

Department: Visual Art

Course Name: Ceramics II Form and Function

Course Description:

This semester-long course is open to students in grades ten through twelve who have successfully completed Ceramics I. Ceramics II builds upon foundational clay skills and introduces students to a broader, more advanced exploration of ceramic processes through both functional and sculptural work. Students deepen their proficiency in hand-building techniques, wheel-throwing and sculptural construction methods. Projects emphasize conceptual development, three-dimensional design, and surface experimentation, allowing students to investigate clay as both a utilitarian and expressive medium.

Students expand their artistic vocabulary and creative problem-solving skills through in-depth, guided projects that integrate form, function, texture, and color application. Historical and contemporary ceramic artists and cultural traditions are examined to contextualize both functional pottery and sculptural ceramics. Ongoing critiques are embedded within each unit, and students are expected to title their work and write artist statements for select projects. Emphasis is placed on craftsmanship, artistic integrity, and the development of a personal visual voice. Prerequisite: Ceramics I

Content:

Elements and principles of design

Tools, equipment and supplies use, care, and safety

Wheel throwing process

Conceptual process

Three-dimensional design

Relief design

Multi-stage surface treatment

Glaze processes

Ceramic history

Artist statements

Titles for works

Artistic integrity

Display and competition processes

Skills:

Apply elements and principles of design to conceptual work.

Gather, record, and apply sources of inspiration.

Plan and construct complex combinations of building methods.

Apply wheel-throwing skills.

Apply tactile and visual surface treatment.

Glaze application processes

Develop visual, oral, and written communication skills.

Develop personal style.

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

The 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
Completed processes and directed for each project
Correct storage of projects throughout the processes
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 and studio work beyond class time
Class participation during both discussions and critiques
Appropriate use of class time
Appropriate use of media, tools, equipment, and studio space