

School name: Fine Arts Center
Course Name: Honors Ceramics II
Syllabus

Instructor: Glenda Guion
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Class Time/Room Number: M-F 1:15-3:05

TEXTBOOK: Ceramics by Glenn C.Nelson

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Honors Ceramics II is primarily an intensive studio activity, supplemented with slide lectures, demonstrations, critiques, and lectures on clays and glazes. Each assignment is designed to teach a specific building/modeling technique along with learning the principals and elements of art. Each project lends itself to the individual student mastering the clay materials and developing ideas into three-dimensional forms. All assignments begin with a discussion of the project, a written handout explaining the assignment and requirements, examples of related works, and a construction demonstration. Ceramic history is incorporated into this study of clay as part of an overall theme of aesthetic awareness and appreciation.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop a sense of three-dimensional form, space, and imagery.
2. To learn the skills and demands of craftsmanship.
3. To explore current and ancient ceramic forms, techniques and artists.
4. To gain an understanding of working on a series of pieces related by a theme, or idea, or specific type of form, or technique.
5. To gain a strong understanding of what is involved in maintaining a clay studio and equipment.
6. To learn the basic chemistry of glaze and clay making.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Tardy and Attendance Policy:

Be on time to class every day. If you are tardy, stop in the front office and obtain a pass BEFORE coming to class. On the 3rd tardy the parent will be notified that future tardies will result in a parent-teacher conference. Total minutes tardy will be made up after school.

Students will be required to provide a proper excuse for each absence; after 5 the student must provide a valid excuse from a doctor or provide an administratively excused absence. Work may be made up for excused absences; for an unexcused absence the work may not be made up.

B. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

1. Bring sketchbook everyday.
2. Be productive, be attentive and participate in class. Be honest and respectful.
3. Be available for demonstrations.
4. Participate in kiln responsibilities.
5. Be prepared to get dirty:
 - a. Wear appropriate clothing.
 - b. Hair pulled back.
 - c. Short nails.
 - d. No hoodie string type clothing.
6. Be responsible for your clay, tools and area:
 - a. Never leave clay out.
 - b. Clean up your working area.
 - c. Unfired clay is to be recycled, not thrown away.
 - d. Always use art materials in a safe, appropriate and respectful manner.
 - e. Take home and wash shirt and towel as needed.
7. Think outside the box. If you want to stray from a project you need to meet with me to discuss details and create a new rubric.
8. Come to class prepared. Bring your sketchbook, pencil, homework and supplies with you. Get out your supplies, be seated, and get to work.
9. End of class cleanup: Five minute warning (or longer, if needed) will be given to indicate cleanup time. You are expected to be working until cleanup time. Neither the clock or a bell dismisses the class - I DO!
10. No eating or chewing gum in the clay studio.
11. Students must respect other student's work as if it were their own and not touch any work except their own without permission.
12. Rights and Responsibilities:
 - a. You have the right to talk to friends at your assigned tables, but it's your responsibility to listen quietly when Ms. Guion is giving directions and instructions. Excessive talking will effect your concentration, your artwork, and your grade.
 - b. You have the right to use the art room materials, but you have the responsibility to return all materials back to their proper place and in the same (or better) condition that you received them.
 - c. Both students and teacher have the right to add, revise or clarify any expectations and responsibilities as new situations arise during the semester.

C. Assignments:

1. Any homework is to be completed at home and turned in at the beginning of class. Design drawing homework must be completed before any clay work may begin. Color studies must be completed before any glazing may begin.
2. Make up work is your responsibility. See me before or after school if you have any questions or concerns. I will not ask for you to show me your late work.
3. Use class time wisely to complete your assigned projects.
4. Come to class with plenty of enthusiasm and energy for creating your very best artwork.

D. Supplies Necessary for Course:

Clay tool kits will be provided for students. Students are responsible for turning in the complete kit at the end of the semester and will be charged for any missing tools. Students should provide protective clothing such as a large shirt or apron. Clay and all other materials are provided for the class. Students must recycle unfired, used clay.

