

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: VPA

Course: Ceramics

Level: Academic/Honors*

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

This studio course is designed to give students a hands-on introduction to clay and techniques, with an emphasis on traditional hand building techniques that have developed over time. Students will gain a historical perspective of the role of both clay and potter through the study of various world cultures. The role of decorative surface treatments and glazing methods will also be studied; students will employ these methods in the completion of their own three dimensional clay works.

Standards:

NJCCCS 1.1 The Creative Process; 1.2 History of the Arts and Culture; 1.3 Performing; 1.4 Aesthetic Responses & Critique Methodologies

Anchor Text(s):

None

Supplementary Materials:

Artist and Art Movement videos, current art publications/artist prints and images, Internet resources

Units of Study:

- Art History – the influence of world cultures and their contributions to the ceramic arts
- Traditional hand building techniques – pinch, coil, and slab construction
- Principles of three-dimensional design
- Surface treatment and glazing techniques
- Studio safety – materials, tools, and techniques
- Critique

Proficiencies:

- By the end of this course, students will:
- Demonstrate proficiency in three traditional ceramic hand building techniques (pinch, coil and slab construction.)
- Demonstrate proficiency in decorative surface treatment and glaze selection, using a variety of techniques.
- Show familiarity in preparing vessels and sculptures for firing, and knowledge of the firing process.
- Demonstrate safe art making practices in the studio, including awareness of the dangers associated with handling ceramics materials.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of an artist, movement, or culture.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the creative process and understand the value of critique.

- Evaluate ceramic works according to a set criterion for hand building and surface treatment techniques.
- Identify potential career paths that may be taken in the ceramic arts.
- Refine their perceptual, intellectual, physical, and technical skills through art creation.
- Have an understanding of art in a historic context and an appreciation for artistic accomplishments throughout the ages.
- Think, write, and speak about artwork critically and fluently.

Evaluation & Assessment:

Student learning incorporates a variety of methods, strategies, and skills. To accurately evaluate student achievement, various methods of alternative assessment will be employed in the evaluation and assessment of students, including:

- **Projects (40%)** - projects are assigned as both instructional tools and instruments for assessment. Projects are assessed on an individual basis and evaluated based on the following criteria: following instructions, skill and development, creativity and originality, craftsmanship, and completion of the project.
- **Class Work (30%)** - an integral aspect of the learning process, allowing students to demonstrate their ongoing understanding of content and concepts taught. Class work includes demonstration of a cooperative attitude and contribution to the learning process of the class, proper utilization of class time, attendance and punctuality, proper use of materials and supplies, studio set-up and clean-up, and participation in class discussions and critiques.
- **Tests/Quizzes (20%)** - an assessment of cumulative knowledge and understanding of a unit of study/evaluation of short-term knowledge and understanding of homework assignments and class lessons.
- **Homework (10%)** - enables students to exercise and reinforce their knowledge and understanding of skills taught in class, as well as preparation and/or research for projects to be executed in class.

* Students may opt to contract up to an Honors Level. Specific requirements are reviewed at the beginning of the semester. A contract, which has been signed by both the student and their parent/guardian, is kept on file by the teacher for the duration of the course.