I. Catalog Information

ARTS 18A  Ceramics  3 Unit(s)

(See general education pages for the requirement this course meets.)

Advisory: English Writing 200 and Reading 200 (or Language Arts 200), or English as a Second Language 261, 262 and 263.

Repeatability: (May be taken two times for credit, not to exceed 6 units, Students build upon previous experience and develop higher-level skills.)

Six hours lecture-laboratory.

Survey of ceramic construction techniques: use of surface decoration, glazes, and ceramic kiln firing.

II. Course Objectives

A. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the ceramic lab operation.
B. Develop skills in various methods of forming, firing and decorating clay.
C. Develop an understanding of art making as a process.
D. Develop an understanding of the nature and importance of ceramic objects.
E. Develop a portfolio of finished clay pieces.

III. Essential Student Materials

A. Ceramic tools to include:
   1. Potters ribs and cut off needle
   2. Clay
   3. Fettling knife
   4. Toggle clay cutter
   5. Plastic wrap material
   6. Ware storage boards
   7. Various brushes
   8. Surface decoration tools
   9. Water bucket

IV. Essential College Facilities

A. Studio space with appropriate tables
B. Potters wheels
C. Wedging tables
D. Ware storage racks
E. Clay mixer
F. Pugmill
G. Glaze spray booth
H. Glaze storage containers (dry and wet)
I. Clay and glaze scales
J. Electric kilns
K. Gas fired kilns
L. Raku kiln
M. Sink with clay trap
N. Glaze disposal container

V. Expanded Description: Content and Form

A. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the ceramic lab operation.
   1. clay and glaze preparation, care of tools and equipment
   2. clay drying and firing process as well as raku kiln operation
   3. Power equipment (potters wheel, grinder, spray booth, clay mixer, pug mill) and hand tools (glaze mixers, slab roller, banding wheel, scales)

B. Develop skills in various methods of forming, firing and decorating clay.
   1. Pinch, slab, coil and wheel methods of ceramic construction
   2. Surface decoration technique, including texture, stains, engobes
   3. Effects of oxidation and reduction kiln firing process

C. Develop an understanding of art making as a process.
   1. idea (planning, invention, technique),
   2. skill (craftsmanship, execution)
   3. evaluation (critique).

D. Develop an understanding of the nature and importance of ceramic objects
   1. visual sense culturally and historically
   2. utilitarian sense culturally and historically

E. Develop a portfolio of finished clay pieces.
   1. Demonstrating, pinch, coil, and slab construction
   2. Demonstrating, various surface decoration techniques
   3. Demonstrating, reduction and oxidation kiln firing process

VI. Assignments

A. Claybody construction techniques; pinch, coil slab, and wheel
B. Surface decoration techniques; mishima, sgraffito, carving, colored slip underglaze, oxide , and glaze application (dipped, sprayed, poured, and painted)
C. Kiln firing process; oxidation, reduction, raku

VII. Methods of Instruction

A. Lecture and visual aids
B. Discussion and problem solving performed in class
C. Field observation and field trips
D. Guest speakers
E. Collaborative learning and small group exercises
F. Laboratory experience which involves students in formal exercises of idea and skill development, within the study of ceramics
G. Laboratory safety demonstrations.

VIII. Methods of Evaluating Objectives

A. A portfolio of ceramic works demonstrating claybody construction techniques covered during the course (pinch, coil slab, and wheel) will be compiled and evaluated.
B. A series of ceramic work or test slabs demonstrating decoration techniques with mishima, sgraffito, carving, colored slip underglaze, oxide , and glaze application (dipped, sprayed, poured, and painted) will be compiled and evaluated.
C. The students' ability to personally solve assignments with as much creativity and originality as possible
D. Students' participation in class discussion
E. Written exams or quizzes.

IX. Texts and Supporting References

A. Examples of Primary Texts and References

1. None

B. Examples of Supporting Texts and References

15. DeAnza College Art on Campus, permanent ceramics collection.