

Mercer County Community College

Arts and Communication Division

ART 146

BEGINNING CERAMICS - WHEELTHROWING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practicing functional and nonfunctional wheel-throwing technique, occasionally in combination with hand-building methods. A student acquires a working knowledge of kiln procedures and experiments with slip techniques.

Text (s): **Reference Division Booklist**

Prerequisites: **None**

Co-requisites:

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 1

Studio/Lab Hours: 4

**Food and Drink are strictly Prohibited in classrooms as per Health and Safety Laws.
Students are not permitted to bring in any Chemicals or Cleaning Fluids without the
Appropriate MSD Sheets.**

Course Coordinator: Michael Welliver

Latest Review: Spring 2005

I. RATIONALE

How may one find personal meaning, a sense of tradition and a connection to the past in one's life in an era of sophisticated technology with its depersonalization and the removal of the handmade object from our daily lives? Ceramics II offers the student an opportunity to participate in a tradition with roots steeped in the oldest of civilizations and to explore as well techniques that have been lost and rediscovered.

Students in turn may initiate a tradition. Wheelthrown forms, from conceptualization to the fired finished product, will be explored. Under the guidance of the instructor, students will develop possibilities for an individualized style. At the same time, through assigned projects, they will gain the confidence and step-by-step knowledge of a universally understood vocabulary.

II. GENERAL COURSE GOALS

- A. Formulation of basis for future style and personalized vocabulary in the ceramic medium.
- B. Basic knowledge of the wheel-throwing process to produce a finished ceramic object.
- C. Ability to analyze verbally his/her work and the work of other students.
- D. Training in decisions, with suggestions from the instructor, toward best approach in future endeavors.
- E. Completion of all assigned class projects.

III. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Attendance

Lectures, demonstrations, and one-to-one discussions are central to the course, and it is strongly urged that students attend all classes. After three unexcused absences the student's grade may be dropped one letter grade.

Grades

A student's classroom participation is taken into consideration by the award of 0 - 5 points along with the following standards of craftsmanship:

Grade of "D": Each student is:

- 1. responsible for a minimum of eight finished works.
- 2. required to demonstrate esthetic/technical proficiency in the following areas: centering, throwing, trimming, handles, glazing, stacking and firing.

NOTE: Students are encouraged to do work outside the class and to use the facility at assigned open hours.

Grade of "C": Mastery of essential elements of ceramics as well as "D" requirements.

Grade of "B": Above average mastery of essential elements of ceramics as well as "D" requirements.

Grade of "A": Exceptional mastery of essential elements of ceramics and demonstrated excellence and originality in addition to "D" requirements.

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES TO BE USED

1. Lectures
2. Demonstrations
3. Films
4. One-to-One Instruction
5. Class Discussions

V. TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Recommended Texts: Roy, Vincent A., Ceramics, NY, Hill, 1959.
Savage, George, Porcelain Through the Ages.
Rhodes, Daniel, Clay and Glazes for the Potter, Chelton Co., Philadelphia.

Materials

Lock
Notebook
Box of plastic bags or dry cleaning bags
Permanent Magic Marker
Large clean-up sponge
Plastic bucket
Small throwing sponge, synthetic or natural
Pin tool
Smooth wooden tool
Wire tool
Rib, wooden, metal, or rubber
Loop tools, 1 large, 1 small
Plastic putty knife
Fettling knife
Glazing tongs
Chinese bamboo brushes
Scrubbing thing
Fine sandpaper
Cloth towel

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1:

Session 1 Lecture, course objectives, review projects, studio procedures, tools and materials.

Session 2 **DEMONSTRATION** - wedging, centering, and pulling cylinders. Students begin practice cylinders (1 lb.).

WEEK 2:

Session 3 Continue practice cylinders (2 lbs.).

Session 4 Continue practice cylinders (3 lbs.).

WEEK 3:

Session 5 Continue practice cylinders (4 lbs.).

Session 6 Continue practice cylinders (5 lbs.).

WEEK 4:

Session 7 **DEMONSTRATION** - shaping cylinders. Students begin cup project.

Session 8 Students continue cup project.

WEEK 5:

Session 9 **DEMONSTRATION** - trimming cups, various handle methods.

Session 10 Students continue trimming and handles.

WEEK 6:

Session 11 **DEMONSTRATION** - bowls, shapes and rim variations, and plaster bats.

Session 12 Students continue bowl project.

WEEK 7:

Session 13 **DEMONSTRATION** - trimming bowls. Students begin trimming bowls.

Session 14 Students continue trimming bowls.

WEEK 8:

Session 15 **DEMONSTRATION** - glazing techniques. Students complete glaze combination exercise, begin glazing.

Session 16 Students continue bowl project, glazing.

WEEK 9:

Session 17 **DEMONSTRATION** - plates. Students begin plate project.

Session 18 Students continue plate project.

WEEK 10:

Session 19 **DEMONSTRATION** - trimming plates. Students begin trimming plates.

Session 20 Students continue trimming plates.

WEEK 11:

Session 21 **DEMONSTRATION** - final project. Students begin final project.

Session 22 Students continue final project, continue glazing.

WEEK 12:

Session 23 Students continue final project.

Session 24 Students continue final project.

WEEK 13:

Session 25 **WET CLAY DEADLINE.** Students finish trimming, continue glazing.

Session 26 Students finish trimming, continue glazing.

WEEK 14:

Session 27 Students continue glazing.

Session 28 Students continue glazing.

WEEK 15:

Session 29 Students finish glazing.

Session 30 Students finish glazing.

WEEK 16:

Session 31 **FINAL CRITIQUE.** All projects due.

READING LIST

Cardew, Michael - Pioneer Pottery

Hamer, Frank - The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques

Leach, Bernard - A Potter's Book

Nelson, Glenn - Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook

Nigrosh, Leon - Claywork, Form and Idea in Ceramic Design

Olsen, Frederick - The Kiln Book

Rhodes, Daniel - Clay and Glazes for the Potter

Woody, Elsbeth - Pottery on the Wheel

Counts, Charles - Pottery Workshop

Green, David - Pottery: Materials and Techniques

Rhodes, Daniel - Kilns: Design, Construction and Operation

Sanders, Herbert H. - Glazes for Special Effects

Periodicals:**Ceramics Monthly:**

PO Box 12448, Columbus, OH 43212

10 issues per year - \$18

Studio Potter:

Daniel Clark Fdn.

PO Box 172, Warner, NH 03045

2 issues per year