

Coronado High School
Ceramics I
J. Sellers, Instructor

Materials

Resource materials will include *Ceramics Monthly*, reference books, instructional videotapes, and the Internet.

Fees: Each student is required to pay a \$40.00 to cover the cost of materials used in the class. **The fee must be paid by the second week in Sept.** Checks may be made payable to Coronado High School.

Each student is also required to have a planner, a pencil, an eraser, an apron and two squares of *Sculpey* clay (one white and one of the color of the student's choice). These materials are also needed by the second week in Sept.

Course scope

This one-year course is designed to provide experience in three dimensional design as it applies to ceramics. This course includes an exploration of a variety of hand building methods and an introduction to wheel techniques. Glaze techniques, tools, vocabulary development, safety factors, historical appreciation, and evaluation are part of the course. Students are encouraged to exhibit their work. This course will fulfill the one arts/humanities or elective credit required for graduation.

Objectives

The objectives for this course are found in the Clark County School District syllabus for the course and include the following:

1. To acquire vocabulary specific to ceramic techniques and firing processes.
2. To develop responsibility in the care and safe use of ceramic tools, materials, and equipment.
3. To apply the elements and principles of art to the three dimensional design of ceramic structures.
4. To acquire skill in the basic hand building methods, including pinch, coil, and slab methods.
5. To acquire basic knowledge of wheel throwing techniques.
6. To acquire a basic knowledge of bisque and glaze firing processes.
7. To become familiar with glaze formulations.

8. To acquire a basic knowledge of ceramic decoration.
9. To develop evaluative criteria for a teacher/student critique.
10. To explore possible careers in ceramics a related fields.
11. To compare and contrast the history of ceramics to current trends.
12. To develop individual creativity.
13. To develop eye-hand coordination in three dimensional ceramic work.
14. To follow sequential directions as they apply to the ceramic process.
15. To acquire knowledge of the uniqueness of clay.

Course outline

First semester

1. The importance of good design- the elements and principles
 - A. Examples of good designs
 - B. Comparing contemporary designs to historical designs
 - C. Finding interesting design
 - D. Using value to create form
 - E. Creating original designs
 - F. Critiquing 3-D work
2. Fundamentals of clay (1st quarter) and glazing (2nd quarter)
 - A. Lecture/ discussion
 - B. Vocabulary
 - C. Bookwork
3. Projects: Students will create one or more projects using each of the following techniques:
 - A. Coiling/pinching techniques
 - I. Coil vase/ pinch pot
 - B. Extruding techniques
 - I. Extruded box and lid
 - II. Extruded sculpture
 - C. Slab techniques
 - I. Slab pattern pot with a symmetrical design and à graphic design painted on the pot or a slab fish platter

- II. Slab pattern pot showing asymmetry (optional)
- III. Slab pouch pot with asymmetry (optional)
- IV. Slab rod pot and lid (optional)
- V. African mask (optional)

- D. Hump mold techniques (optional)
 - I. Slab hump mold tray or bowl
 - II. Slab hump mold vase

- E. Press mold techniques
 - I. Coil a press mold vase with the wheel and a thrown top. Emphasize texture.
 - II. Slab press mold a vase with the wheel and a thrown top, i.e. Greek/Roman vase

Second semester

1. **Fundamentals of firing (2nd quarter) and kilns (4th quarter)**
 - A. **Lecture and discussion**
 - B. **Vocabulary**
 - C. **Bookwork**
2. Themed teapot and cups-student's choice of ceramic techniques
3. Prehistoric coil pot with a graphic Native American design (optional)
4. Lost City pot using combined techniques or a Pueblo house using slab techniques. (optional)
5. Wheel thrown projects (optional)
 - A. Two cups or mugs with pulled handles
 - B. Two bowls
 - C. Jar with a lid
6. Six inch tall pinch pot (optional)
7. Relief sculpture (optional)
8. Original mold (optional)
 - A. Casting an original mold
 - B. Make a slab pot from the mold
9. Sculpture project (optional)
10. Student's design and choice of ceramic techniques

Assignments may not be in sequential order, or may vary according to the needs of the students and discretion of the instructor.

Evaluation

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A =90% or greater

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

Grades will be approximately based on the following: projects 80%, homework 5%, participation 10% and tests 5%.

Semester grades will be determined using the following formula:

$(1^{\text{st}} \text{ or } 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ quarter grade} \times 45\%) + (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ or } 4^{\text{th}} \text{ quarter grade} \times 45\%) + (\text{Semester final exam} \times 10\%)$

Testing: There will be a cumulative test at the end of each semester and an average of two tests per quarter. Tests will incorporate multiple choices, true/false, short answer, essay type questions, and applied art techniques. Semester exams will comprise 10% of the semester grades.

Homework: Completion of assignments not finished in class must be done outside of class. Assignments will be given a value comparable to the percentage of class dedicated to each assignment.

Make up work: Students may work after school to complete missed or unfinished work. Because most of the work in the class consists of long term projects, a student who has excused or unexcused absences will be allowed ample time to complete the work.

Participation: Daily participation points will be part of each quarter's grade and will account for up to 10% of the grade.

Students are required to attend the student art show which is held during the second semester during the evening on one night. This will also be part of the students' grades and only students with a valid, written excuse will be allowed to miss the event without a penalty.

Spelling and grammar: All students are expected to demonstrate proper use of English language skills and spelling. The improper use of language skills and misspelled words will result in a lower grade on each assignment where errors occur.

Organization: Students are expected to keep their notes in a folder in an organized fashion.

Honor code: The Coronado honor code will be enforced.

Student conduct

Citizenship: The following expectations will be enforced:

- A. No talking during attendance, reviews, lectures, or demonstrations.
- B. No distracting, disruptive, or harassing behavior.
- C. All Clark County School District and Coronado High School rules and policies apply, including no food or drinks in the classroom.

Violation of any of the above rules may result in any of the following:

- A. Loss of participation points
- B. Detention before or after school
- C. Parent contact
- D. Counselor or Dean Referral

Throwing clay is not allowed! Throwing clay will result in any or all of the following (per semester)

- A. Loss of privilege of working with clay for a minimum of ten school days
- B. Written assignments for a minimum of ten school days
- C. Thirty minute detentions before or after school
- D. Parent contact
- E. Loss of daily participation points
- F. Dean's referral with a required parent conference

Rewards for proper behavior and good citizenship:

- A. Positive parental contact
- B. Extra credit for perfect attendance and/or no tardies

School tardy and absence policies apply

Incentive:

Special Art Medal (requirements)

- A. Maintain a grade of an "An" in art throughout the year
- B. Display consistently good citizenship
- C. Complete one extra project
- D. Exhibit your artwork at least twice during the school year
- E. Assist six to twelve hours outside of school with art shows

I have read and agree to abide by the course expectations listed above

Student printed name and signature

I agree that my child should abide by the course expectations listed above

Parent's printed name and signature

E-mail
