



School District of Marshfield

Course Syllabus

Course Name: Studio Ceramics

Length of Course: Semester

Credits: ½ Credit

Course Description:

Students will learn studio and collegiate level hand building, throwing, trimming, and finishing techniques associated with Ceramics. As a class we will investigate and learn the subtle language of Ceramics. Aesthetics of good form and intention will be addressed. Students will be introduced to varying techniques from Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, German, English and other world traditions. Artifacts from master level potters will be explored as we develop our skills. Students' personal interest will serve as the focus of techniques learned. This class will culminate in a show of the students' finest work.

Skill Targets:

- Understand collegiate level hand building techniques
- Understand various technical aspects of ceramic processes
- Understand complex formal standards when creating utilitarian works
- Investigate formal relationships to make sophisticated vessels
- Understand collegiate level wheel throwing techniques
- Create works of sophistication and considerable skill
- Investigate personal interests in pottery
- Understand the rich history and interconnectivity of ceramics
- Understand that American traditions have been influenced greatly by many cultures

Detailed Topic/Content Outline-Units and Themes:

(Weeks are not simply summed up as multiple projects are always functioning concurrently)

1. *Demonstrations* (18 weeks)

- A. Slab Building techniques
- B. Darting and Bulging techniques
- C. Lid Cutting technique
- D. Throwing large techniques
- E. Trimming large techniques
 - a. Utilizing a chuck
 - b. Tool accuracy and maintenance
- F. Gestural throwing Techniques
- G. Height throwing techniques
- H. Covered jar throwing techniques

- a. Lid Creation and forms
- I. Teapot characteristics and techniques
 - a. Throwing a spout
 - b. Lid creation
 - c. Advanced handles
 - d. Physics of pouring
- J. Pitcher demonstration
 - a. Spout formation
 - b. Movement discussion
 - c. Physics of pouring
- K. Throwing large vessels in multiple parts
- L. Clay variation and choices
 - a. Porcelain characteristics
 - b. Earthenware characteristics
 - c. Stoneware characteristics
- M. Glazing theory and considerations
 - a. Multiple firing effects
 - b. Luster effects
 - c. Color theory and application
- 2. *Personal Project* (3 weeks)
 - A. Investigation of master potters
 - a. Investigation of project specific techniques dictated by personal project decision
- 3. *Portfolio Creation* (3 weeks)
 - A. Photography setup and standards
 - B. Reflection and self critique
 - C. Powerpoint final demonstration