

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ART 126 – CERAMICS I

1. <u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
ART 126	Ceramics I	3	2 hours lecture 4 hours laboratory

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

A basic course in ceramics with emphasis on throwing and hand construction techniques, design and aesthetics, and the creative development of clay objects examining cultural, historical, and personal modes of expression. Health and safety procedures will be emphasized.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- Experiment and use creatively the potter's wheel for constructing the basic shapes of cylinders and spheres, and from these shapes make cups, goblets, bowls, and other specified shapes relating to functional works or sculptures.
- Experiment and use creatively slab, coil and other hand building techniques for constructing basic pottery forms, as well as individualistic sculptural forms.
- Explore the principles of three dimensional design as they relate to functional and sculptural ceramic forms.
- Choose proper and complimenting glazing techniques for finishing art works.
- Relate ceramics from a historical and cultural perspective to contemporary applications.
- Analyze professional artworks in verbal and written narrative utilizing appropriate vocabulary.
- Practice strategies for proper health and safety procedures in ceramic work.

5. Instructional Facilities

Ceramics studio with glaze-making area, glazing area, slip mixing equipment, clay preparation area, storage areas for clay, glazes, dry materials, and student work in progress, 30 throwing wheels (one per student per section), sinks and kilns in kiln room or separate facilities. Tables, blackboard, lecture area, and slide showing area facilities. Computer for imaging techniques.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

- Clothing appropriate for the studio.
- Various potter's tools.
- Water container.
- Health and safety personal protection equipment as directed.

## 7. Course Content

- a. This course includes various problems in forming techniques such as hand building and wheel throwing exploring shapes and forms and their use in the creation of functional and sculptural approaches to clay.
- b. Problems are devised to stress craftsmanship, three dimensional design theory, aesthetics, and engineering in the execution of functional and sculptural concepts.
- c. Various surface treatments are presented such as glazing of utilitarian objects in several firing ranges, raku firing, and other approaches and techniques appropriate to sculpture and functional objects.
- d. Historical examples are examined and related to present time.
- e. Health and safety procedures and strategies for maintaining personal and group protection are stressed and practiced.

## 8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture.
- b. Critiques.
- c. Demonstrations.
- d. Slides and other visuals.
- e. Visiting professional artists' lectures and workshops.

## 9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

- a. On going dialogue of critique and discussion of student works in progress.
- b. Written gallery reports.
- c. Written test of ceramic vocabulary.
- d. Completion of all assigned artwork categories including a specified minimum quantity of a satisfactory level of craftsmanship and concept.
- e. Final examination of all finished student works considering the following criteria to determine the final grade for the finished works:
  - (1) Craftsmanship (Skills and procedures) (35% of grade).  
Individual student art objects will be graded on technical applications of forming skills and glazing or finishing techniques. A proper level of craftsmanship should be evidenced.
  - (2) Concept. (35% of grade)  
Individual student art objects will be graded on validity of the concept, sophistication of the idea, resolution of the idea and the scope of the idea as it relates to historical and cultural influences.
  - (3) Other (30% of grade)  
Written gallery reports (15%), testing of ceramic vocabulary (10%), class participation, notebook record keeping, health, and safety terminology are additional considerations of evaluation.

## 10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Library reading of ceramic periodicals.
- b. Three written gallery reports of professional work from specified San Diego area galleries and museums.

## 11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):
  - (1) Peterson, Susan. The Craft and Art of Clay. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2003.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:  
None.

