Administrative Unit: Art Department

Course Prefix and Number: ARTS 271

Course Title: Ceramics I

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 0 Laboratory Hours: 6

Catalog Description: Beginning study of three-dimensional principles of ceramics open to art majors and non-majors. The techniques of hand building are introduced with an emphasis on the development of an understanding of the form and functions of utilitarian and non-functional projects in clay. The design quality and aesthetics of the project are emphasized. $20 lab fee.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Most current edition of the following:


Course Objectives:

• To use the vocabulary of ceramics.
• To properly handle ceramics hand tools and equipment.
• To construct ceramic projects in the wet and leather hard stages of clay.
• To control the clay media in a way that emphasizes good design and craftsmanship.
• To dry a ceramic project properly without cracks and breakage.
• To apply oxides, under glazes, slips, stains, and glazes at the appropriate stage of ceramic materials.
• To construct clay projects in the slab techniques.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Apply under glazes, slip, stains, and glazes at the appropriate stage of ceramic materials.
• Explain the uses and limitations of the equipment.
• Compare types of clay and their physical properties.
• Select proper under glazes and glazes for surface decoration.
• Appreciate and express how design qualities, craftsmanship and content function together to give the ceramic projects a unique expression (aesthetics).

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

• Tools and studio equipment
• Terminology of ceramic processes
• Definitions of ceramic products and tools
• Clay bodies
• Types of clay bodies
• Clay properties
• Stages of clay and ceramic materials
• Storage
• Health and safety factor
• Hand building techniques
• Coil
• Slab
• Draped
• Hanging
• Lidded pottery
• Surface decoration
• Aesthetics and criticism
• Glazing

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Edward Collings

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________
Signature ______________________________________________________________________________

Date: March 20, 2006 _____________________________________________________________________

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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