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Alabama
Department of
Postsecondary Education

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

ART 143p
Pottery - Ceramics

I. ART 143 Pottery - Ceramics – 3 Semester Hours

AHUM (Lab 6 hours)

II. Course Description

ART 143 is an introduction to various creative crafts, which may include work with fibers, metal, glass or other media. Emphasis is placed on processes, techniques, materials and creative expression. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate creative uses of materials, knowledge of the fundamentals of art, and an understanding of craftsmanship, and aesthetic quality.

ART 143p (the p stands for pottery, and indicates the specific focus of this version of ART143)--

This course introduces methods of clay forming as a means of expression. Topics may include hand building, wheel throwing, glazing, construction, design, and the functional and aesthetic aspects of pottery. Upon completion, students should demonstrate through their work, knowledge of the methods, as well as an understanding of the craftsmanship and aesthetics involved in ceramics.

This introductory course allows students to become familiar with all aspects of creating with clay including preparing clay for the five major clay-forming methods of pinch, coil, slab, modeling, and throwing on the potter's wheel. Students learn through intensive hands-on personal experiences producing a body of work that includes a variety of vessel and sculptural projects. Students also explore surface decoration, glazing and firing functional pottery with an emphasis on safe studio practices. Wheel thrown projects introduce students to standard functional pottery forms (bowls, mugs, tumblers, vases, pitchers, plates, and lidded pieces). Students have the opportunity to hone their individual skills while developing their own personal aesthetic.

III. Prerequisite

None.

IV. Textbook

None. Handouts provided by the Instructor on vocabulary and select readings on contemporary art.

Recommended Texts for further exploration include--

Working with Clay, 3rd Edition, by Susan Peterson and Jan Peterson, Prentice Hall, Pearson Education, ISBN: 978-0-13196-393-1

DESIGN! A Lively Guide to Design Basics for Artists & Craftspeople, Steven Aimone, Lark Books, Division of Sterling Publishing, 2007, ISBN: 13: 978-1-60059-136-5

Resource Publications: Ceramics Monthly, American Ceramics, American Craft, Clay Times, Sculpture, Pottery Making Illustrated, Ceramics: Art and Perception, Ceramics Technical, Studio Potter, Art in America, Artnews

V. Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. demonstrate a solid working knowledge of basic hand building and wheel-thrown techniques.
- B. conceive, design, and create a body of interesting ceramic works with an individual flair that reflects their own personal aesthetic.
- C. maintain functional sketchbook documenting ideation, progression, resources, inspiration, notes, glaze records.
- D. investigate formal and conceptual issues, artists of interest, and movements in art that have historically impacted contemporary ceramic art.
- E. show inventiveness and critical awareness to their culture through artmaking as an ongoing process.
- F. promote and reinforce the concept of quality and craftsmanship in their finished products.
- G. analyze and discuss their artwork and those of others through group and individual critiques and assessments (written and oral).

VI. Course Outline of Topics

During completion of this course all students will:

- A. lectures, slides, examples of product
- B. demonstrations of processes and techniques
- C. class discussions and critiques
- D. outside readings, research, and reflective writing
- E. maintaining functional sketchbook documenting ideation, progression, resources, inspiration, notes, glaze records
- F. outside gallery and museum visits

- G. studio activities of hand building, throwing, glazing, surface design, firing
- H. completion of a body of work that includes basic hand-building (pinch, coil, slab, modeling) and wheel thrown standard functional forms (bowls, mugs, tumblers, vases, pitchers, plates, and lidded vessels) that reflects a personal aesthetic.

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Students will produce art work which will be discussed in a critique environment.

Students will also complete a short, but formal, multiple choice exam on vocabulary unique to Ceramic Artistic production and Studio Safety. Points on which the grade of a project will be measured are as follows:

- A. complete all assignments with the emphasis on the concept of quality and craftsmanship in the finished products.
- B. demonstrate the ability to conceive, design, and create a body of interesting ceramic works with an individual flair that reflects their own personal aesthetic.
- C. analyze and discuss their artwork and those of others through group and individual critiques and assessments (written and oral).
- D. show evidence of investigation of formal and conceptual issues, artists of interest, and movements in art that have historically impacted contemporary ceramic art.

Grades will be given based upon A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, and F=below 60%

VIII. General Course Competencies

- A. The Student will acquire a knowledge of new materials and tools
- B. The student will participate openly in the critique experience
- C. The student will gain a respect for the craftsmanship and presentation of fine art
- D. The student will learn and utilize a new range of vocabulary words unique to the discipline of making and discussing art
- E. The student will illustrate a progressively increasing competence and confidence with design and composition of Ceramic vessels and objects as the projects progress.
- F. The student will produce Clay forms based on additive, subtractive, modeled, and casting techniques.
- G. The student will gain a foundational understanding of Slab, Coil, Wheel, and pinch construction of ceramic forms
- H. The student will gain a foundational understanding of glaze application, kiln operation, and ceramic studio maintenance.

IX. Course Competencies stated in Performance Terms/SLOs

- a. The student will competently create Ceramic sculptural and functional designs using the visual elements and principles of design.
- b. The student will create designs that visually display knowledge and use of compositional and design elements.

- c. The student will create designs that make reference to 20th c. examples and precedent in art.
- d. The student will analyze and critique their work, as well as the work of peers, in a constructive manner using art terminology.
- e. The student will create sculptures and vessels using clay and a variety of tools, techniques, and methods, in a well-crafted manner.

X. Assessment of Instructional Effectiveness

This section describes how student performance related to specific course objective is used to assess instructional effectiveness in helping students meet Jefferson State's General Education Objectives. This section does not describe how course grades are determined.

The student will be able to:

1. Define unique terms in the ceramic art medium, and describe and practice proper studio etiquette and safety.
2. Show control and intentionality in their use of Ceramic art making techniques (i.e. Slab, Coil, Wheel, Pinch, and Glaze application) where the control or lack of control of their Forms are conceptual and purposeful.
3. Speak intelligently and confidently about the motivations and concepts behind the visual solutions they come up with, and speak constructively about the artwork of others, using new vocabulary.

General Education Objective

The student will be able to pass a vocabulary test on new terms and concepts relating to Ceramic Art Making. They will also show understanding of this vocabulary by using it to discuss their art work and the work of their peers in a critique setting. The students will produce a series of Ceramic pieces in a variety of foundational Ceramic techniques (i.e. Slab, Coil, Wheel, Pinch, etc.) that physically illustrate and encapsulate each new vocabulary word or design concept. The student will learn safe operation of the Potter's wheel, Kiln, and the Ceramic studio environment.

Use of Findings

The Instructor will determine whether the student's work is consistent, cohesive, and seems to develop in both craftsmanship and concept as the semester progresses. The instructor will take the success of the vocabulary tests into account and discuss the artwork produced by his students with other art instructors as needed to help his/her ability to remain objective in assessing the success of the students and to modify and evolve the assignments.

X. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

XI. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XII. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).