WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE – UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  

OUTLINE OF COURSE OBJECTIVES  

COURSE NAME: Ceramic Studio: Hand Building II  

COURSE NUMBER: ART 243, CRN 61142, Fall 2017  

CREDIT HOUR: 03  

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Development of hand building techniques, sculptural and vessel concepts, surface treatment and glazing. Repeatable once for 3 credits for a total of 6 credits.  

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 243, THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO:  

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the three basic hand-building techniques and the potential of each as structural and decorative elements.  
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the varieties of materials and techniques of the glazing and firing processes.  
3. Demonstrate innovative and inventive problem solving. Through creative decision-making and insightful articulation of finished ceramic vessels and sculptural forms.  
4. Demonstrate an ability to generate creative ideas through three-dimensional visualization techniques.  
5. Demonstrate an understanding of color and color theory as it relates to three-dimensional form in the use of glazes and oxides.  

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 ʻAkoakoa 213 for more information.
I. COURSE GOALS

Intermediate hand building will involve more advanced projects in clay; more familiarity with glazes, clay theory and kiln firings. Goals are to provide the student with an opportunity to advance their creativity, techniques and knowledge in ceramics. To handle clay with authority, broaden their understanding of historical and contemporary ceramic art, the firing processes of stoneware, earthenware, raku and pit fire.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student, by the end of the course, should have an understanding of constructing complicated hand building forms, glaze color variation from a base glaze, the different range of clay bodies, and basic sumi brush strokes.
III. MODE OF INSTRUCTION

This is a two-semester mode of instruction. The student will pick three assignments to work on. One assignment being a research paper on glazes or clay bodies. The student is also to make his or her own clay assignment with the professor’s consent. (Assignments are subject to change by the professor at any time)

A. Glaze Theory. (Student Notebook Required) and the book The Craft and Art of Clay by Susan Peterson, Fifth Edition (Required). The student will learn how to breakdown a glaze formula to its molecular weight. The student will be given a base glaze and will run six glaze tests using different metallic oxides in the base glaze to understand how to change a glaze surface and texture of a glaze. The student will also make tests on Egyptian paste; the first type of glaze which dates back to 5000 B.C. Demonstration and assignment, Sumi brush strokes. Engobe demonstration and assignment.

B. Clay Theory, how clay bodies are made, and colored clay bodies. The student will run tests on clay bodies to determine shrinkage and hardness of a clay body.

C. Demonstration on hand building and other clay techniques. Making clay cookies and the reasons for the cookie, always use a clay cookie with your project. 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 or glaze kiln if there isn’t a cookie. Cookie’s can be reused if glaze does not run onto the cookie surface. Keep your cookies in your locker.

D. To create a head, hand or foot. Any hand building techniques. Bigger than life size. All clay projects must have a clay cookie 3/4 inches wider then the base.

E. Pinch and Coil Assignment. To create a functional vessel not less than two feet in height. To create a sculpture not less than two feet in height using concepts of open form and closed form.

F. Slab Construction. To create a form functional or non-functional with the introduction of water to relate to the form.

G. Final Project. Three legged base form, functional or non-functional using
colored clay and any of the hand building techniques.

All projects and ideas must be pre-approved by the professor.

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 and cookies 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.

Abandoned clay projects: there are designated areas in the kiln area and the studio (you will be shown these areas). Your clay artwork will be set-aside in these areas, which have not been claimed. 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.

I also reserve the right not to fire and/or throw out any project if I feel it doesn’t meet basic design and form concepts or any other reason. 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.

Clean up of the studio will begin 15 minutes before the end of class, cleaning up your area and then cleaning up the studio. No one leaves early.

Students are required to work an additional three to five hours a week during open lab time. Open lab time does not replace class time.

Lab assistants monitor the open lab time. They will assist you if you have questions. If your questions are beyond their scope, then you will need to wait until class time for me to answer your questions. The open lab time is for working on your clay projects only. There is no loading or unloading of any kilns. There is no firing of kilns during open lab, raku, bisque, etc.

V. EVALUATION

Grade will be based on critique of 3 projects in the greenware stage or bisque stage, and a research paper on glaze technology or clay body formulas, 1,800 Points to a minus 1,800 points. Punctual attendance, 1,260 points to a minus 1,260 points. Work habits, 1,260 points to a minus 1,260 points. Final critique, 600 points to a minus 600 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 that has gone through a glaze fire, 1,300 points to a minus 1,300 points. I want to see as much finished ceramic projects as possible.

**FINAL CRITIQUE AND YOUR THREE-RING NOTEBOOK DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION.**

**All clay wet work stops two weeks prior to the last day of instruction.**

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.