E. ASSESSMENT INFORMATION AND GRADING SCALE

Grades are based on the following:

1. Completion of preliminary drawings.
2. Completion of clay work assigned.
3. Completion of color studies.
4. Slide presentation and related research.
5. Mid-term and final exams on techniques, equipment, terminology, and clay history.
6. Studio maintenance.

A=93-100

B=85-92

C=77-84

D=70-76

F=63-69 (weighted for GPA calculations)

F=0-62 (no credit for GPA calculations)

1. Sketchbooks are 20% of your marking period grade. They will be collected at mid-term and final grading period.
2. Quizzes and tests are 20% of your marking period grade.
3. Homework is 10% of your marking period grade.
4. Art projects are 50% of your marking period grade.
5. Each of the marking period grades is worth 40% of the final course grade.
6. The final exam is worth 20% of your final course grade.

*Effort, progress, and improvement during the semester will be noted.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDENTS IN CLASS:

Students participating in Honors Ceramics are recruited from 16 area high schools. They represent a wide range of ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. Students must be willing to submit an art portfolio representing their ability to understand the principals and elements of art, craftsmanship, and organization of their work.

PLAN FOR ROUTINE COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS:

Parents will be informed of their student's performance by progress reports and report cards. Parents will be contacted by phone when necessary and a log of all calls will be kept. On the 2nd phone contact the parent will be asked to come to the school for a parent/teacher conference.

LESSON PLANS:

FIRST NINE WEEKS THROWING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Cylinder: Students will spend approximately 3 class sessions learning basic throwing skills and working towards throwing a perfect 6" cylinder. When tested on this skill, a cylinder that is even-walled (3/8" thickness), flat bottomed, and straight sided with a diameter no more than 3 1/2" will be the goal. This is a fundamental skill that all further work during the semester depends on mastering.

2. Cups: Learning to shape and vary the contour of cylinders is the goal of this assignment. Consideration of function and its relationship to form will be explored. Pulled handles are required that are in proportion to the size and shape of the cup. Your best four finished cups, each varying in shape and no smaller than 5" in height are required for grading.

3. Bowls: The ability to center and form small bowls or teabowls is required. The forms should exhibit a continuous contour line based on the sphere, and be no more than 3/8" thick, with at least a 4" diameter. A trimmed foot, properly placed and in proportion to the bowl, will finish these forms. Your best four bowls will be graded.

4. Vase and pitcher forms: Increasing the amount of clay being worked on the wheel to approximately 2 1/2 to 3 lbs., to achieve forms 8"-10" in height is the goal of this assignment. The criteria for grading will be even walls, 3/8" thick, and well-proportioned forms. Students may choose vase or pitcher forms, which are based on the cylinder for this assignment. Your best three forms will be graded.

SECOND NINE WEEKS :

INDIVIDUAL DIRECTED STUDIES

Chose one category to research.

1. Research the work of one artist (painter, sculptor, photographer, etc.) and build a series of 4 original works that are based on your research (thrown or handbuilt).
2. Research work made from plaster molds and build a series of 6 variations of a press mold form. You will design and make the mold also (handbuilt).
3. Research functional ware and design and build a matching set of 4 plates, bowls and cups (handbuilt or thrown). They must be based on functional ware, but may end up being nonfunctional.
4. Research and explore one type of form: vase, bowl, plate, covered jar, etc. Minimum of 6 pieces (handbuilt or thrown).

5. Research and explore sculptural forms that are related by a theme or idea. Examples: house, animal, landscape, open forms, environmental issue, etc. Minimum of 4 works.

SKETCHBOOKS

You should begin your research now. You will be required to give me a written statement about your research and a proposal for your series. There are materials for research in my office, your home-school library, and the Greenville County Public Library. Your proposal must identify the series category and a description of the ideas for your pieces.

You should begin developing your ideas by drawing. Drawings should be complete. This means that your drawings should show and describe forms, colors, textures, glaze ideas, etc. TOTAL MINIMUM DRAWINGS: 40. Five color studies will be completed for each work created.

You may discuss your ideas for your series with me anytime as long as you have research and drawings to show me. Please ask questions.

I will be checking sketchbooks on every Friday for progress.