JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

ART123

CERAMICS/POTTERY I
INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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By:
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Arts & Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
ART 123 Ceramics/Pottery I and Introduction to Ceramics

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: None

B. 3 semester hours credit

C. Ceramics/pottery I is an introduction to the basic skills particular to ceramic art. Students will learn basic handbuilding techniques: including pinch pot, coil, and slab. Students will be introduced to the basics of three-dimensional design and the sculptural aspects of functional design. They will be introduced to the concept of the Ba Haus theory of form follows function and study historical and contemporary artists. Once students have mastered the basics of handbuilding they may, if they wish, learn the basics of throwing on the wheel. Those who wish may continue to handbuild. They will be given projects designed to increase their knowledge of the concepts of three-dimensional design and the sculptural aspects of ceramics.

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Develop and improve the technical skills particular to ceramic art such as centering, throwing on the wheel, and handbuilding</th>
<th>Series of critiqued projects designed to increase handbuilding and throwing skill and dexterity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop an understanding of the basic handbuilding methods</td>
<td>Series of handbuilding projects with a minimum of three examples for each method</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpret and implement basic ceramic terms and materials including: slips, glazing methods, firing methods, and safety concerns</td>
<td>Hands-on presentations and written exams focusing on technical and safety issues</td>
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<td>Develop professional presentation and critique skills</td>
<td>Group, student-to-student, and/or written critiques throughout semester</td>
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III. COURSE OUTLINE WITH UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Overview
   1. Portray clay as an expressive medium in fine art.
   2. Portray clay in a traditional functional role.
   3. Understand the concepts of three-dimensional design.
   4. Understand the historical and contemporary influences.

B. Pinch Pots
   1. Introduction to the project.
   2. Description and objectives of the project.
3. Slides showing examples of techniques.
4. Demonstration of the pinch pot method.
5. Understanding of clay shrinkage and how to properly dry clay.
6. Discussion of firing methods, cones and the temperatures they represent, what greenware is and why clay is fired once (bisqued) before firing.
7. Discussion of glazing temperatures, low fire, medium fire and high fire, discussion on the difference between oxidation and reduction firing.

C. Slab Project
1. Introduction to the project.
2. Description and objective of the project.
3. Video showing examples of the technique.
4. Demonstration of different slab building techniques.
5. Demonstration showing the method of adhering clay slabs using clay slip.
6. Discussion of historical and contemporary examples of slab hand building works.

D. Coil Project
1. Introduction to the project.
2. Description and objective of the project.
3. Slides showing examples of the project.
4. Demonstration of different coil building methods.
5. Discussion of historical and contemporary examples of coil pots.

E. Combination of one or more methods.
1. Introduction to the project.
2. Description and objective of the project.
3. Slides showing examples of the project.
4. Demonstration of different methods of combining hand building techniques.
5. Discussion of historical and contemporary examples of ceramic works combining one or more methods of hand building techniques.

F. Lecture; three-dimensional design
1. The basic principals of three-dimensional design
   a. Repetition
   b. Variety
   c. Rhythm
   d. Balance
   e. Proportion
2. Degrees of dimensionality
   a. One sided works; bas relief
   b. Working in the round.
G. Wheel Throwing
1. Video on basic wheel throwing.
2. Demonstration on wheel throwing.
   a. Wedging on the wheel—understanding the reasons and the technique.
   b. Centering the clay.
   c. Opening the clay and creating the floor.
3. Pulling up the walls, techniques, placement of hands.
4. Students practice.
   a. The basic cylinder.
   b. Projects: Students will throw three sizes of cylinders;
      1.) 3 inch tall cylinder.
      2.) 5 inch tall cylinder.
      3.) 7 inch tall cylinder.
   c. Throwing a bowl form
      1.) Demonstration
      2.) Student practice.
   d. Pulling a handle
      1.) Demonstration
      2.) Student practice.

H. Advanced handbuilding projects—(for students who do not wish to throw on the wheel)

A handout will be given to the students listing a number of projects that are designed to build handbuilding skills, knowledge of three-dimensional design, the sculptural, historical and contemporary methods.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Demonstrations.

B. Videos

C. Slide presentations

D. Handouts, technical and informational.

E. Student - Teacher dialogue.

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (with publication information)

None
VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Standard Ceramic Tool kit.
Plastic bowls (used margarine tubs etc)
Notebook

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Publications
1. Ceramics Monthly
2. American Ceramics
3. American Craft
4. Ceramics/ Art and Perception
5. Sculpture

B. Books
2. Clay Sculpture-Charlotte Spiegltt, Mayfield Publishing 1995
4. A Potters Book-Bernard Leach

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION

A. Critiques, based on
1. Skill
2. Improvement
3. Creativity

B. Attendance

C. Participation

IX. ADA STATEMENT

Any statement requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and
the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000,
ext. 169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the
Student Handbook (see College Website).