

Department: Visual Art

Course Name: Ceramics I The Craft and Culture of Clay

Course Description:

This semester-long course is open to students in grades nine through twelve. Students will learn to identify the origins and development of Ceramic materials used throughout history. This course introduces students to methods of three-dimensional production of functional and decorative objects made from clay. Students explore and practice several building methods in the creation of three or more projects. The influences of cultures from various geographical regions are shared, including contributions to the art, function, and aesthetics of ceramics. The works of contemporary ceramic artists are explored from a variety of resources. The elements and principles of design are discussed in critiques and throughout the production process. Although not a prerequisite for Advanced Placement Studio Art, this course provides a diverse three-dimensional experience that includes valuable historical and technical background. Prerequisite: Foundations in Art for 9th and 10th grade.

Content:

Elements and principles of design
Building terms and techniques
Equipment, tools and supply use, care, and safety
Glaze application processes
Chemical firing processes
Functional design
Sculptural design tactile and visual surface treatment
Primitive through contemporary ceramic art history
Modern uses for ceramic materials
Artistic inquiry and critique
Artist statements

Skills:

Apply Elements and Principles of design to ceramic media
Construct work using pinch, coil, slab, and sculptural methods
Practice and apply tactile and visual surface treatment
Store and support work throughout all processes
Develop visual, written, and oral communication skills
Build research skills applied to cultural and contemporary ceramic arts
Develop personal style
Development and submission of digital slideshows reflecting Ceramic works, artists and concepts

Text and Materials:

Equipment, tools, and materials appropriate to the course. Students do not use a text. Information is gathered online as well as from magazines, videos, and reference books, including, but not limited to those listed below.

Charles Spahr, Ceramics Monthly

Neal French, The Potter's Directory of Shape and Form (Krause Publications reprint 2002)

Kathy Triplett, Hand built Ceramics (Lark Books 1997)

Charlotte F. Speight and John Toki, Hands in Clay (Mayfield Publishing 1999)

Jo Connell, The Potter's Guide to Ceramic Surfaces, (Krause Publications 2002)

The American Ceramic Society resources

Resources from the National Council of the Ceramic Arts
Resources from AMOCA; the American Museum of Ceramic Art
Resources from the VMFA; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Resources from Ceramic Arts Daily; ceramicartsdaily.org
This supply fee for this course is \$75 to cover consumable project materials for the semester

Methods of Instruction:

Guided dialogue, accompanied by visuals
Online resources shared in digital formats
Recordings of instructor demonstrations
Demonstration of projects broken down into sequential steps
Guided practice with individual assistance
Peer coaching
Class critiques

Methods of Evaluation:

Grade contracts that include investment, accountability and participation
Correct procedures followed as directed for each piece
Correct storage of work, care for studio space and all tools and equipment
Resolution of assignments that reflect both strong technical aspects and creative decisions
Clean craftsmanship with attention to detail, and follow through of all refining steps
Timely completion of major class assignments according to clearly stated objectives
Homework assignments
Time invested to create quality work
Class participation during both discussions and critiques
Appropriate use of class time
Appropriate use of media, tools, equipment, and studio space