

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ARTS 4A
INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS
Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ARTS 4A — INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS — 3.00 units

Introduction to ceramics materials, concepts, and processes including basic design principles, creative development, hand-building, throwing, glaze techniques, firing and ceramic terminology. The course covers aesthetics and creative development of clay objects examining historical, contemporary, and personal modes of expression across cultures.

1.50 Units Lecture 1.50 Units Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Art

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	27.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	54.00
Lab Hours:	81.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Differentiate clay varieties and ceramic processes
- B. Create ceramic forms utilizing pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab and throwing techniques
- C. Analyze and demonstrate existing ceramic pieces and distinguish the forming processes used in creating them throughout history
- D. Produce and apply surface treatment to a variety of different forms
- E. Examine and describe historical and contemporary developments, trends, materials, and approaches in ceramics
- F. Assess and critique ceramics in group, individual, and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology
- G. Safely handle and use all studio equipment, tools, and materials

V. CONTENT:

- A. Clay types and their relative advantages and limitations.
- B. The elements of art and ceramic terminology.
- C. Surface and firing techniques appropriate to an introductory study in ceramics, which may include but are not limited to slips, engobe, terra sigillata, glaze, burnishing, in various firing atmospheres and temperatures.
- D. Visual problem solving exercises that develop ceramic work and require exploration and manipulation of the basic materials used to create ceramic works.
- E. Elements and organizing principles of ceramics including but not limited to pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab, sgraffito, mishima, additive and subtractive techniques, and wheel work.
- F. Overview of ceramics as a major medium of artistic expression, including the history of clay and its role in historical and contemporary cultures as both artistic form and functional craft.
- G. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects using correct terminology in oral or written formats.
- H. Studio, equipment, and material use and safety.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Classroom Activity** - Learning is done through demonstration and studio practice.
- B. **Lecture** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Visual problem solving exercises that develop ceramic work and require exploration and manipulation of the basic materials used to create ceramic works.
- B. Studio projects that explore the elements and organizing principles of ceramics including but not limited to pinch, coil, soft slab, hard slab, sgraffito, mishima, modeling, carving, and wheel work.

- C. Development of skills and processes using a variety of surface and firing techniques appropriate to an introductory study in ceramics, which may include but are not limited to slips, engobe, terra sigilata, glaze, burnishing, in various firing atmospheres and temperatures.
- D. Safe use of tools and specialized equipment.
- E. Critical evaluation and critique of class projects.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Portfolios
one
- B. Projects
2-10
- C. Class Participation
Daily
- D. Class Work
Weekly critiques
- E. Lab Activities
Daily in studio

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Zakin, Richard . *Electric Kiln Ceramics: A Guide to Clays, Glazes, and Electric Kilns*. 4 ed., The American Ceramic Society, 2015.
2. Philibert, Léonce . *Working with Clay: An Introduction to Clay Molding and Sculpting*. 1 ed., SkinnyBottle, 2016.
3. Taylor, Brian, and Kate Doody. *Glaze: The Ultimate Ceramic Artist's Guide to Glaze and Color*. 1 ed., Barron's Educational Series, 2014.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Studio fee for cost of ceramics materials.