Ceramics Course Descriptions

A-S 270 Ceramics for Non-Majors (3 credit hours)

This is a studio course that explores the arts and creativity through the discipline of ceramics. An overview of historical and contemporary ceramic art practices will be presented as well as the basics of design and composition. Using hand building and wheel throwing techniques, students will explore the sculptural and functional potential of clay as an object-making media. No prerequisite.

A-S 370 Ceramics I (3 credit hours)

Introductory studio experience to a variety of ceramic materials and processes. Nine studio hours per week. Prereq: A-S 103 or consent of instructor. This is a studio intensive course supplemented with demonstrations, critiques, and lectures. Students will be exposed to clay's diverse and complex relationships to the contemporary world of art as well as its long historical lineage. Within this framework, students make and discuss utilitarian, functional and sculptural ceramic objects. The course surveys a broad spectrum of hands-on ceramic applications such as hand building, wheel throwing, slip decoration/carving techniques, glazing application techniques, and electric kiln, raku and pit firing processes. Students will also be introduced to basic technical terminology and proper studio procedure, maintenance and safety. Prerequisite: A-S 103 or consent of instructor.

A-S 371 Ceramics II (3)

A continuation of A-S 370. Nine studio hours per week. Prereq: A-S 370 or consent of instructor. This is a studio intensive course supplemented with slide lectures, critiques, and lectures on ceramic history, techniques, criticism and glaze technology. The course introduces more advanced wheel throwing techniques such as lidded and sectional vessels, and altering processes. Sculptural techniques such as hollow core/armature construction and a basic introduction into mold making and slip casting is also covered. Introduction to clay body formulation, clay and glaze mixing, gas reduction, soda and wood firing techniques will also be covered. Students will also be introduced to intermediate technical terminology and proper studio procedure, maintenance and safety. Prerequisite: A-S 270, A-S 370 or consent of instructor.

A-S 390 Topical Studies: (Subtitle required). (3) These classes vary from semester to semester. Undergraduates may take four A-S 390 classes as long as the topic, or subtitle, is different each time.

Classes that have been offered in the past under the A-S 390 title:

A-S 390 Special Topics: Kiln Building - This course focuses on acquiring a understanding of the basic concepts of kiln design and construction as well as learning the actual process involved in planning for and building kilns. A portion of this class is dedicated to making ceramic work in preparation for firing the kiln that we build as a class.

A-S 390 Special Topics: Atmospheric Firing Aesthetics and Practices - This course focuses on a wide range of historical and contemporary atmospheric firing techniques, processes, aesthetics and theories. Firing methods include pit/smoke, raku, saggar, salt, soda, wood and alternative firing processes. Studio projects will be geared towards making work suitable for specific firing methods.

A-S 390 Special Topics: Mold Making – This course covers the basic foundations of mold making and mold applications. Students learn how to make single and multiple part molds for slip casting, press molding and mixed media applications such as concrete, rubber, and fiberglass.
A-S 570 Ceramics III (3 credit hours)

Supervised individual development in ceramics. Nine studio hours per week. Prereq: A-S 371 or consent of instructor. This course is designed to develop professional, independent and rigorous practice, examination and study of ceramic art. You will become more familiar with various ceramic artists and their work, as well as historical and modern trends. This advanced level ceramics course offers hands-on challenges that are intended to introduce and expand your knowledge of more advanced ceramic processes and techniques. Some of the topics may include large-scale wheel throwing techniques, mold making techniques, decal printing/applications, luster and china paint firing, or mixed media applications. Ceramic students are required to critically analyze artwork through critique performance as well as assigned research papers, presentations and art statements. Students will also be introduced to advanced technical terminology, glaze formulation and material studies, professional documentation of artwork and proper studio procedure, maintenance and safety. Prerequisite: A-S 371 or consent of instructor.

A-S 571 Ceramics IV (3 credit hours)

Continuation of A-S 570; emphasis on professional awareness and development. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Nine studio hours per week. Prereq: A-S 570 or consent of instructor. Advanced levels of ceramic courses are designed to provide students with a set of stimulating challenges ranging from aesthetic concerns to the more scientific approaches of the field. Using wheel throwing and/or hand building techniques, students will explore the sculptural and functional potential of clay as an object-making media. This is a problem-solving class and will concentrate on sophisticated design concepts, independent idea development and conceptual exploration to create a unified series and work. Critiques are scheduled after every project in which students must present source presentations, submit artist statements and defend their work during group or individual critique events. Some of the topics may include glaze formulation and material studies, kiln building, exhibition design/marketing, arts and craft business models, and studio management. Prerequisite: A-S 570 or consent of instructor. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits.

A-S 670 Ceramics V- Graduate Level (3 credit hours)

In this supervised studio course in graduate ceramics, emphasis will be placed on personal style, its identification, definition, and further development in the context of direction in modern ceramics. Studio, nine hours per week. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prereq: 12 credits in upper division studio work and consent of instructor. At the beginning of each semester students are required to prepare project proposals that include a written proposal of the body of work they intend to create that semester. The proposal must also contain detailed sketches, reference material and process plans/schedules. Progress critiques are held through the semester and a final critique is scheduled during which the student must present a source presentation and defend their completed body of work. Students design and conduct an in-depth research project that incorporate historical, technical and contemporary theoretical resources. The project culminates in a paper and presentation, which outlines the research project and outcomes. Prerequisite: 12 credits in upper division studio work and consent of instructor. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits.

A-S 671 Ceramics VI -Graduate Level (3 credit hours)

Continued advanced studio investigation of current ideas in ceramics, increased concentration on technical and aesthetic development, professional readings, and group discussions. Studio, nine hours per week. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits. Prerequisite: A-S 670.

A-S 770 Problems in Ceramics -Graduate Level (3 credit hours)

Sustained individual problems and experimental work in the technical and theoretical problems of ceramics. May be repeated two times for a maximum of nine credits. Nine studio hours per week. Prerequisite: 12 credits in upper division studio work and consent of instructor.