

**WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE – UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII****OUTLINE OF COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**COURSE NAME:** Ceramics Studio: Wheel throwing I

**COURSE NUMBER:** ART 105C

**CREDIT HOUR:** 03

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Studio experience mainly for non-majors. Introduction to the potter's wheel. Emphasis on techniques of forming basic wheel-thrown shapes on the electric or kick wheel. Emphasis also on decorating, glazing, and firing of ceramic pieces.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawaii and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide Oahu's Koolau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment – inspiring students to excellence.

**UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ART 105C, THE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:**

1. Demonstrate through basic finished ceramic objects a basic understanding of wheel throwing techniques.
2. Comprehend and apply the visual elements of line, shape, color, texture, volume and mass and the design principles.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of color and color theory as it relates to the use of glazes.
4. Complete the creative problem-solving process from planning and discovery to implementation and evaluation of the 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](mailto: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 open 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 2014

**I. COURSE GOALS**

The purpose of this class is to explore pottery making and ceramic art as well as to develop an understanding of craftsmanship, decorating clay forms, glazing and firing kilns.

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The student, by the end of the course, should be able to throw basic forms on the potter's wheel and develop an appreciation of ceramic art and craftsmanship.

- A. Wedging and Preparing of Clay
- B. Centering and Coning
- C. Opening and Forming Clay
- D. Trimming thrown Forms
- E. Application of a Handle to a Form
- F. Use of Textures
- G. Applying of a Glaze to Bisque Ware
- H. Application of Oxides to Glazed 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 - (Student Ceramic Notebook Required) The history and physical characteristics of clay. Student must have a notebook for taking down information and filing hand out papers.
- B. Professor will demonstrate wedging and preparing clay, making clay cookies from slab construction (Hand Building) and the reasons for the cookie. The Professor will then demonstrate centering and coning clay on the potter's wheel, throwing a cylinder, shaping a cylinder and the trimming process. The student will wedge and prepare four pounds of clay at the beginning of each class before working on their projects.

Professor will demonstrate throwing techniques of shapes from cylinders. The student must be able to wedge and prepare their clay first before throwing on the potter's wheel.

The student must be able to throw four cylinders in a row before starting on the first project. Professor must approve cylinders before students can start on their first project.

First project - six test pots, wheel thrown, for testing high fire stoneware glazes. Inscribe your test pots 1 through 6 on the bottom with your name, first or last name. Your test pots should be a thrown cylinders, shaped and with a trimmed foot. The student may also make the test pots from pinch and or slab hand building methods. I will demonstrate these techniques.

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 than 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 bisque kiln if there isn't a cookie. Cookie's can be reused if glaze does not run onto the cookie surface. [4-week assignment]

- C. Professor will demonstrate throwing open forms, bowls. Second project - the student will make 20 open forms, bowls. Third project - a progression of bowls, 2 lb., 4 lb., 6 lb., and 8 lb. Plates are optional. [4-week assignment.]
- D. 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 luster's

- E. Fourth project - the student will create 10 vases using 2 to 4 lbs. of clay. (2- week assignment.)
- F. Fifth Project - the student will make 1 set of drinking vessels with handles. Eight mugs per set. (2-week assignment.)

#### IV. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

**Students are to have their water bucket filled with water, your tools and towel at all work areas all the time. Wheel area, table area and or glazing area. If you do not have all your supplies at your work area, I reserve the right not to help or work with you. It is your responsibility to have your water bucket filled with water, your tools and towel.**

**You must inscribe your finished projects with your name, first name or last name, no initials. Projects with initials, symbols 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 must show good craftsmanship or I will not fire your clay projects. Your clay projects will be evaluated in the greenware stage before the bisque firing. At this time you might have to discard your clay project in the scrap bucket.**

**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. You need twenty minutes to clean your area.

Lab assistants 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.

**There is a pottery sale at the end of the semester.** All students who are enrolled in ceramic courses are in the ceramics club and can participate in the sale.

**V. EVALUATION**

The student will demonstrate skills related to wheel throwing. Centering clay, opening and pulling clay walls, trimming thrown forms, and the glazing aspects of High Fire Stoneware Pottery.