Cleaning the studio at the end of the semester is mandatory. +500 points to – 500 Points.

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 is a minus 200. Not having a complete tool supply kit is a minus 100 each day.

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. 1,130 points to a minus 1,130 points.

All students start class with a plus 200, I evaluate you throughout the session of the class.
**GRADES:**

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.  1,260 points to 1,195 points.

B  Completion of all projects and activities, show better than average skill in design, creativity and craftsmanship, and work habits.  Good attendance. 1,194 points to 1,175 points.

C  Completion of all projects shows average skill and understanding of concepts and good attendance.  1,174 points to 1,130 points.

D  Completion of 75% of all projects and shows average skill.  1,129 points to 990 points.

F  Less than minimal passing achievement.  989 points to 0 points

N  Completion of all projects.  1,130 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 requirement.

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.
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, ELECTRONICS** - may not be used when class is in session. All devices must be in silent mode.
- **SMOKING** - of any kind is not allowed in the studio.
- **LOCKERS** – Lockers will be assigned to you. Lockers are to be vacated by the last day of finals week for each semester and will 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.

VI. TEXTBOOKS

- **The Craft and Art of Clay** by Susan Peterson (Required)
- **Hands in Clay** by Speight (Highly Recommended)
- **Ceramics, A Potter's Handbook** by Glenn Nelson (Highly Recommended)
- **Clay and Glazes for the Potter** by Daniel Rhodes (Highly Recommended)
- **Kiln Book** by Fred Olsen (Highly Recommended)
- **Kilns** by Daniel Rhodes (Highly recommended)
- **Raku Pottery** by Robert Piepenburg (optional)
Complete Potters Companion by Birks (optional)
Ceramic Faults and Their Remedies by Harry Fraser (optional)
The Sumi-E Book by Yolanda Mayhall (optional)
The Art of Chinese Brush Painting by Caroline and Susan Self (optional)

3-RING CERAMIC NOTEBOOK AND CERAMIC BOOK: REQUIRED

You must have a 3-ring ceramic notebook for taking notes and filing ceramic information handed out to you. (Required, 3-ring notebook and ceramic book).
It is required that you hand in your notebook for review at the end of the semester.

Cell phones and pagers must be in silent mode. No music of any kind.

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.

There is a pottery sale at the end of the semester. All students enrolled in ceramic courses can participate in the sale.
List of tools and supplies needed: Required: all supplies and a 3-ring ceramic books 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, ceramic book and 3 Ring Notebook by the end of the second week you should drip or withdraw from the course.

Utility Pail Pottery Tool Set – The tool set will give you items #2,3,4,5,6,7,8.

1. Clay: Nash Red Sculpture, (Stoneware), or Nash White Sculpture (Stoneware) or Nash White (Stoneware) or Porcelain Clay from the Bookstore. AFTER WORKING WITH A STONEWARE CLAY ON YOUR FIRST PROJECT, THEN TRY A BAG OF PORCELAIN AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE HOW THE TWO CLAYS WORK.

2. 1 water bucket – 1 gallon size and clean up sponge

3. 1 elephant ear sponge – large or 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 loop

8. 1 fettling knife

9. 2 sumi brushes – any size.

10. 1 Bull’s Eye Level or Disc Level

11 1 ruler – clear plastic, medium thickness

12. 1 rounded kitchen knife. Not a steak knife. From home

13. 1 serrated rib, and or metal fork. From home

14. 6 plastic trash bags 13 gallon sizes (kitchen size). From home

15. 1 Spray bottle for water and small bottle of vinegar. From home

16. Small towel (must be by your work area all the time) From home

17. Pad lock. A locker will be checked out to you. Optional

18. Tackle box for holding your tools. Optional

19. Old clothes. You are going to get dirty. Optional
Clay, tools, and textbook may be purchased at the Bookstore. Label all your tools with indelible ink marker.

Bookstore is open Monday – Friday, 8a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Bookstore Phone: 235-7418. On Campus: X418

BEFORE YOU CAN START WORKING IN THE CERAMICS
STUDIO, YOU MUST HAVE ALL 16 ITEMS FROM THE ABOVE
LIST AND A 3 RING NOTEBOOK FOR FILING
INFORMATION.

THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS IS TO CHECK YOUR PROJECTS
AND CLAY AND BE READY TO WORK THE FOLLOWING
WEEK.

THERE IS NO OPEN LAB TIME FOR CLAY OR GLAZE WORK
THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

Paul Nash - Professor of Art/Ceramics