

Ceramics I Course Expectations

Art Department | Burlington High School

Teacher: L. Djordjevic

Course Title and Number: Ceramics I (721)

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I. Course Overview

Ceramics is an elective, full year course, designed to let you experience the unique qualities of clay. This studio art course introduces clay as a medium for visual expression in three dimensions. Basic hand-building techniques as well as an introduction to wheel thrown pottery will be experienced. Students will be instructed in a variety of glazing techniques. Demonstration, work and discussion will help you feel confident, as you learn to express yourself in clay.

II. Successful Learning

- LOOK carefully. Understand the importance of observation and reflection.
- Strive for a higher standard of craftsmanship
- Listen to the assignment introduction - Ask questions.
- Be open to suggestions.
- Make productive use of your time.
- Be aware of how other students solve similar problems.
- Go beyond the specified requirements of an assignment. Challenge yourself. If there seems to be a simple solution, push yourself to find a more creative one.
- Be willing to re-work an assignment.
- Be patient, willing to persevere when work does not survive the process
- Don't be afraid to experiment..
- See exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and other museums and galleries.
- Look at art in books and magazines.

III. Student Learning Expectations

As a student in this course, you will be expected to:

- Employ current technology to investigate, create, communicate, and produce.
- Apply a variety of problem-solving strategies.
- Write effectively.(weekly article response sheet)
- Communicate orally.(end of project critiques)
- Read critically and currently about the history of and movements in ceramics.
- Obtain, evaluate, analyze, and apply data.(keep a journal of glaze results)
- Demonstrate self-control and respect for all individuals.
- Pursue and participate in modes of artistic and creative expression.(investigate the capabilities and limitations of clay)
- Exhibit responsible citizenship. (Help keep the studio clean)

IV. Expected Outcomes

By the completion of the Ceramics course, successful students will be able to:

- Effectively use and discuss the basic elements and principles of art.
- Increase skills that will result in highly creative works in clay .
- Demonstrate a facility with (and an exploratory attitude and approach to using) a wide range of art tools, materials, and techniques.
- Demonstrate proper maintenance of tools and materials. Take proper safety precautions.
- Analyze, discuss, and be inspired by the works of other artists (from our own and other times; from our own and other cultures).
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking.
- Exercise self-discipline, self-reliance, and self-motivation.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the roles art can play in your life and in the world.
- Develop an increasingly high level of craftsmanship.
- Communicate orally and in writing about your own artwork and the work of others.
- Collaborate on group projects. Help to foster a sense of community and collaboration.
- Create a substantial body of work, both hand-built and wheel-thrown.
- Develop a scientific understanding of the firing process.
- Create an exhibit of your best work.
- Participate in a year-end group exhibition and reception.
- Meet personal artistic goals.

V. Topics/ Content

Main Components:

1. The elements of art and how the principles of design relate in three dimensions
2. Discussion of form and function
3. Discussion of symmetry as it relates to a ceramic form.
4. Famous art, artists, and their historical importance and contexts
5. Visual communication and personal expression
6. Discuss ways to generate creative ideas

Essential Questions:

When is my work complete?

What is art, anyway?

What makes a strong portfolio, and how do I build one?

How can a work express an idea or emotion?

What kinds of ideas and questions inspire me?

How do you see the elements of design in ceramics ?

When is it sculpture?

There will be at least one field trip to an art museum during the year.

VI. Assessing Progress

Types of Assessment:

- Attendance – essential for completion of long term projects
- Studio work habits – cooperation is essential
- Homework projects (research based)
- Sketchbook/Journal (journals will document successes and failures)
- Presentations
- Written self-evaluations
- Written peer evaluations
- Participation in oral critiques
- Individual skills testing
- Final portfolio of work
- Participation in the year-end exhibition
- Midterm and Final Exams

Your grade will be based primarily on the portfolio of work for the quarter (approx. 60-75%) (depending on duration and level of difficulty, each project may weigh from 5% to 25% of the term grade), and homework (usually 3-5% for each assignment). Weekly article response sheets given

Weekly writing assignments will each weigh between 2% and 5% on your term grade, depending on the length and complexity of the assignment. You will be expected to write twice a week; additional writing will be in journal form

Grading Criteria:

You will generally be graded on a combination of *concept, design, technical quality, and participation (see the attached grading rubric).*

- Research of ideas; concept development
- Strength and clarity of concept
- Strength of design
- Technical proficiency
- Presentation
- Understanding demonstrated in discussion and writing
- Class participation
(attendance, work habits, “self-challenge”, listening, asking questions, contributing)
- Specific criteria for each assignment

VII. Classroom Expectations

- Get to class on time
- Use your time effectively
- Take responsibility for the condition of the studio and your work area
- Hand in your homework and projects on time
- Attendance is critical to success in this program. Studio time and group critique time cannot be replicated at home. Poor attendance will have a direct bearing on your grade.

* Cell phone use is allowed before and after class only

The rules in the student handbook apply.

*Cheating/Plagiarism:

No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. For any infraction of cheating or plagiarism (including the first), the student will receive a zero on the assignment or assessment, and parents/guardians will be notified, as per the student handbook. The definition of plagiarism is “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own.” Please note that plagiarism includes all forms of stealing words or ideas – no copying from books, web sites, or each other.

In addition, artwork is to be unique and original. Images produced by others (drawings, paintings, even photographs) are the property of those artists, and obviously cannot be claimed as your own. There are special circumstances that govern the use of “appropriated images”, and these we will discuss as issues present themselves, but *before* you turn in a project that includes them. An example of legitimate use of a pre-existing image would be altering the image more than 60%, but then the question is “what is 60%?”. Our rule is: *ask* (the instructor) *before* you use a pre-existing image in your artwork. In general, use of “pre-existing images” (those not created by your own hand) will *not* be tolerated.

VIII. Homework/Make-up Policy

Homework is generally in the form of the researching of an idea for a project.

An article assignment may also be given

You will likely not be given extensions for work missed due to family vacations outside of the school calendar.

IX. Additional Information

Please feel free to contact me at school: the best way to reach me is by email (djordjevic@bpsk12.org) but you can also reach me by phone at 781.270.2912.

I can usually be found in one of my classrooms—the ceramics lab, room 219 or the darkroom—or in the connected art studios, mac labs, and office. If you are looking for me after school, I am usually in room 219.

What you will need:

- You will be given a packet containing a small notebook, graph paper, a #2 pencil and a checklist for each quarter. These are kept in the room.