

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE – UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

OUTLINE OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

COURSE NAME: Ceramics Studio: Hand building I

COURSE NUMBER: ART 105B

CREDIT HOUR: 03

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Studio experience mainly for non-majors. This course is an introduction to clay as an art medium. Emphasis on basic hand building techniques and on decorating, glazing, and firing of ceramic pieces.

MISSION STATEMENT: Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development: we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ART 105B, THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Demonstrate through finished ceramic objects a basic understanding of the hand building techniques.
2. Comprehend and apply the visual elements of line, shape, color, texture, volume and mass and the design principles of balance, rhythm, dominance, contrast, variation and unity to the execution of ceramic objects.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of color and color theory as it is related to the use of glazes.
4. Complete the creative problem-solving process from planning and discovery to implementation and evaluation.
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of drawing as a means of notation, conceptualization and visual organization.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of historic and contemporary examples of ceramics.
7. Begin to use the ceramic process to express personal imagery.
8. Demonstrate an ability to articulate the concepts and intent of a finished ceramic piece.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.

REQUIREMENTS COURSE SATISFIES:

AT UH WINDWARD: Fulfills the Arts and Humanities Group 1: The Arts

PREREQUISITES: None

RECOMMENDED SPECIAL PREPARATION: Art 101

RECOMMENDED BASIC SKILLS LEVELS: Reading Level of Text(s): 11th grade

**ACTIVITIES REQUIRED AT SCHEDULED TIMES OTHER THAN CLASS TIMES:
Students should work an additional three to five hours a week during opening lab time.**

PROFESSOR: Paul Nash

OFFICE: Palanakila 216

OFFICE HOURS: To be announced

**TELEPHONE: 235-7323 (Office)
X323 (On-Campus)
pnash@hawaii.edu**

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2009

I. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this class is to develop an understanding of ceramic art. The functions of clay and the endless possibilities will be explored in hand building. By the end of the course the student should be able to execute the different hand building methods, develop their creativity, broaden their understanding of historical and contemporary ceramic art. Have an understanding of the firing processes of stoneware, earthenware, raku and pit fire. The student will gain an understanding of how much time and work

is involved in executing a finished ceramic piece.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will demonstrate skills of pottery hand building, craftsmanship, proper management and clean up of equipment.

- A. Pinch Forms
- B. Coil Forms
- C. Slab Forms
- D. Lidded Forms
- E. Pulling Handles
- F. Bas Relief and Textures
- G. Hump and Slump Molds
- H. Applying of Glazes and Oxides to Bisque Ware

III. MODE OF INSTRUCTION

(Assignments are subject to change by the professor at any time. All projects and ideas must be pre-approved by the Professor.)

- A. Lecture Topic -The history and physical characteristics of clay. (Student Notebook Required) Student must have a notebook for taking down information and hand out papers. Professor will do a clay demonstration, wedging and preparing clay. Pinch forms and Slab forms. Professor will do a demonstration on pinch and slab building. The student must be able to wedge and prepare their clay first. First Project: Student will make 6 test pots using pinch or slab technique, using 2 to 4lbs. of clay. These test pots are for the high fire glazing process. (Stoneware) [Two-week assignment] I also want you to do an Experimental project in clay-pushing, pounding, bending, experimenting with movement and feeling of clay. The Student is require to wedge and prepare four pounds of clay in the beginning of each class session before working on any of their clay projects.

Six test pots are for the high fire stoneware glazes. All test pots; and clay projects must have a clay cookie. A clay cookie is a slab of clay 3/8 inches thick by 3/4 inches wider then the base of your pot. The cookie goes under your pot, so if the glaze runs off your pot, it will run onto the cookie and not onto the kiln shelf. Your test pots and or projects will not go into the glaze kiln if there isn't a cookie. Cookie's can be reused if glaze does not run onto the cookie surface.

