BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE  
Course Syllabus  

ARTS 2346 – CERAMICS I

INSTRUCTOR: Lisa Ehrich  
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

For art majors the following courses are recommended as prerequisites: ARTS 1311, ARTS 1312, ARTS 1316. This course focuses on the building of pottery forms by coil, slab and use of the wheel. Glazing and firing are also included. (2 Lec., 4 Lab.)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Ceramics I is a basic course in ceramics designed to introduce the beginning student to the primary techniques of clay construction and an assortment of firing methods. The course combines instruction in the fundamentals of pottery with a philosophy that encourages personal artistic expression. The following techniques of construction will be covered: slab, coil, pinch, and wheelwork. A variety of firing methods will be covered. Specifically, the student who successfully completes this course should be able to identify and/or demonstrate the following:

A. Define common ceramic terms and use them as part of a working vocabulary;  
B. Construct ceramic ware by the following methods: pinch, slab, coil and wheel;  
C. Control shape, volume, and texture to produce ceramic ware in which balance, proportion, and variation of the parts create a unified whole;  
D. Choose and apply appropriate finishes which enhance the formal and expressive qualities of each piece of ceramic ware produced;  
E. Differentiate between the processes and results of firing techniques;  
F. Develop critical thinking in the areas of aesthetics, philosophy and freedom of expression.

COURSE OUTLINE

A. TOPIC: Methods of working in clay  
   1. Pinch  
   2. Coil  
   3. Slab  
   4. Wheel thrown forms
B. TOPIC: Uses of clay
   1. Traditional
   2. Non-traditional
   3. Sculptural

C. TOPIC: Glazing Techniques

D. TOPIC: Firing – Procedures may include the following:
   1. Oxidation
   2. Reduction
   3. Raku
   4. Bisque
   5. Salt
   6. Wood

BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE WILL ONLY FIRE WORK THAT IS DIRECTLY TIED TO ASSIGNMENTS OR INSTRUCTOR APPROVED.

Reading requirement:
Required Text: Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight
Students will have reading assignments from the book.
In addition, a free online source of information, subscribe to Ceramic Arts Daily at www.ceramicartsdaily.org

EVALUATION

Each project will be graded on the following criteria:
   1. Craftsmanship/Technique (40%)
   2. Concept/Objective (40%)
   3. Completion on time (10%)
   4. Attendance (10%)

Projects may be remade and re-graded subject to loss of points for completion of the project by the due date. Late projects can be turned in and graded subject to loss of points for completion on time.

Attendance: 10 points for participating in designated class time for each project
   5 points when missing 1 class during designated class time for each project
   0 points when missing 2 or more during designated class time for each project

The final grade will be based on the following:
Based on 6 assignments in a semester, grades will be averaged as follows:
90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F
Students will be able to view their grades online through eCampus.

A= Excellent work: Requirements for the course have been more than fulfilled and the art work has been developed beyond previous levels. The work must show excellent intellectual skills and concepts, technical skills, and control of the medium.

B= Very good work: The art work and the student’s class participation shows competence in skill development, craft, and control of the medium with an understanding of conceptual concerns in the context of ceramics.

C= Average work: Requirements for the course have been fulfilled adequately with satisfactory work quality. Class participation is adequate.

D= Poor work: Requirements for the course are not adequately fulfilled.

F= Failure: No attempt has been made to fulfill requirements for the course.

Open lab times: Mon-Thurs 12 noon -1:30, 4:20-6:30 pm
Mon/Wed – 6:30-9:30 pm
Tues/Thur. 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
No classes are scheduled during these times. You are required to sign the open lab roster, posted in the studio, any time you work in the studio outside of class time.

Classes are held every day in the ceramics lab. You may work during other classtimes ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF THE INSTRUCTOR. Always ask permission and know that there will be times when this is not an option.

SUPPLY LIST:

1. Supply List:
   a. Kemper Tool kit or the equivalent
   b. Fettling knife or paring knife
   c. 1-2 gallon plastic bucket
   d. Water sprayer
   e. Brushes, suggested: Japanese brush, 1” flat brush, ¼” round brush
   f. Calipers (second semester)
   g. Natural sponge, optional
   h. Tool box
   i. Old cloth towel
   j. Newspaper donations
   k. Dry cleaning plastic donations
   l. Clay: approximately 200 lbs. (cone 10)
      Begin with 50 lbs. White stoneware and 50 lbs. Red stoneware
   m. Surform rasp
   n. Dust mask or respirator (N100)
o. Work gloves (They must have some leather so as to be heat resistant. No rubber or cloth. Check dollar stores)
p. Masking tape
q. Standard size plastic bat for pottery wheel
r. Sandpaper or nylon kitchen scrubber pad
s. Sketchbook & folder or notebook for handouts

Using a permanent marker, mark all tool with your name or initials.

Trinity Ceramic Supply – 9016 Diplomacy Row (for clay and tools)

Note the following:
1. Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as published in the Student Handbook.
2. Theft of other students projects, school equipment, or tampering with school equipment or supplies will result in expulsion and possible charges.
3. Cell phones are not allowed in class.
4. Do not move or touch another student’s work without their permission. Ask the instructor if you need help.

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL DANGER

The construction and execution of some projects will require the use of power equipment and hand tools. Students will be instructed in the safe operation and utilization of these tools. However, the students should be aware that these tools can be dangerous. Therefore, although all reasonable and prudent precautions will be taken to insure that the tools, equipment, and work environment reflect the College’s concern for student safety, each student is ultimately responsible for the safe operation of the power equipment and hand tools that he/she uses. Students who are unable or unwilling to accept this responsibility are strongly encouraged not to take this course. Students with special concerns or needs regarding the operation of power equipment and hand tools should contact the instructor.

COURSE SAFETY POLICIES:

A. All students are to function in a safety oriented manner while working at Brookhaven College. This includes:
   1. Safety glasses or other eye protection used at all times with power tools
2. Dusk mask or respirator when working with dry materials
3. Latex gloves to protect skin as needed
4. Proper dress for protection
5. Students must only use the equipment when mentally and physically well. Students must NOT use the equipment at Brookhaven College when:
   a. They are under the influence of drugs – illegal or legal (cold medicine or other prescription medication, as they can dull your senses)
   b. They are emotionally distraught
   c. They are physically impaired (broken leg, etc.)

Any questions concerning this must be answered by the instructor, and only the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to pass judgment on the students’ condition at all times.

B. Equipment which is broken or seems to be faulty must not be used. Report all such conditions to the instructor immediately.

C. Equipment must be used only for the purpose for which it was designed.

Institutional Policies

https://www.Brookhavencollege.edu/syllabusaddendum

Academic Calendar
https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/AcadCalendar/academic_calendar.cfm