

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: VPA

Course: Advanced Ceramics

Level: Academic/Honors*

Credits: 2.5

Course Description:

Advanced Ceramics is a hands-on studio course designed to strengthen the traditional hand building skills acquired in Ceramics, as well as introduce students to the potters' wheel. Students are encouraged to refine their personal aesthetic, craftsmanship, concepts and methods. This course will explore advanced building techniques and completion of works through carefully considered surface treatments and glazing methods. Students increase their artistic range with the addition of new materials and techniques, and will have the opportunity to develop their thoughts and ideas independently as an artist.

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):

N/A

Supplementary Materials:

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

Units of Study:

- Advanced hand building techniques (pinch, coil, and slab construction)
- Wheel throwing techniques
- 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 advanced hand building techniques, including pinch, coil, and slab construction.
- Demonstrate ability in throwing vessel forms on the potters' wheel.
- Demonstrate proficiency in creating clay structures including extruded shapes, thrown elements, slabs, and coils.
- Demonstrate successful surface design and decoration using various slips and advanced glazing techniques.
- Show familiarity in preparing vessels and sculptures for firing and possess 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 on students' own work.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the creative process and understand the value of critique.
- 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.