

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2011

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: AR 216

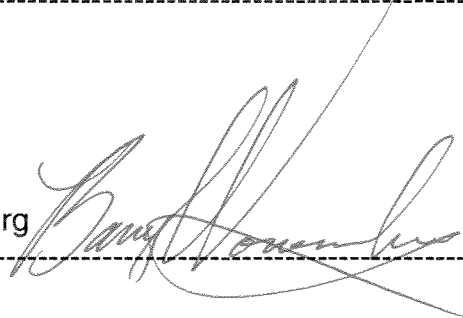
Course Title: Ceramics

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course guide is being modified to reflect changes in the department name, the degree requirements met by the course, the course activities and design, instructional goals, and student learning outcomes, and the addition of a required textbook and assessment measures.

Barry A. Wonenberg

Proposer

 1/07/11

Date

Thomas D. Sharts

Department Chair

 12/28/10

Date

Barbara K. Merfalen

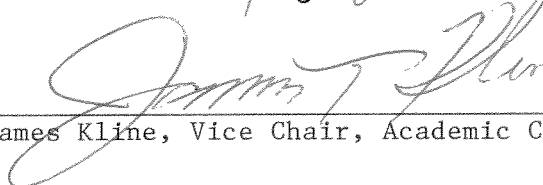
Dean of Academic Programs and Services

 1-7-11

Date

James Kline, Vice Chair, Academic Council

Date

 1-10-11

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Course: AR216 Ceramics

1. Department Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

AR 216 Ceramics is an important component of the visual arts curriculum. Students are introduced to the basic concepts and skills used in the medium of ceramics, and to ceramic form, function, and craftsmanship.

The arts convey knowledge and meaning not learned through the study of other subjects. They represent a form of thinking and a way of knowing that are based on human imagination and judgment. The arts provide pleasure, but they are also intellectual disciplines of substance. Like language and mathematics, the arts involve the use of complex symbols to communicate. The study of art engages students in learning activities which require the use of higher-order thinking skills like analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. AR 216 will help students develop these abilities, enrich their knowledge and experience, and broaden their perspective on the world around them.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Speight, Charlotte F., and John Toki, *Make it in Clay: A Beginner's Guide to Ceramics*. 2nd edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000, or later edition.

Readability Level: Grade 9

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester

2. **Lab:**

3. **Other:**

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3

2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This course introduces the student to the various techniques of ceramics production (pinch, slab, coil, and wheel throwing) for creating functional and decorative objects. English Placement Level: EN 073/074. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Fall and Spring.)

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E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the General Education fine arts or arts and humanities requirement for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, the A.S. degree in Natural Resource Management, the A.A.S. degrees in Criminal Justice and in Hospitality Management, and the A.A.S. degree in Business Administration: Accounting Emphasis, Business Management Emphasis, and Computer Applications Emphasis.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course emphasizes studio art activities, reinforced by demonstrations, lectures, audiovisual presentations, field trips to art exhibits, art studios, and/or sites for art work, and library research. Course activities also include sketchbook studies, written assignments, quizzes, the development of a ceramics portfolio, participation in art critiques, and a final exam. In addition, this course incorporates Web enhanced learning activities--Forums, Online assignments and pre-tests--and the creation of an electronic portfolio.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Prerequisite(s): None

English Placement Level: EN 073/074

Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, the student activities fee, the cost of the textbook, and the cost of some art supplies.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary, and selected art supplies and tools for instructor and group use.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, multi-media projector and slides, projection screen, TV/VCR and videotaped programs, 15" laptop computer, large canvas tables, clays and glazes, potters wheels, electric and combustion kilns, bottled propane gas, clay mixer, air compressor, sinks, storage racks and shelves, bulletin boards and thumbtacks, masking tape, library books and periodicals to be identified by the instructor, and other art tools, supplies, and equipment as necessary.

