

ART 202 Ceramics

The Department of Visual Arts, Greenville Technical College, Greer Campus

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Prerequisites: ARV121 Design, ART 111 Basic Drawing I
Credit Hours: 3

Required Text

Ceramics, A Potter's Handbook, Nelson and Burkett, Wordsworth Thompson publishers

Optional Text

Clay, A Studio Handbook, Pitelka, American Ceramics Society, latest edition

Course Description

This course is a study of the historical investigation and introduction to design basics, techniques, and processes unique to the construction of clay forms. Projects include hand building and wheel throwing, clay mixing, firing, glazing, and embellishment.

Purpose of the Course

1. To introduce students to the fundamental techniques used for creating ceramic art. These techniques will include hand building and wheel throwing skills for constructing both functional as well as sculptural ceramics.
2. To introduce several different glazing methods for finishing forms.
3. To encourage students to develop their own personal artistic visions within the parameters of assignments.
4. To promote an understanding of historic and contemporary ceramic tradition.
5. To supplement the history with a contemporary ceramic artist presentation.
6. To teach the terminology of the ceramic arts.
7. To reinforce formation of ideas in advance through thoughtful sketches and writings.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course with at least 70% proficiency will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to develop three-dimensional forms in space by presenting multiple study sketches and following through on these ideas in completed projects.
2. Demonstrate the ability to use ceramic materials and process such as hand building and wheel throwing, glazing, and embellishment skills to form clay in five finished projects.
3. Demonstrate the ability to use ceramic terminology in critique settings, in writings, and in choices on objective and essay assessment testing.
4. Demonstrate the application of good craftsmanship and the principles of design by thoughtful and skillful manipulation in five finished projects.
5. Demonstrate the ability to practice self-assessment as well as critical analysis of the work of other students by writing about the work of others and doing a personal statement; also by giving suggestions in critique settings.
6. Demonstrate the recall of contemporary ceramic ideas and ceramic history by giving a presentation on a contemporary artist and by passing an image examination.

Course Requirements

1. Punctual and complete class attendance is expected and required.
2. Arrive in class with sketchbook assignments, reading assignments, and projects completed and ready for critique on designated days.
3. Demonstrate the ability to work independently by spending time outside of class on projects (6 to 8 hours of outside work is required)
4. Participation in class discussion and critiques is expected and required.
5. Class participation is mandatory in this course. Please ask questions and participate in discussions. Participation in critiques is especially important since students will be relying on fellow students and instructor for feedback on each project. Likewise, the instructor and classmates will rely on each other's opinions as well.

Additional Information

1. Breaks are 10 minutes and given at instructor discretion.
2. No cell phones are allowed during class time.
3. Music can be played on individual headphones during non-lecture periods, and at a low volume.
4. Projects and sketches must be turned in on or before the critique day for grading. All assignments will have a 20 pt. grade deduction per late-recorded class. Deduction will occur after normal grading is complete. *(projects are only required to be bisqued on critique days)
5. A missed critique or failure to turn in a project will result in a grade of "0".
6. The instructor reserves the right to alter the course, calendar, and syllabus as class needs dictate.
7. Professional, courteous and adult behavior is expected and required.
8. The terminology test is cumulative and covers all class lectures, text assignments, and discussions. In addition, terminology checkup quizzes will be given during the semester.

Safety Rules

Safety rules must be followed. Requirements are as follows:

1. Students may not operate kiln or pug mill under any conditions without permission and supervision from the instructor.
2. No open toed shoes allowed when working around kiln or in the classroom.
3. Do not put hands in pug mill with it turned on or plugged in.
4. When working after hours in studio, another student, friend or relative **must** accompany students. Key to studio is available at front desk.
5. Do not wash clay down the drain. Empty all slip in receptacle provided. All useful clay will be reclaimed.
6. Sculpture equipment is off limits for ceramics students unless otherwise instructed.
7. No frayed or loose clothing. Hair must be pulled back, jewelry must be removed around equipment, esp. wheels, pug mill, kiln, slab roller.
8. Inform the instructor immediately if someone is misusing equipment, is unsure of how to use equipment, or if an injury occurs.
9. Students must clean up after every class and after independent work time.

Grading and Evaluation

Grade will be determined by the following percentages:

Project #1 Bowl Project	10%	_____
Project #2 Teapot Project	15%	_____
Project #3 Modern Art Project	15%	_____
Project #4 Nature Study Project	15%	_____
Project #5 Final Project / Personal Study	15%	_____
Glazing Grade	5%	_____
Contemporary Artist Paper	5%	_____
Terminology Tests	5%	_____
Sketchbook	5%	_____
Class Participation	10%	_____
	100%	_____

Required Materials

Sketchbook (8" x 11" or larger, but still easy to carry)
 Folder or file for handouts
 Small plastic carrying case for tools (tackle boxes tend to be the most manageable)
 Pottery tool kit (includes sponge, wire tool, needle tool, modeling tool, metal and wooden ribs, 2 trimming tools)
 Fettling knife (optional)
 2-3 Japanese Sumi style brushes (optional)
 Several heavy-duty garbage bags
 Old towel
 5 Gallon bucket
 Smock, apron or old shirt (you will get dirty **every** class period)
 Dust mask labeled for personal use (required)
 Clay as advised by the instructor

Most materials can be purchased at Michaels, A.C. Moore, and Wal-Mart. Please label materials with student name or initials in black permanent marker.