- B. Lecture Topic - what is a glaze, methods of glazing, kiln firing and management. Stoneware High Fire (Oxidation/Reduction), Raku Firing, Pit Firing, Sumi brush strokes, use of oxides, engobe decorating, china paints, and lusters.**
- C. Professor will demonstrate pinch forms. Second project: the student will join pinch forms together to create the following: Pick any two or the four assignments.**
- 1. Two animals (1 alive, 1 dead)**
 - 2. Two pinch forms--functional, vase, bottle, tea bowl, mug, etc.**
 - 3. Two covered forms—cover jar.**
 - 4. Two sculptures—non-functional, abstract. [4-week assignment]**
- All pinch forms must be at least 4 to 6 inches in height or width.**
- D. Professor will demonstrate the coil method. Third project:**
- 1. Student will make one small coil form first to work out any technical problems. 8" to 10" Coil project can be functional or non-functional.**
 - 2. The student will make one closed form 18" in height, OR one open form 18" in width from the coil method. The open form cannot be flat. [4-week assignment]**
- E. Professor will demonstrate the use of slab construction and the making of handles. Pulling handles is required for the course. Fourth project:**
- 1. The student will make 5 cylinders connecting and cutting them together in any way to create a 3-dimensional design.**
 - 2. One free form - a feeling of light and airy**
 - 3. One box form - expanded into a creative design form.**
 - 4. Eight drinking vessels with handles. Functional or abstract. [3-week assignment]**
 - 5. Eight dishes. Bowls and or plates. Functional**

IV. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students are to have their water bucket and tools at all work areas all the time. Wheel area, table area and or glazing area.

You must inscribe your finished projects and cookies with your name, no initials. Projects with initials or no name will be thrown out at the instructor's discretion.

The instructor reserves the right not to fire and/or throw out any project which does

not meet basic design and form concepts or any other reason. All test pots, and projects most show good craftsmanship or I will not fire your clay work.

Abandoned clay projects: There are designated areas in the kiln area and the studio (you will be shown these areas). Unclaimed clay artwork will be set-aside in these areas. Two weeks notice will be given to students to claim their works. After that period, the pieces will be considered abandoned and will be thrown away.

Before the end of class, students are responsible for cleaning up his/her area and then cleaning up the studio. No one leaves early.

Students should work an additional three to five hours a week during open lab time. Open lab time does not replace Class time.

Lab assistants will monitor the open lab time. If your questions are beyond their scope, then you must wait until class time for answers to your questions. The open lab time is for working on your clay projects only. There is to be no loading or unloading of any kilns. There is to be no firing of kilns during open lab, raku, bisque, etc. I encourage you to make more then the required assignments. Losing 30% to 60% of your work is not uncommon for beginners. A good rule of thumb to follow is if you want one, you should make three.

There is a pottery sale at the end of the semester. All students enrolled in ceramic courses can participate in the sale. You are automatically a member of the Ceramics Club.

V. EVALUATION

The student should be able to extend their skills and knowledge of hand building methods, sculpture and a development of imagination, history and physical characteristics of clay, clay formula, and classifications of clays. Clays that are found throughout the world, types of slip treatments, use of texture on clay, glazes, what is a glaze, treatment of a glaze, how a glaze can be changed, and kiln firings and management of kilns will also be included.

Grade will be based on critique of 9 projects in the greenware stage, punctual attendance, work habits, final critique, open book homework test and ceramic notebook. You must have at least one finished ceramic piece for final critique. Final critique is on the last day of class.

Work habits and effort are an important part of the evaluation process of your grade. The effort you put into working around the studio is just as important as the development of your talent and skill. If you come late, leave early, sit around the studio when kilns need to be stacked, shelves need to be organized, etc., you will be

losing grade credit towards your final grade in the course. Grades will be given pertaining to work habits and effort on a weekly basis. Helping in the ceramics studio is mandatory and is part of the course.

Additional grades will be earned by helping around the studio. Not helping and/or poor work habits can also affect your grade.

- A = Completion of all projects and activities, show excellent skill in design, creativity and craftsmanship, and work habits. Good attendance, not more than four absences. After four absences, grade will drop one level.**
- B = Completion of all projects and activities, show better than average skill in design, creativity and craftsmanship, and work habits. Good attendance.**
- C = Completion of all projects, shows average skill and understanding of concepts and good attendance.**
- D = Completion of 75% of all projects and shows average skill.**
- N = Less than minimal passing achievement**
- *Cr = Credit, completion of at least "C" grade requirements**
- *NC = No credit, completion of less than "C" grade requirements**
- I = Incomplete - temporary grade given when a student has failed to complete a small part of a course because of circumstances beyond his or her control.**
- *Credit, No Credit must be declared by the end of the 10th week of classes.**

Attendance: For every four unexcused absences, there will be a drop of one letter grade. If you are late four times, it is equal to an unexcused absence. Excused absences are doctors note, traffic ticket, court summons. To many excused absences will also affect your grade. If you're having personal problems consult with me, so we can try to work something out.

VI. CERAMICS LAB PROCEDURES

The ceramics lab is an environment for serious research, no different from a chemistry or engineering lab. Approximately 100 to 120 people are working here each semester; cooperation is the key to creating a situation where everyone can be personally productive. These guidelines have been established for your benefit and safety, to help all of us accomplish our individual goals within a group context.

