

Ceramics Syllabus- 2009/2010 Oak Grove School

Instructor: Christy Sylvester

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Availability: I will be in the art building until 4:30 everyday except Wednesdays and because I am also teaching elementary art, you would need an appointment.

Course Description: Ceramics is a course for the beginning and the advanced student. It is a studio course designed to cover the making of pottery, from building by hand or throwing on the potter's wheel to the application of ceramic glazes and the firing procedures, to produce finished ceramic ware. The beginning student is given a foundation of information through hands on experiences and demonstrations. The development of technical skills and artistic vocabulary will include scoring, slipping hand building (slab, coil, and pinch techniques), wheel throwing, bisque firing, painting and glazing.

This class will be exploring contemporary ceramics as well as ancient pottery from the Orient to the Americas, and by learning these techniques be able to recreate an ancient art form with modern ideas.

Objectives: Students will develop a personal understanding and style of working with clay and through the experience become knowledgeable about clay, glazes and the firing process

BASIC SKILLS:

Introduction to the ceramics studio
World overview of clay
Demonstration and basic skills in hand building and throwing
Bisque and glaze firing

HAND BUILDING

Shaping Clay Expressively
Working in Three Dimensions
Hand Building Methods:
coiling, pinch, slab
Keeping Work Damp
Drying work before firing
Repairing Dry Work

THROWING ON THE WHEEL

Learning to use the wheel
Centering
Creating simple cylinders
shaping
Trimming

ADVANCED ACHIEVEMENTS

Mastery of technical application:
hand building, throwing on the wheel, sculptural design, and creating unique and personal glaze formulas
The advanced student achieves a visual photographic portfolio or DVD presentation
By working independently a serious body of work is achieved

WORKING WITH MOLDS

Press mold
Hump mold
Making Plaster Molds
Slip casting

SURFACE: TEXTURE, COLOR AND GLAZE

Motif, Pattern and Design
Burnishing
Under glaze, Glaze and Sgraffito
Application: dipping, painting

ACTIVITIES/LESSONS

1. Pinch pots and coiled pottery with an emphasis on the texture, design, and burnishing of primitive pottery.
2. Using the potter's wheel, basic techniques, learning to center the clay, forming cylinders and bowls, and trimming on the wheel
3. The tea pot project: create a teapot that is functional or not, using hand building techniques or it can be wheel thrown.
4. Making sculptural pottery and tiles using slab construction
5. Making a stretch pot or vessel using slab construction

All students are encouraged to discover their own individual creativity in the ceramics studio.

Students will be responsible for class duties such as: kiln loading, clay recycling and classroom maintenance and clean up

GRADES: The most important part of your grade is effort. You will need to attend all classes and care about the work you're doing in class. If you miss a class make sure you make up the time so you don't get behind. Keep a note book of work you have finished or are thinking about making in class....you can sketch your designs and finished work or photograph your work. Keep track of the type of clay and glazes used.

There needs to be finished assignments for a portfolio review. You are required to participate in the awesome art show as well as the high school show case as a part of your final grade.

Materials:

All clay, glazes and tools will be provided for you for the class. You will need a sketch book for recording your work and inspirations.

Text Book Used

Hands in Clay by Charlotte F. Speight

Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly and Pottery Making Illustrated