

**Austin Community College**  
**SYLLABUS**

**ARTS 2346 Ceramics I**

**1. Course Description**

Introduction to basic ceramic processes and techniques, design, hand-building, wheel-throwing and glazing.

**2. Prerequisites:** None

**3. SCANs Competencies (not applicable)**

**4. Instructional Methodology**

The instructional strategies employed throughout the semester will primarily relate to instructor demonstrations and individual instruction. There will be some lecture and discussion periods as well as the utilization of visual aids in varied forms. A class critique of the completed projects on the date due will be an integral part of the instructional method.

**5. Course Rationale**

The purpose of Ceramics I is to provide each student with a basic ceramics experience extended from his or her knowledge of design and drawing on which to build the visual thinking skills, knowledge of historical and contemporary art forms, technical approach to materials and the methods for channeling creative energies that enable a life-time of personal artistic expression.

**6. Common Course Objectives**

- Students will work with a plastic, three dimensional medium in the creation of utilitarian and sculptural forms.

- Students will use tools to express themselves in clay through the handbuilding techniques of the coil and slab methods and through the use of molds.
- Students will use the potter's wheel in making of basic cylinders and related forms.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of glaze application, decorative methods and firing methods.
- Students will demonstrate planning and patience in carrying through a project in multi-step system while maintaining the integrity of the work area.
- Students will utilize the elements and principles of design in the development of ceramic forms.
- Students will present their completed work in a professional manner.

**7. Objectives/Outcomes established by the instructor**

- *Effort*: Lots of effort and hard work are the minimum expectations.
- *Visual Communication*: Does your work say or do what you intended? Are you using the fullest vocabulary of design elements at your disposal? Did you think about line, shape, form, color, texture, rhythm, balance and proportion? Do your decisions reflect the needs of the piece and your intended expression or are they "easy solutions"?
- *Creativity*: Are you pushing your abilities, your knowledge and your assumptions? Are you turning things on their head or going out on a limb? Are you playing it safe and all your work is predictable or unpredictable? Are you surprised at what you have made or are you making things you've never seen before? Would you describe

what you have made to be "pretty" or are they expressive instead?

- *Craftsmanship:* Are you using the techniques and processes to the best of your abilities? To the pieces you make show that you care about them or do they look like something you threw together to meet the basic course requirements and nothing more? Does each successive piece you make show a little more insight or mastery of the materials? Are you in control of the materials or are they in control of you? Does your choice of process or technique "fit" the piece you aspire to make? If you are going to do it, do it well!!!
- *Verbal Communication:* Can you talk about your works? Can you and do you offer helpful and insightful criticism concerning the work of your classmates? Your input and engagement in the critique of your works and those of others is one of the most readily apparent indicators of your involvement, understanding and learning in this class.
- *Time Management:* Are your pieces ready for critiques? Do you have the assigned pieces completed by the deadline so that your progress may be assessed? Are your pieces drying out before you have them finished? Have you scheduled yourself enough time to build, dry, fire, glaze and fire the project again?
- *Attitude and Demeanor:* Many things can go wrong with the works of beginning and experienced ceramists/potters. Clay cracks, glazes run, gravity is powerful, and accidents happen, but the key is to figure out what went wrong, fix it and make another one and maybe another one. Are you willing to help out in the studio? Do you

clean up after yourself and remind your neighbor to do so as well? Do you help/volunteer to load or unload kilns? Do you think about how the things you do affect the entire class?

**8. Grading System**

Determined by instructor

**9. Required Texts/Materials**

Determined by instructor

**10. Course Outline/Calendar**

Determined by instructor

**11. Course Policies**

- *Attendance:* Determined by instructor
- *Withdrawal:* Determined by instructor
- *Incomplete:* An "Incomplete" grade will be issued by the instructor only in extreme or extenuating cases.
- *Scholastic Dishonesty:* Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework.
- *Freedom of Expression:* Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and

critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

- *Academic Freedom:* Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression. Hence it is essential that faculty members at Austin Community College be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without unreasonable restriction and to voice and publish their conclusions without fear of institutional censorship or discipline. They must be free from the possibility that others of differing vision, either inside or outside the college community, may threaten their professional careers.

The concept of academic freedom in Austin Community College is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility, shared by the Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty members.

The essential responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and administrators regarding academic freedom are set forth in the Criteria For Accreditation, adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, as updated and revised.

In the classroom or in College-produced telecommunications, faculty members should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the opinions

of others. In addition, instructors should be judicious in the use of material and should introduce only material that has a clear relationship to the subject field.

- *Student Discipline:* Students at the College have the rights accorded to all persons under the Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility for each individual to accord the same rights to others in the College community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. As willing partners in learning, it is expected that students will comply with College rules and procedures. ACC students are recognized as responsible persons who neither lose the rights nor escape the responsibilities of citizenship. Enrollment in the College indicates acceptance of the rules set forth in this policy, administered through the office of the Campus Dean of Student Services. Due process, through an investigation and appeal process, is assured to any student involved in disciplinary action.
- *General Provisions:* The purpose of this policy is to identify for the ACC community the rights and responsibilities of its students, to specify acts prohibited and standards of conduct required, and to set a range of appropriate penalties in cases of rule violations.
- *Due Process:* In cases of violations of this policy, the following procedures recognize and afford the federal and state due process rights of students as citizens.
- *Emergency Action:* Provisions are included herein to protect the College and members of the

College community in cases of emergencies and other instances requiring immediate action. Nevertheless, even in such instances, the student is afforded federal and state due process rights by these procedures.

- *Administration of Discipline:* The Campus Dean of Student Services or the appropriate facility administrator shall have primary authority and responsibility for the administration of student discipline. The Campus Dean of Student Services works cooperatively with faculty members in the disposition of scholastic violations.

- *Offenses: Prohibited Acts*

Prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, the commission of any act punishable by fine, incarceration, or both, under any law of the United States, or of the State of Texas, or under any local governmental ordinance, all as amended from time to time. A student may be punished for acts occurring on ACC-operated property or in connection with ACC-sponsored activities and for acts occurring off ACC-operated property when such acts interfere with the educational process and goals of ACC.

Other prohibited acts that constitute offenses for which discipline may be administered are listed in the Student Handbook.

## **12. Office of Students with Disabilities**

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.

### **13. Testing Center Policy**

Testing centers are located at Northridge, Rio Grande, Eastview, Riverside, Cypress Creek, Pinnacle, Round Rock, San Marcos, and Fredericksburg. Instructors provide students with information about using the centers. Sites and hours are subject to change without notice.

The following regulations and guidelines apply to all campuses:

- Proper identification is required (current ACC I.D. or a current fee receipt plus valid photo I.D.): Only enrolled students may use the testing centers.
- Give your instructor's name, course name and number, the section number, synonym number, and the exam name or number.
- Bring only those items you will need to take your exam. There is no secure storage space for books, purses, etc.
- Students with disabilities requiring individual assistance on tests need to work with the Office for Students with Disabilities.
- The use of unauthorized materials while taking an exam in an ACC Testing Center is subject to disciplinary action.

For more information, consult the "Guide to Student Use of the Testing Centers," available at all Testing Centers.