USE OF FACILITIES - only students currently registered in ceramics may use facilities; children, family or friends are not allowed in the studio.

MUSIC, CELL PHONES, PAGERS - may not be used when class is in session, cell phones and pagers must be in silent mode. No C.D. players, I pods, or music of any

kind is not allowed. Your grade will be lowered if you are listening to music.

SMOKING - of any kind is not allowed in the studio.

LOCKERS – Will be assigned to you. Lockers are to be vacated by the last day of instruction for each semester and will be cleared and cleaned prior to the beginning of the following semester.

WORKSPACE - please make it your responsibility to help keep the lab clean.

SAFETY - Assumption of Risk and Release Forms are required from all students. Before using the equipment for a class project, your instructor will review safety procedures. It is also your responsibility to review those procedures before using the equipment.

Activities that create dust from clay or other silica-bearing materials require the use of an OSHA - approved particle mask. These activities include: 1) scraping kiln shelves (protective eye-wear is also required), 2) mixing dry glazes, 3) using the dry glaze room, 4) mixing, grinding, or sanding clay, and 5) spraying glazes. Please ask for a respirator when needed.

VII. TEXTBOOK

Hands in Clay by Speight (required)

The Art and Craft of Clay by Susan Peterson (optional)

Clay and Glazes for the Potter by Daniel Rhodes (optional)

Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook by Glenn Nelson (optional)

Raku Pottery by Robert Piepenburg (optional)

Kiln Book by Olsen (optional)

Complete Potter's Companion by Birks (optional)

Ceramic Faults and Their Remedies by Harry Fraser (optional)

The Sumi-E Book by Yolanda Mayhall (optional)

CERAMIC NOTEBOOK:

You must have a ceramic notebook for taking notes and filing ceramic information handed out to you. (Required) Your notebook is handed in for extra credit at the end of the semester.

Cell phones and pagers must be in silent mode when you are in the ceramics studio. Music of any kind is not allowed.

List of tools and supplies needed: You need to have all supplies and ceramic book by the end of the second week. If you do not have your supplies by then, it will affect your grade. If you cannot have all supplies and ceramic book by the end of the second week you should withdraw from the course.

- 1. 25 lb. bag of Brown Stoneware, (Nash Red Sculpture) Cone 10**
- 2. 1 water bucket – one-gallon size, and 1 clean up sponge**
- 3. 1 Elephant ear sponge - large or a natural sea sponge**
- 4. 1 metal flexible rib or rubber rib or wooden rib**
- 5. 1-needle tool and a cutting wire**
- 6. 1 wooden tool**
- 7. 2 trimming tools - R-2 and a loop tool**
- 8. 1 fettling knife**
- 9. 2 Sumi brushes – medium size**
- 10. 1 Bull’s Eye Level or Disc Level**
- 11. 1 ruler – clear plastic (medium thickness)**
- 12. 1 serrated rib, and or a metal fork from home**
- 13. 12 plastic trash bags, 13-gallon size (kitchen size), from home**
- 14. 1 spray bottle for water and 1 spray bottle for vinegar, from home**
- 15. 1 kitchen knife, from home**
- 16. Small towel (must be by your work area all the time)**
- 17. Pad lock. A locker will be checked out to you.**
- 18. Tackle box or container for holding your tools**
- 19. Old shirts or apron or change of clothes (you are going to get dirty)**

Clay, tools and textbook may be purchased at the Bookstore.

Buy the Nash Red Sculpture Stoneware clay, Cone 10 and choose the softest bag you can find.

Label all your tools with indelible ink marker.

Utility Pail Pottery Tool Set - You can buy the tool set which will give you items #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Bookstore Phone: 235-7418. On campus: x418.

Open from 8a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

BEFORE YOU CAN START WORKING IN THE CERAMIC STUDIO, YOU MUST HAVE ALL 16 ITEMS AND THE REQUIRED CERAMIC BOOK FROM THE ABOVE LIST.

It takes about two years of hard work to get a good understanding of how clay works and understanding the firing processes of ceramics. The different low fire processes of pit fire, raku, low temperatures earthenware, and high temperature earthenware. The high fire processes of stoneware, porcelain, and the understanding of oxidation and reduction. It is not uncommon for a beginning student to lose 50% to 70% of their clay work from the mistakes you are going to make. You need to be patient.

This course focuses on the high fire Stoneware process and the low fire earthenware process of raku.

May the force be with you!

Good Luck and Have Fun- Paul Nash – Professor of Art/Ceramics