The student should be able to extend their knowledge of the history and physical characteristics of clay, clay formula, classification of clays, clays that are found throughout the world, types of engobe treatments, the use of texture on clay, and glazes; what is a glaze, treatment of a glaze, how a glaze can be changed, kiln firings and management of kilns will also be included.

Grade will be based on critique of 5 projects in the greenware stage, 1,000 Points to a minus 1,000 points. Punctual attendance, 500 points to a minus 500 points. Work habits, 1,260 points to a minus 1,260 points. Final critique 160 points to a minus 160 points. Open book homework test and ceramic notebook, 600 points to a minus 600 points. You must have at least one finished ceramic piece for final critique, 1,300 points to a minus 1,300 points. I want to see as much finished ceramic projects as possible.

**FINAL CRITIQUE IS ON THE LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION.**

**YOUR THREE- RING BINDER NOTEBOOK IS ALSO DUE ON THAT DAY.**

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. Points 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 points will be earned by helping around the studio. Not helping and/or poor work habits can also affect your grade. I use a point system to evaluate your grade at the end of the semester. A student can earn up to pulse 200 points to minus 200 points each class meeting. Absences count as a minus 100 for the day unless it is a legal excuse. Coming in late to class is a minus 100.

Wasting time is a minus 100 to 200 points. Bad Craftsmanship on a project is a minus 100 to 200 points. To many coffee or smoke breaks is a minus 100 to 200. Not cleaning up properly minus 200. Not having a complete tool supply kit is a minus 100 each day.

All students start class with a plus 200, I evaluate you through out the session of the class. You can earn more points or fewer points during the class time and after the class time, which then becomes open lab in the studio.

- 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  
2,600 points to 1,950 points.**
- B**                    **Completion of all projects and activities, show better than average skill in design, creativity and craftsmanship, and work habits. Good attendance.  
1,949 points to 1,750 points.**
- C**            **=**                    **Completion of all projects, shows average skill and understanding of concepts and good attendance. 1,300 points to 1,749 points.**
- D**            **=**                    **Completion of 75% of all projects and shows average skill. 1,299 points to 990 points.**
- F**                    **Less than minimal passing achievement. 990 points to 0 points**
- N**            **=**                    **Completion of all projects. 1,000 points or more. Check catalog for N grade, Page 25.**
- Cr**                    **Credit, completion of at least "C" grade requirements, Credit, No Credit must be declared by the end of the 10th week of classes.**
- 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.**

**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 listen 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 the instruction for each semester and well be cleared and cleaned prior to the beginning of the following semester.

**WORK SPACE** - 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. TEXT BOOKS**

The Craft and Art of Clay by Susan Peterson (recommended)  
Hands in Clay by Speight (recommended)

Ceramics, A Potter's Handbook by Glenn Nelson (optional)  
Clay and Glazes for the Potter by Daniel Rhodes (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: REQUIRED**

You must to have a ceramic notebook for taking notes and filing ceramic information handed out to you. (Required 3 ring binder notebook) Your notebook is handed in at the end of the semester for extra credit.

**All 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 (Nash White) White Stoneware, Cone 10**
- 2. 1 water bucket – one-gallon size, and a 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**
- 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. 6 plastic trash bags, 13-gallon size (kitchen size), from home**
- 14. 1 spray bottle for water and 1 bottle of 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 check 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.**

**Use only Nash White Stoneware, 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 FROM THE ABOVE LIST AND THE REQUIRED 3 RING BINDER NOTEBOOK FOR FILING INFORMATION.**

**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.**

**Learning the potter's wheel is a time consuming process. You really need to put in a minimum of 3 days per week and 5 days per week would be best.**

**This course focuses on the high fire Stoneware process and the low fire Earthenware process of Raku.**

**THERE IS NO CLAY OR GLAZE WORK THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS. YOU ARE TO HAVE ALL YOUR SUPPLIES BY THE FOLLOWING WEEK AND BE READY TO WORK IN CLAY.**

**May the force be with you!**

**Good luck and have fun!**

**Paul Nash – Professor of Ceramics**