ART 105B - HANDBUILDING I
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Hale Pālanakila 216

INSTRUCTOR: Bryce Myers
OFFICE: Pālanakila 148
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. & Wed. 12:30 - 2:30 pm (in Ceramics/Sculpture)
Mon. - Fri. available for ‘drop in’ or appointment most days
note: If you call ahead you’ll know exactly where to find me!

TELEPHONE: Office: 236-9148 Cel: 295-7659
EMAIL: brycenm@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2019 CREDITS: 3 CRN: 60004

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT
Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and
opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a
special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we
provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a
supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
Studio experience mainly for non-majors. An introduction to clay as an art medium.
Emphasis on basic handbuilding techniques, three-dimensional concepts in clay,
glazing, decorating, and firing kilns. (6 hours studio)

Note: Art Majors: ART 105B and ART 105C must both be taken to receive
equivalency at UHM as an art elective.
Liberal Arts Students: ART 105B or ART 105C will transfer to fulfill the
humanities DA core requirements.

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times:
Make time to work an additional three to five hours a week during Open Lab to
achieve the full clay experience and complete all of the tasks.

It makes a huge difference!
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

• Demonstrate through finished ceramic objects a basic understanding of the hand building techniques.
• Comprehend and sensitively 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.
• Demonstrate a basic understanding of color and color theory as it relates to the use of glazes.
• Complete the creative problem-solving process from planning and discovery to implementation and evaluation.
• Demonstrate a basic understanding of drawing as a means of notation, conceptualization and visual organization.
• Demonstrate an awareness of historic and contemporary examples of ceramics.
• Begin to use the ceramic process to express personal imagery.
• Demonstrate an ability to articulate the concepts and intent of a finished ceramic piece.

COURSE CONTENT

You will first advance through a series of skill-building exercises to learn the three main handbuilding methods and gain familiarity with the physical properties of clay in its plastic state. You will then apply these skills to more advanced projects that will introduce decorative techniques in the wet state, and the application of glazes and oxides to bisque ware. The assignments are designed to explore the endless possibilities available to the clay artist while expanding your creative range and improving your craftsmanship. We will discuss the relevance and continuity of traditional and historical genres of vessels and sculpted forms in contemporary art making.

Clay has unique physical properties that make it the wonderful and versatile medium that it is. Understanding its transformation from a malleable, plastic mass in its wet state, the increasing rigidity and strength that develop during the leatherhard phase of drying, and the physical transformation it undergoes in our two separate firings are vital to mastering the medium and will be discussed in some depth.

Some of the Techniques and Methods we will be covering:

• Pinch, Coil, and Slab Building
• Lidded Forms
• Making and Pulling Handles
• Using Hump and Slump Molds
• Creating Textures and Bas Relief
• Applying Slips and ‘Sgraffito’
• Applying Glaze and Oxides to Bisque Ware
• Bisque Firings
• Pit, Raku, and Stoneware Firings
EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Although clay may be unfamiliar to you, the elements of design and workmanship that go into claywork are all around you at all times and you are engaged with these aspects on a VERY familiar level. All day we use household utensils, we see rocks and trees and architecture, we make judgments about products and designs, and we touch and handle things textured, patterned and plain. What I really hope is that you will find yourself drawn to explore clay beyond the class routine, and become aware of the things around you that are—or perhaps suggest—interesting and quality vessel and sculptural form. Allow the boundaries to fall away, surrender to the tactile experience of working with the clay, and let your hands not just touch, but actually FEEL how the clay is moving, changing, and responding to your touch. Don’t hinder yourself with “I can’t”s, Let Yourself TRY! Apply yourself towards improvement in all things!! This is YOUR CLASS and these are YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS! Make this semester count!

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

PROJECTS: Approximately 70% of Grade
Your finished pottery will demonstrate your mastery of skills related to handbuilding, your understanding and managing of the drying stages, and your knowledge of wet clay, Stoneware and Raku decorative/glazing techniques.

Hand-in your work on time, as it is requested (with notes, drawings, etc.), and participate in the critiques as described above to receive full project credit.

QUIZZES & TESTS: Approximately 20% of Grade
You will be responsible for learning vocabulary and understanding certain concepts and processes related to claywork and the ceramics studio. This information will come from your textbook readings, handouts, and lectures. I will announce the dates at least one week in advance and will include a study guide when necessary.

CERAMICS NOTEBOOK: Approximately 10% of Grade
Keep a CERAMICS binder and bring it to every class. This will be handed in during the last few weeks to be reviewed for use and usability. It should include:

1. all Handouts, including this Syllabus, your Project List, and Project Checklist.
2. ‘Reading Guides’ for the text and all Lecture Notes you take.
3. Detailed Glazing Records, all with simple diagrammatic sketches
4. Any Sketching you might do, Pictures, etc. that you find inspirational.
5. Blank Paper, lined or not, that you can use for all of the above!
6. 

