Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: 10/18/12

I. Course Prefix and Number: ART 106

   Course Name: Ceramics I

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 4 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: A study of the basic techniques of ceramic materials, including pinch, coil and slab building, wheel throwing, firing and glazing. Ceramics as an art form with an emphasis on design and function.

   Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum: This course provides a basic hands-on experience in the realization of 3-dimensional form that will prepare the student for transfer to a four-year program in the Fine Arts.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

   Upon completion of the course the participant will be able to:

   1. Recognize the historical development of Ceramics.

   2. Distinguish the material properties of clay, slips and glazes and how they are prepared.

   3. Apply the techniques and processes identified in the class towards their own development as a creative ceramic artist

   4. Recognize the basic hand building techniques; pinch, coil, slab, tile and sculpted form.

   5. Describe the different decorative techniques covered in the course.

   6. Indicate what skills are involved in kiln loading and firing of completed work.

   7. Apply basic mathematics towards measuring, scaling and recognizing Glaze formulation.

   8. Appraise technical and visual unity in their work.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

☐ writing  ☐ ethics/values
III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

**Mathematics:**

*Apply basic mathematics towards measuring, scaling and recognizing glaze formulation guidelines. Test given to assess their recognition of glaze formulation*

**Assessment:**

*Review of their efforts to properly measure and scale according to project guidelines.*

**Critical Thinking:**

*Appraise technical and visual unity in their work with written and/or verbal feedback.*

**Assessment:**

*Measured through the review of projects. The instructor will provide the participant with written and/or verbal feedback.*

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

**Types of Course Materials:**

*Handouts, and through reference and supportive materials provided for through the college on-line provider.*

**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar…)**

*Lectures, demonstrations, working studio sessions, critiques (group and individual) and student projects*
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

I. Introduction to studio environment and preparation of clay

II. Guidelines for evaluating Ceramic work: Technique/Visual Unity

III. Pinch Technique:
   - Role of a uniform wall in construction
   - Water content: shrinkage rate and strength

IV. Clay Properties:
   - Working consistencies, Clay composition, Clay body formulation
   - Physical characteristics

V. Ceramics History:
   - Mesopotamian/Babylonian: construction, design & decoration
   - Ancient Greek decorating techniques.
   - Pre-Columbian & Chinese ceramics
   - European Bone-China and Porcelain
   - Contemporary Artists: Innovation and Re-Examining

VI. Glazes: processes and techniques

VII. Coil Technique:
   - Secure construction technique and role of design with coil
   - Examine effective and non-effective approaches to working with clay

VIII. Slab Technique:
   - Hand vs. Machine approach to slab creation
   - Working consistencies: assists and issues
   - The consideration of common thematic and design approaches to work.

IX. Tiles and Sprig Molding:
   - Plaster as an assist in Ceramic work. The technique of mold-making.
   - Vitreous and Non-Vitreous approaches to decoration.
   - Developing more sophisticated approaches to decoration