

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** ART 411     **TITLE:** Ceramics I

**Units:** 3.0 units   **Hours/Semester:** 24.0-27.0 Lecture hours; 72.0-81.0 Lab hours; and 48.0-54.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Introduction to the art and crafts of ceramics. During this course the student will learn elementary hand-building clay construction. They will be introduced to throwing on the potter's wheel. Methods of ornamentation, glazing, firing will be demonstrated and utilized. A number of different firing techniques may be used, including low fire, stoneware, high fire, salt, and raku. Extra supplies may be required. A materials fee as shown in the Schedule of Classes is payable upon registration.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Differentiate clay varieties and ceramic processes
2. Create ceramic forms utilizing pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab and throwing techniques
3. Analyze and demonstrate existing ceramic pieces and distinguish the forming processes used in creating them throughout history
4. Produce and apply surface treatment to a variety of different forms
5. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in ceramics
6. Assess and critique ceramics in group, individual, and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology
7. Safely handle and use all studio equipment, tools, and materials

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Differentiate clay varieties and ceramic processes
2. Create ceramic forms utilizing pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab and throwing techniques
3. Analyze and demonstrate existing ceramic pieces and distinguish the forming processes used in creating them throughout history
4. Produce and apply surface treatment to a variety of different forms
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7. Safely handle and use all studio equipment, tools, and materials

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Clay types and their relative advantages and limitations.
2. The elements of art and ceramic terminology.
3. Surface and firing techniques appropriate to an introductory study in ceramics, which may include but are not limited to slips, engobe, terra sigillata, glaze, burnishing, in various firing atmospheres and temperatures.
4. Visual problem solving exercises that develop ceramic work and require exploration and manipulation of the basic materials used to create ceramic works.
5. Elements and organizing principles of ceramics including but not limited to pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab, sgraffito, mishima, additive and subtractive techniques, and wheel work.
6. Overview of ceramics as a major medium of artistic expression, including the history of clay and its role in historical and contemporary cultures as both artistic form and functional craft.
7. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects using correct terminology in oral or written formats.

8. Studio, equipment, and material use and safety.

**Lab Content:**

1. Visual problem solving exercises that develop ceramic work and require exploration and manipulation of the basic materials used to create ceramic works.
2. Studio projects that explore the elements and organizing principles of ceramics including but not limited to pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab, sgraffito, mishima, modeling, carving, and wheel work.
3. Development of skills and processes using a variety of surface and firing techniques appropriate to an introductory study in ceramics, which may include but are not limited to slips, engobe, terra sigillata, glaze, burnishing, in various firing atmospheres and temperatures.
4. Safe use of tools and specialized equipment.
5. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Other (Specify): This course is taught through lecture, demonstration, and supervised lab time where the instructor works one-on-one with each student. For instance, a technique such as throwing on the potter's wheel is demonstrated to the entire class. The techniques involved are explained and student questions are answered. The students then practice throwing under the instructor's supervision, usually on a one-to-one basis. The student spends additional labtime at the potter's wheel as needed or desired.

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Short written quizzes on demonstrations and techniques for reinforcement of concepts.

**Reading Assignments:**

Weekly reading from the assigned texts or handouts

**Other Outside Assignments:**

1. Raku cup from the first day (not graded, to demonstrate progress)
2. Each student is required to throw a 6" cylinder BEFORE keeping any thrown pieces by the midterm
3. Three (3) thrown works (minimum)
3. One (1)-slab piece, one (1) coil piece, one (1) pinch piece (minimum)
4. Students must complete a minimum of 10 pieces by the final using the above techniques (this includes the raku cup from the first day)

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Final Performance
- C. Projects
- D. 1. Written midterm exam evaluates student's knowledge gleaned from lecture. 2. Completion of a 6-inch 'thrown cylinder' by the midterm to show basic throwing proficiency. 3. Final critique of projects: 10 required projects plus additional works will be considered. Evaluation measures the students ability to use the various techniques demonstrated in the class. 4. Additional credit will be awarded for a written report of a museum visit. 5. Oral exam: Students are asked to demonstrate their knowledge of ceramics and their individual works by answering a number of questions about their final projects.

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Peterson, Susan and Peterson, Jan. *The Craft and Art of Clay*, 5th ed. Laurence King Publishing, 2012
- B. Speight, Charlotte and Toki, John. *Make It In Clay, A Beginner's Guide to Ceramics*, 2nd ed. -, 2001
- C. Susan H. Peterson, Jan Peterson. *Working with Clay: Ceramic Technique*, 3rd ed. Laurence King Publishing, 2009

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**Course Originator:** Rory Nakata