginning of the semester until the end. This includes the completion of all assigned projects and should include examples of wheel thrown, slab built, pinched, slab, and coiled pots. Also it will be based on your ability to use the skills you have acquired and apply them in a creative manner to your own work. This will include the design of form and its surface treatment. You will choose 15 final projects, which will include at least one independent project and examples from all other techniques, covered. This final grade will be based on the portfolio of work.

20% Vocabulary test

This grade will be calculated from quizzes you will take during the semester. In order to save paper, vocabulary terms will be posted on Moodle the key will be

Quiz Dates:

- Safety Quiz (Access on Moodle) – Due Wednesday, January 23rd
- Clay Quiz – Wednesday, February 6th
- Handbuilding and Wheel Quiz – Wednesday, February 27th
- Glazing & Decorating Quiz - Wednesday March, 12th
- Kiln and Firing Quiz – Wednesday , March 25th

10% Attendance and participation in studio activities and maintenance

This evaluation is based on your attendance and your contribution to the maintenance of the studio.

20% Field experience

During the semester I will announce various opportunities to attend gallery openings, pottery shows and exhibits and locations of area potters. Your assignment will be to visit an event or location and purchase a piece of pottery. Your purchase may be monetarily as large or small as you can afford. Plan ahead!!!! Your assignment will be to do on-site and Internet research and investigation into the artist that created the work. You may take photos of other works by the same potter. On Wednesday, April 23rd you will give an oral and electronic presentation of the Artist and his/her work including the piece you purchased, a biography of the Potter and examples of additional work by the same artist. If available, the Potter's web site should be presented. If needed, you can make arrangements to have access to the graphics lab prior to the due date.

20% Ceramics Notebook (Bring your notebook to every class)

The final due date for reviewing your notebook will be Friday April 25th.

This grade is based on your sketches, glaze records, ideas and pictures that serve as your inspiration and record keeping. The purpose is to document your ideas and artistic development, a tool in helping you to work out your ideas and plans before starting your projects. A list will be posted on Moodle .

Your notebook should contain the following:

1. All handouts including your syllabus.
2. Vocabulary sheets and notes from class lectures.
3. Glaze record sheets
4. Weekly assignments and ideas you collect.
5. Quizzes

10% Exam The grade of your final comprehensive exam and final clean up.

Policies:

- Greensboro College students are expected to comply with the Honor Code.
- All absences are to be excused. Absences during an exam or quiz must be excused in order for the exam to be made up.
- Tardies, please note the time class starts. It is the student's responsibility to obtain missed information due to tardies.
- Greensboro College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any students requiring course modifications due to special needs must meet within the first week of the course to arrange necessary modifications. (Verification and documentation should be available to the instructor.)
- This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. It is the student's responsibility to keep abreast of such changes. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student's progress.