

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Larkspur, California

Course of Study

CERAMICS 7

I. INTRODUCTION

Herbert Read, American art educator and writer/philosopher, said about ceramics, “It is, at once, the simplest and most difficult of the arts.” It is also the messiest and most engaging.

Ceramics 7 is an one-semester elective course offered at all of the district’s schools as part of a four year sequential program in Ceramics, beginning with Art Explorations followed by Ceramics 1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-7. Its purpose is to build on a foundation in ceramics and to focus students to apply their foundation skills and experience, and develop their mastery and personal style in, two and three-dimensional visual arts.

This course encourages and engenders continued development of the art student’s education and artistic voice through both applied and conceptual aspects of ceramic art and mixed media. Ceramics 7 continues building towards students’ attainment of the eight goals for Visual Arts Education, as described in the California Visual and Performing Arts Framework (1996).

Students will encounter instruction in the following areas: art history (especially as it relates to ceramic art and sculpture) contemporary ceramics, terminology and technology, three dimensional design, and techniques for the building and finishing of ceramic forms and other 3D forms using a variety of non-clay media.

This course addresses the following Student Learning Outcomes:

- Outcome #1: Communicate articulately, effectively and persuasively when speaking and writing.
- Outcome #11: Appreciate, interpret, experience, create and/or perform artistic work.
- Outcome #13: Participate in community social, civics or cultural service.

This course addresses the following Goals for Visual Arts Education (California State Visual and Performing Arts Framework):

Artistic Perception Component

Goal 1: Students use their sense to perceive works of art, objects in nature, events, and the environment.

Goal 2: Students identify visual structures and functions of art, using the language of the visual arts.

Creative Expression Component

Goal 3: Students develop knowledge of and artistic skills in a variety of visual arts media and technical processes.

Goal 4: Students create original artworks based on personal experiences or responses.

Goal 5: Students develop skills in the visual arts and appreciation for using the visual arts in lifelong learning.

Historical and Cultural Context Component

Goal 6: Students explore the role of the visual arts in culture and human history.

Goal 7: Students investigate major themes in historical and contemporary periods and styles of the visual arts throughout the world.

Aesthetic Valuing Component

Goal 8: Students derive meaning from artworks through analysis, interpretation, and judgment.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Ceramics 7 has the following course goals:

Students will further demonstrate a mastery of understanding and analyzing three dimensional art in a variety of historical and cultural contexts by using artistic perception and aesthetic valuing. With technical mastery of the medium of clay, students will further explore their personal style of creative expression. Students will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of how their artwork has connections, applications and relationships.

#1-3 below constitute the course exit outcomes. All students need to meet these three and obtain teacher validation of completion.

Students will:

1. Demonstrate technical mastery in completing complex forms using the following techniques: pinch, coil, slab, hump mold, drop mold, trimmed wheel, press mold, slip casting, Increasing complexity can include combining multiple forms, increasing the scale of work to over 12” tall or 12” wide. Trimmed wheel forms include bowls, plates, bottle shapes, cups, a tea pot, a pedestal bowl, a two part large vase, three types of lidded pots, thrown and altered forms. (Visual Arts Goals 2, 3)

Make a two piece mold and complete a series of at least two pieces using castings from the mold. (Visual Arts Goals 3, 4)
2. Complete a culminating series of pieces (at least 3) which represents your mastery of at least two techniques with your personal expression and style. (Visual Arts Goals 3, 4)
3. Integrate non clay media into one or more clay projects synthesizing material, form and idea.
4. Express your personal style using at least three finishing techniques: impressing, carving, sgraffito, slip trailing, slip inlay, slip feathering, pierced decoration, underglazes, overglazes, majolica glaze decoration, high or medium fire glazes, pulled handles, knobs, spouts. (Visual Arts Goals 1, 3, 4, 8)
5. Research contemporary ceramics sources (online websites, magazines, art books) and find an innovative new technique of surface decoration or forming techniques in ceramics. Document the procedure and try it yourself. Present your results to the class. (Visual Arts Goals 1, 2, 3, 7)
6. Load and fire kilns. Help to maintain studio materials, tools, and equipment. (Visual Arts Goals 3, 5)
7. Follow established studio procedures. Research, test and mix glaze formulas. (Visual Arts Goals 3, 5)
8. Analyze historical and contemporary ceramic pieces by applying the considerations of their three-dimensional design: line, form/volume, texture, movement, balance, unity, and negative/positive space in an oral presentation with visual display (poster or photographs.). Create wheel-thrown and hand-built objects from clay embodying this analysis. Class critique of each other’s work using these elements and principles and their historical and cultural context. (Visual Arts Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

9. Gain an understanding of ceramics as a profession by organizing and exhibiting in a student art show. (Visual Arts Goal 5)

III. ASSESSMENT

A. Student Assessment

Student assessment in this course will be based on the following:

- Prompt and regular class attendance.
- Participation in creative activities and verbal critiques.
- Completion of assignments as assessed by the instructor.
- Respectful use of the studio environment as assessed by the instructor.

Students will be given the grading criteria and course expectations, preferably in writing, at the beginning of the course.

B. Course Assessment

Course assessment will be done through direct observation by teachers and administrators and responses to student and staff surveys.

IV. METHODS AND MATERIALS

A. Methods

The specific format for this course will vary in order to utilize the unique talents of teachers and the community to respond to the diverse range of students who elect the course. However, each class will provide the following:

- Direct experiences involving the use of clay and related ceramic materials.
- Lecture, demonstrations, and critiques by the instructor.
- Visual resources such as video tapes, slides, reading, and demonstrations.
- Opportunities for recognition through participation in class, school, and community exhibitions.

B. Materials

This is a hands-on course. Students will work with clay and related sculpture materials. There is no textbook, but students will have access to a variety of reference materials.

C. Technology

Students may use presentation software, internet research, or other technologies as appropriate in this course.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Prerequisites

Ceramics 7 is a five credit, one semester course open to all students who have the prerequisites: Art Exploration and Ceramics 1-6.

B. Requirements Met

This course may be used in partial fulfillment of the ten credit Fine Arts graduation requirement, or towards elective credit.

UC approval for 2009-10 is pending for this course being accepted towards the “F” requirement for UC admissions. Approval is also pending for partial fulfillment of the CSU one year Fine Arts requirement.

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