

**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.

**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  
Flex camera use  
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