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6. Method of Evaluation

Students grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Clay and Clay Bodies
 - 1.1 Formations of clay
 - 1.2 Clay prospecting and preparation
 - 1.3 Clay types
 - 1.4 Clay bodies

- 2.0 Ceramics History
 - 2.1 Origins of pottery
 - 2.2 Aesthetics and craftsmanship
 - 2.3 Early kilns
 - 2.4 Pacific Rim kilns
 - 2.5 Modern kilns

- 3.0 Hand-Building Techniques
 - 3.1 Preparation of clay
 - 3.2 Pinch method
 - 3.3 Coil method
 - 3.4 Slab construction
 - 3.5 Mold method
 - 3.6 Subtractive method

- 4.0 Wheel Techniques
 - 4.1 History of wheel-thrown pottery
 - 4.2 Preparing to throw
 - 4.3 Centering
 - 4.4 Opening and pulling the cylinder
 - 4.5 Throwing different forms
 - 4.6 Trimming

- 5.0 Decorating
 - 5.1 Slips
 - 5.2 Stains
 - 5.3 Underglazes
 - 5.4 Glazing methods

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6.0 Glazes: Compositions and Types

- 6.1 Simple formulation
- 6.2 Low-fire
- 6.3 High-fire
 - 6.3.1 Stoneware
 - 6.3.2 Salt-fired ware

7.0 Kilns and Firing

- 7.1 Electric kilns
- 7.2 Combustion kilns
- 7.3 Oxidation firing
- 7.4 Reduction firing

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 A variety of ceramic forms, both functional and decorative, that will encourage aesthetic appreciation of these forms;
- 2.0 Basic hand-building construction techniques used in the creation of well-crafted ceramic forms;
- 3.0 The use of a range of ceramic materials, tools, techniques, and equipment;
- 4.0 A variety of methods of applying surface decoration to ceramic forms;
- 5.0 The relationship between form and function relating to ceramic objects;
- 6.0 The various firing methods used in the creation of ceramic forms;
- 7.0 The relationship between ceramic art forms and culture, including both traditional and contemporary forms;
- 8.0 Methods of evaluating and critiquing ceramic forms based on craftsmanship and the elements of design; and
- 9.0 The process of evaluating ceramic artworks using established models for critiquing.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1.0 Create both functional and decorative ceramic forms to gain an appreciation of the aesthetic qualities of both;
- 2.0 Demonstrate the skillful use of a variety of basic hand-building construction techniques, to create well-crafted ceramic forms;

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- 3.0 Identify and demonstrate the use of a variety of ceramic materials, tools, techniques, and equipment to produce ceramic forms;
- 4.0 Produce ceramic forms using a variety of surface decorations;
- 5.0 Describe in writing in a journal the relationship between function and form in ceramics, and the effects of function on form;
- 6.0 Describe in writing the various firing methods used in the creation of ceramic forms;
- 7.0 Explain in writing the relationship between ceramic art forms and culture, including both traditional and contemporary forms;
- 8.0 Explain both in a written journal and orally, methods of evaluating and critiquing ceramic forms based on craftsmanship and the elements of design; and
- 9.0 Evaluate and critique orally and in writing, ceramic artworks, using established models for critiquing.

10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Quizzes, a midterm, and a final comprehensive examination to evaluate the student's knowledge and abilities in cognitive reasoning and in the identification, interpretation, comprehension, and application of the basic concepts in the study of ceramics.
- 2.0 Studio art projects, class participation, and a self-evaluating written journal that demonstrate an understanding of visual design, historical reference, and social relevance.
- 3.0 Studio art projects that demonstrate an understanding of craftsmanship and elements of design and incorporate historical relevance and influences in the visual arts. These projects tend to be self-reflective and interpretive in nature.
- 4.0 Portfolio evaluation that addresses, but is not necessarily limited to, imagination, comprehension of ideas and concepts, originality, technical quality, presentation, success in solving the visual problems assigned, and the student's growth and progress over the semester.

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