The following also play a major factor in determining grades:

ATTENDANCE:
Be here and be working. Please don’t be late, and don’t leave early.

• You are allowed three absences. Additional absences begin to lower your grade.
• Three ‘lates’ equal one absence (15 minutes or more).
• More than six absences may result in failing the course.
• Open lab time does not replace class time unless previously arranged/approved.

  note: I am understanding of extenuating circumstances, within reason. Talk to me!

EFFORT & PROGRESS:
Apply yourself to overcoming difficulties encountered in the clay-working processes, develop your sense of design, and improve your craftsmanship. This also includes participating and becoming ‘integrated’ into the studio setting.
If you are here working, being creative and bold, and attempting to overcome difficulties… **You will be progressing!**

COMPLETE & PROPER CLEAN UP:
...and if you are working, you are making some sort of mess, so please, please, please clean up after yourself and contribute daily to the general clean up. Do a little more than ‘your part’. This is important: **helping out will help your grade, leaving a mess will hurt it!**
This includes, at the very least:
• thoroughly sponging down the wheels, all bats and workboards, etc.
• cleaning your tools before you put them away
• wiping up *and drying* the tables (sponges leave a clay film that turns white later!)
• sweeping and mopping your space and in front of your locker,
• checking the wedging tables and around the sinks, the glazing areas, etc.
• cleaning all studio tools, sprayers and scrapers, etc.
• taking home your towel for washing when necessary (at least every other week!)
• You may be asked to re-clean an area if it’s not finished properly, even if it’s not yours...

**Proper clean up is essential to our health and safety in the studio; bad clay habits or poor cleaning will be addressed. Please respect clean up and closing times.**

GRADING SCALE:
A = Completion of all projects and activities, excellent attendance (not more than three absences), and excellent work habits. Shows strong understanding of concepts and excels in design skills, creativity and craftsmanship.
B = Completion of all projects and activities, good attendance (not more than four absences), and diligent work habits. Shows strong understanding of concepts and above average skill in design, creativity and craftsmanship.
C = Completion of 75% projects, shows average skill, fair attendance (not more than five absences), moderate clay understanding.
D = Completion of 60% of all projects and shows average skill, lack of participation (not more than six absences).
F = Less than minimal passing achievement due to lack of effort and poor attendance (seven absences).
N = Has not met course expectations in spite of dedicated work habits
I = Incomplete is a temporary grade given when a student has failed to complete a small part of a course because of circumstances beyond his or her control.
*Cr = Credit, completion of at least "C" grade requirements
*NC = No credit, completion of less than "C" grade requirements
(Credit/No Credit option must be declared by the end of the 10th week of classes.)
*If you are unsure of how you are doing, please check with me!

Note: Although you will be graded for most claywork in the bone dry stage, I encourage you to make more than the required assignments. This is a learning process and ‘losing’ 30 to 60% of your work through error, accident, or otherwise is not uncommon. A good rule of thumb is that if you need one FOR SURE, you should probably make three! Stopping in to check on the drying of your pieces on off-days can be VITAL to their survival! You can sometimes catch problems before it’s too late, or move things along if they are ‘ahead of schedule’.

STUDIO GUIDELINES:
This studio is an AMAZING place to get to work! We are SO LUCKY to have so much space, light, and good equipment, but more importantly, it is the people that we get to work with that make WCC’s Ceramics Lab so wonderful. It is very important that we are considerate and respectful of one another; cooperation is the key to creating a space where everyone can be personally productive and enjoy their time in the studio. Please keep the following guidelines in mind while working in the studio. Our Lab Assistants are in charge when the instructor is not in the studio; please be courteous! Mahalo!

Do Good Work. Do your best to meet the goals of each assignment. Work that is done carelessly or that does not meet basic ceramic craftsmanship standards may not be able or allowed to be fired. Let’s not be wasteful of our time or our resources.
All Work Must Be Labeled Clearly With Your Name, not just Initials. Use a needle tool to scratch your name firmly into the bottom of your pottery. No name? No credit!
Keep Track Of Your Work As It Passes Through The Drying And Firing Stages. To keep the studio functioning properly, it is necessary to clear forgotten or abandoned work from shelves to make room for new work. Unclaimed or rejected claywork will be set-aside in these ‘Abandoned Work’ areas to be retrieved. Every few weeks the work is rotated from the ‘Yellow Alert Area’ to the ‘Red Alert Area’, and work that has accumulated in the Red Alert Area goes into the Trash. It is your responsibility to check all of these areas regularly.
You may not take other people’s work from these areas.
All Projects Require A ‘Cookie’ To Be Fired On. A cookie is a thin slab of clay that protects kiln shelves from glazing mishaps. Make one for every pot, and a few extras, just in case! Poorly made cookies will not be bisque fired.

