# ART 243 - HANDBUILDING II

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:** 60031

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## 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

Development of handbuilding techniques, sculptural and vessel concepts, and surface treatment and glazing. Repeatable up to 6 credits, 6 credits applicable toward A. A. degree. (6 hours studio)

**Art Majors:** ART 243 and 244 must both be taken to receive equivalency at UHM as ART 242, Introduction to Ceramics.

**Requirements Satisfied:** WCC - Arts, Humanities & Literature, Group 1: Arts (DA)

**Prerequisites:** ART 105B or consent of instructor.

**Recommended Prep:** ART 101, 116

**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.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the three basic and-building techniques and the potential of each as structural and decorative elements.
- Demonstrate an understanding of two different clay bodies and their potential as structural and decorative elements.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the varieties of materials and techniques of the glazing and firing processes.
- Demonstrate innovative and inventive problem solving through creative decision-making and insightful articulation of finished ceramic vessels and sculptural forms.
- Demonstrate an ability to generate creative ideas through three-dimensional visualization techniques.
- Demonstrate an understanding of color and color theory as it relates to three-dimensional form in the use of glazes and oxides.
- Demonstrate an understanding of historic and contemporary examples of hand built ceramics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of drawing as a tool for conceptualization and documentation of personal imagery and technical investigation of the ceramic process.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for and awareness of ceramic objects.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the visual elements and the design principles while creating ceramic vessels and sculptural forms.
- Demonstrate an ability to articulate the concepts and intent of a completed piece.

COURSE CONTENT

This semester you will proceed into more complex projects that will develop your skills and sensibilities in handbuilding clay forms. Advanced assignments are designed to expand your creative range, improve your craftsmanship, and develop your personal vision and voice through form design and surface treatment. Deeper explorations of glazes and greater engagement with the firing processes will help you to begin to understand and anticipate glaze effects and firing results. We will experiment with incorporating colored clay (that we will mix) into a vessel or sculpture’s design. We will search for traditional/historical genres of vessels and sculpted forms and discuss their relevance and continuity in contemporary works (small ‘research’ project).

Whereas 105b is about developing an awareness of the ceramic process, its possibilities and difficulties, and its aesthetic concerns, in ART 243 we will attempt to gain greater control over our intentions in the final outcome of our pieces. While still allowing a great deal of creative freedom, you will have certain ‘tasks’ or goals to
accomplish that are designed to grow your skill and sharpen your eye. We will set some of these goals together based on the direction you are interested in going. I will want to see the use of preparatory studies both in pencil & paper and in clay. ‘Drawing’ can be a wonderful aid and an unexpected source for new forms. This process will help to push your limits in shape and design, and to foresee potential difficulties and develop construction strategies.

Craftsmanship is important to me. Know that craftsmanship is not a certain style of work, but rather it means that everything that goes in to finishing any one artwork is well-executed and contributes to its overall quality when complete. Consider even your signature: decide on a way of signing your work that will not detract from its quality, even if “it’s on the bottom and no one will ever see it”. What is the first thing someone does when they look at a pot before purchasing? Craftsmanship is a mastery of your materials, tools and intentions.

By the end of the semester I hope that you will have a strong grasp on the physical changes that clay goes through in the drying-out process and the firing processes that we use in our studio, namely Bisque, Reduction High-Fire (a.k.a. Stoneware) and Raku.

Although clay may still seem 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.
TESTS & PRESENTATION: 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.

You will also be giving a short presentation with a slideshow on a particular ceramic heritage, style, group, or artist. Plan to show between ten and fifteen images, to describe the style and context of the work, explain a bit about the techniques being used, and to say a bit about its impact or interest to you. I will help you in whatever way you need to get going and to pull everything together at the end… The research and discovery part is up to you! (Note: See ‘PechaKucha Presentation’ on Project List)

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!

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!

_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.

_Do n’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

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 plain ‘Nash White’ for Wheelthrowing
    Get ‘Nash Red’ or ‘Nash White Sculpture’ for Handbuilding
    If clay is not bought from WCC, use only Cone 10 Stoneware or Porcelain!

The Utility Pail Pottery Tool Set, which includes these items (each may be bought alone):

2. 1 water bucket - one-gallon size
3. 1 ‘elephant ear’ sponge - large, or a natural sea sponge
4. 1 needle tool
5. 1 cutting wire (can be made with heavy fishing line and two washers)
6. 1 fettling knife (long metal blade)
7. 1 wooden knife tool (and others, if you want)
8. 2 trimming tools: R-2 and a large loop tool
9. 1 metal flexible rib or rubber rib or wooden rib (kit has all three)
10. 1 serrated rib (or a surf-wax comb or similar; otherwise a metal fork could work)
11. 1 ruler - flexible, see-through plastic (medium thickness)
12. 2 Sumi brushes - medium size (optional: Watercolor detail brush, red handle)
13. Tackle box for holding your tools, or something similar

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

14. 1 spray bottle for water (must be labeled clearly!)
15. 1 butter knife or a flexible 1” putty knife
16. a large clean-up sponge (one comes with bucket above)
17. 2 hand towels (must be by your work area always & taken home to wash often)
18. 1 small box of kitchen-size plastic trash bags, 13-gallon, or a bag of 10 from home
19. an Apron, old shirt, or change of clothes (optional, but you are going to get dirty!)
20. a Padlock.  

ADVANCED STUDENTS: You should begin accumulating a variety of new tools...
- a Surform Rasp, or a MicroPlane, both of which come in many shapes
- a Range of Serrated Ribs or broken Hacksaw Blades for smoothing surfaces
- a Pair of Aluminum Calipers for measuring lids, etc.
- Paddles of any sort
- Textured items for stamping and impressions
- Finer Brushes for detailed glaze work;
- Hole Punch tubes or drilling implements

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)