Introduction to Ceramics

**ARTS 220/Mon., Wed. 5:30pm-8:00pm/2nd Eight Weeks/LHS Rm. 103/Office-By appt./3Credit Hours**

**Instructor: Ms. Dianne Mahaffee**

**Art Educator, Lancaster High School**

**Art Educator, University of South Carolina at Lancaster**

**Art Educator, Winthrop University of Rock Hill, S.C**

**BA in art education from Winthrop University**

**MA in art education from Winthrop University**

[**www.artwithdianne.com**](http://www.artwithdianne.com)

**Dianne.Mahaffee@lcsdmail.net**

Home phone (803) 289-6473

Work phone (803) 283-2001

**Introduction:**

This course is intended for those studying ceramics for the first time and is a comprehensive introduction to the craft of clay working. The primary emphasis is on studio work leading to a portfolio of finished pieces by the end of the semester. In addition to demonstrations of technique and technical assignments, you should take a field trip to view historic and contemporary examples of fine ceramic art,for extra credit. Periodically throughout the term, I will show slides or films to help illustrate what you are learning.

The main goal of this course is that you will be able to create as well as appreciate expressive, interesting three dimensional clay forms. You will have an understanding of other cultures and periods of human expression in clay and finally you will begin to be proficient at forming clay objects.

**Student Objectives and Student Outcomes:**

\*Students will become proficient with the basic techniques of handbuilding, which allows; coiling, slabbing, modeling, slumping, etc.

\*Students will learn to respect good craftsmanship and gain intimate knowledge and appreciation of the history of ceramics.

\*Students will develop their technical and conceptual understanding of clay.

\*Students will learn about the formal properties of clay and how to work with the material at different stages.

\*Students will work to create sculptural forms, paying attention to form and surface.

\*Students will attend a USC-L Native American Studies lecture. (TBA)

\*Students will visit at least two local pottery studios. (TBA)

**Assessments:**

Learning outcomes of visual form projects will be assessed with regard to:

\***Creativity:** to what degree does the work exhibit “originality”? Are the projects shallow, or lacking creative depth? Did the student explore several possibilities before deciding and executing one of them.

\***Craftsmanshisp:** i.e. neatness. The amount of “care” that went into the work as it was being created as well as the finished product. Are edges finished and smooth? Is the ‘ work museum ’ ready?

**\*Following Directions:** does the finished product exhibit the guidelines as set forth in the assignment? Are the specific Elements of Design and/or Organizing Principals of Design clearly evident as set forth in the assignment? Does the work show consideration on the part of the student and understanding of the projects intent?

**\*Individual Effort:** did the student give the assignment his/her “best effort” or was it just casually addressed?

**\*Critiques** (critical reviews) both individual and full in-class participation, are conducted for visual form projects and are focused on the visual elements and principles and how they work together and/or independently, to form coherent visual statements. Critiques enable evaluation of the student’s grasp of how to control visual form for specific purposes.

\*Prior to grading, each project will be submitted for a formal group critique.

\*Group critiques will be announced in advance and are **mandatory** in both attendance and participation.

\*All work should be dated and signed on the bottom of the vessel.

\*Work executed the “night before” will not be accepted. It’s obvious and embarrassing.

\***Check for conflicts now-** attendance is mandatory with no exceptions.

\*Failure to attend the final critique will result in a failing grade for this course!

Do not, under any circumstances, schedule another activity, buy a plane ticket, schedule a ride, etc. on the final exam day. This is the date that has been set for the Final Exam for this course.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:**

The Final Grade will be computed using a 100 point grading system. The categories are broken down as follows:

\*Portfolio of assigned projects 70%

\*Sketchbook/Journal 10%

\*Ceramic Presentation 10%

\*Attendance/participation 10%

**GRADING GUIDELINES:**

**5=A=97**

**4=B=89**

**3=C=81**

**2=D=73**

**1=F=65and less**

**ATTENDENCE POLICY:**

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to make up class work on your own and to find out about assignments and deadlines for projects from your colleagues. Absence from class does not excuse any student from completing assigned projects.

Being on time to class is essential since all lectures, critiques and project introductions/descriptions are presented at the beginning of class. If a student is late for a project introduction, I will not repeat the information; you will have to find out about a new project/technique from someone else in class. Being late to class is obviously disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor and other students in class.

Presence at class critiques is required; if you miss a critique, that project will receive a **zero.**

**A 4th absence will result in automatic failure.** Be present for class and come prepared; this class is very intense and it will be very hard to play catch up.

**TARDINESS:**

I generally give instructions and handouts at the beginning of class; therefore you need to be in class prior to the designated start time. If you are consistently late to class, you will miss significant instructions. Each late arrival for class counts as ½ of an absence. Without prior permission, each day early “departure” from class also counts as ½ of an absence. Please talk to me before the start of class if you have to leave early (only emergency basis).

**MATERIALS:**

1. A potter’s knife (also called a fettling knife)
2. A thin metal scraper for smoothing(rib)
3. A needle on a stick tool for cutting the top straight (needle tool)
4. A trimming tool (metal cutting loops on the ends of a stick)
5. A #6 bamboo brush for decorating
6. A cheap brush about 2 inches wide for coloring large areas with glaze
7. A serrated rib
8. A wire tool
9. Small kitchen trash bags
10. 4 bottles of low fire glaze (any color)
11. 3 bags of Raku Clay
12. X-acto knife
13. Small plastic lidded jar (for slip)
14. Dowels
15. Tri-fold board for presentation
16. Gallon size zip lock bags
17. **OPTIONAL-** Tool box/Apron

**RESEARCH: Each student will be responsible for a topic, as listed below:**

Egyptian Pottery -Anasazi Pottery –Contemporary Pottery – Catawba Pottery –Peruvian Pottery –Chinese Pottery –Raku Pottery –Southern Face Jugs –Italian Pottery –Yoruba pottery –Greek Pottery –Roman Pottery – Dave the Slave potter.

**CERAMIC 1 PROJECTS:**

Ornate mugs and Dowel mugs Turtle Sculpture modeling

Coiled cut-out chips bowl and dip bowl and spoon Self Portrait Boxes

Geometric slab vase Napkin Rings

Oriental Slab Plates Greek-Styled Pitcher