Don’t Touch! (Bummer, Yeah?) Please do not touch anyone else’s work to avoid the possibility of bending, denting, dinging, smudging, or breaking it! Also...

Accidents DO Happen. If you are involved in damaging someone else’s work, please let me know right away and then write a short apology note. If someone leaves you an apology note, please accept it, knowing that they feel AWFUL about the damage done! Anyone that deliberately damages another’s work will be expelled from the studio.

Be Safe! Common Sense is your best guide to behaving in the studio. Running, throwing ANYTHING, or being careless is asking for trouble. Don’t be a “bull in a china shop”! There are sharp tools, hot kilns, and other dangers everywhere. If you aren’t sure how to do something or use a tool, PLEASE ASK! Risk Release Forms are required...

Clean Up Completely and On Time! Be finished with clean up by Closing Times.

Also...
- Only students currently registered in Ceramics may use the studio.
- There is NO SMOKING or ‘VAPING’ allowed on campus at all anymore.
- All Phone conversations should be taken outside of the studio.
- Music should be played in headphones only, at a VERY LOW VOLUME for safety.
- Lockers will be assigned to you. Lockers are to be vacated and cleaned thoroughly on the last day of instruction and checked off by the instructor. Locks will be cut off after the last day of the semester and all clay and items left behind will be forfeit.

The Pottery Sale: All students are encouraged to participate in our famous Pottery Sales at the end of every semester. A portion of the earnings go to helping to support the studio, and the rest is yours!

Our students regularly take part in a number of WCC and Community events each year.

Keep an eye on the chalkboards for announcements...

LEARNING RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK: The Craft and Art of Clay by Susan & Jan Peterson (recommended)
more optional titles: Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight & John Toki
Clay and Glazes for the Potter by Daniel Rhodes
Complete Potter’s Companion by Tony Birks
500 Bowls, 500 Teapots, or 500 Cups, all by Lark Books
The Penland Book of Ceramics by Lark Books

The WCC Library has many Ceramics books and videos and some very helpful librarians ready to help you discover what they have to offer. Also, there are many on-campus resources to help you with studying, writing papers, and just about anything else you can think of. Please do not hesitate to ask for help! And, yes, in this day and age there is YouTube...
**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.

**TITLE IX**

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/.

Windward Community College (WCC) is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, WCC has resources to support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact Karla Silva-Park, Mental Health Counselor, at 808-235-7468 or karlas@hawaii.edu or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235-7354 or kaahualo@hawaii.edu. To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 808-235-7393 or wcctix@hawaii.edu. (Revised 12/11/17)

**ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alakai 121  
Phone: 808-235-7422  
Email: wccaa@hawaii.edu

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**Thanks for taking my class this semester!**

**Let’s get muddy, make some great work, and have a good time!**

**Aloha, Bryce**
# List of Supplies

Label all your tools and clay bag with indelible ink marker.

1. **25 lb. bag of Cone 10 Stoneware Clay**, Choose the softest bag you can find.
   
   Get ’Nash White Sculpture’ or ’Nash Red’ for Handbuilding
   
   If clay is not bought from WCC, use only Cone 10 Stoneware or Porcelain!

2. **The Utility Pail Pottery Tool Set**, which includes these items *(each may be bought alone)*:
   2.1 1 water bucket - one-gallon size
   2.2 1 ‘elephant ear’ sponge - large, or a natural sea sponge
   2.3 1 needle tool
   2.4 1 cutting wire (can be made with heavy fishing line and two washers)
   2.5 1 fettling knife (long metal blade)
   2.6 1 wooden knife tool (and others, if you want)
   2.7 2 trimming tools: R-2 and a large loop tool
   2.8 1 metal flexible rib or rubber rib or wooden rib
   2.9 1 serrated rib (or a surf-wax comb or similar)
   2.10 1 ruler - flexible, see-through plastic (medium thickness)
   2.11 2 Sumi brushes - medium size (optional: Watercolor detail brush, red handle)
   2.12 Tackle box for holding your tools, or something similar

   *(items above are available the bookstore, items below are at Long’s, Home Depot, etc.)*

3. 1 spray bottle for water *(must be labeled as such clearly!)*

4. 1 butter knife (if from home, use caution!), also a metal fork could be useful

5. a large clean-up sponge (one comes with bucket above)

6. 2 hand towels (must be by your work area always & taken home to wash often)

7. 1 small box of kitchen-size plastic trash bags, 13-gallon, or a bag of 10 from home

8. an Apron, old shirt, or change of clothes (optional, but you are going to get dirty!)

9. a Padlock.

**YOU MUST HAVE ALL REQUIRED ITEMS ON THIS LIST BEFORE YOU CAN START WORKING IN THE CERAMICS STUDIO.**

Please don’t miss class to go, if at all possible.

Don’t forget your textbook, your notebook, and a Sharpie to label all your stuff!

Bookstore Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday- Friday  
Phone: 235-7418 (or x418)