

ART 105b - INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS (HANDBUILDING) 3.0 credits
Leeward Community College

SPRING 2006 : Course Outline

Instructor: Ms. S. KAY MURA, Professor of Art

Office Hours: MW: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. and by appointment

F: 12:50 - 1:30 p.m. and by appointment

TTh: by appointment

Office Location: FA 106

Contact Information: 455-0371, skmura@hawaii.edu

LCC Ceramics Home Page:

<http://emedia.leeward.hawaii.edu/ceramics/>, click on "*Faculty*" for links to Mura's classes

<http://www.lcc.hawaii.edu/>, click on "*Departments and Programs*", click on "*Ceramics*"

Catalog Course Description:

Studio experience in ceramic hand building techniques. Course includes both lectures and projects.

Co-requisites: None

Prerequisites: None

Recommended Preparations: None

Textbooks and other Resources: None

Student with Disabilities Statement: Leeward Community College abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which stipulate that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Students with documented disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of the KAKOÏO ÌIKE (KI) program as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. The KI office is located in L-208, across from the elevator in the library building or call for information at 455-0421.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This beginning hand building class is an introduction to clay and it supposes no prior experience or knowledge of ceramics. The goal is to involve the student in the **process** of creating interesting forms in clay by learning basic skills and fundamental techniques involved with hand building. These skills include the basic techniques of pinching, coiling, and slab. Building as well as glazing and other finishing and firing techniques will be covered. While developing technical skills, the student will also become involved with his/her own personal creative **process**. In addition to the development of the physical skills of hand building, there must also be a development of one's ability to see and judge form. Both subjective and objective reasoning skills will be encouraged as they pertain to the development of a comprehensive understanding of the creative process. Another goal is to involve the student in the **process of seeing** art through slides, videos, films, books and viewing actual ceramic work by other students, craftpersons, and artists.

OBJECTIVES:

In order for a student to become involved in the process of creating his/her own unique and

interesting ceramic forms and to acquire a better understanding of ceramics and art, in general, the following are objectives for this course.

** Class participation through *regular and punctual* attendance. **(10)** This is a beginning skill class and there can be no involvement with the learning process if a student is not physically in attendance. The student is expected to be in class during the *entire* class period. Therefore, roll will be taken every day and after three unexcused absences a student's grade will go down by one letter grade. It is up to the student to inform the instructor of illness or other circumstances that can be excused. Excessive tardies can also affect grades because 3 or more unexcused tardies can result in a loss of 5 points. Leaving earlier than 10:40 a.m./12:40 p.m. (clean-up time) without a legitimate excuse and permission from the instructor can be counted as an unexcused tardy.

** Learn to wedge clay, use basic ceramic tools, and apply glazes.

** Practice good work habits by cleaning up properly and to understand that proper cleaning is necessary to minimize exposure to the health hazards of clay dust and other toxic materials.

** Complete pinch, coil, and slab projects: 5 pinch pots (**2 each x 5 = 10**), 2 coil pots - a bottle and a bowl (**5 each x 2 = 10**), and 1 slab dwelling (**10**). **30 points total** for these skill building projects. (Assignments #1-#8)

** Complete **4** projects, using any combination of techniques, based on the following concepts: **a.)** a non-functional sculpture of something not ordinarily made out of clay **b.)** ceramic combined with non-ceramic material after firing **c.)** an historical project **d.)** a real or imaginary animal. **(10 each x 4 = 40)** Each project should represent a minimum of 6 hours (3 class periods) of building and glazing time and must meet the size requirement (minimum overall dimension). A "slapped together", last minute effort will not be accepted.

** Work independently outside of class time. A student should spend 2-6 hours/week outside of class time in order to complete assignments satisfactorily. Open lab time is provided for this. (See Ceramic Lab rules and Information at the end of the Course Outline.)

** Participate in mid-semester and final reviews. **(2x5=10)**

** Attended 3 field trips and fill out field trip report forms. We are fortunate that there is a great deal of activity in art in the Honolulu area and that the work of various artists and craftsmen are available for us to see in museums, galleries, and shops. The class, as a whole, will attend 2 exhibitions/field trips during class time. The other will be considered homework to be done on student's own time **(5 each (includes 2 pts. for field trip report) x 3 = 15)**

** Passed quiz on technical aspects of ceramics with a score of 80% or better (there will be make-up exams if a student is not successful the first time). **(10)**

** Complete a 2 page research paper on an historical period. **(5)**

** Contribute to the general class operation by mixing glazes, unloading kilns, etc. when asked to (8) and by contribution of plastic bags and containers at the beginning of the semester. (2)

** Participate in clean-up at the end of the semester. (10)

GRADING POLICY: Learning takes place during the process of creating and assessing various experiences. *The grade for this class will be based on the student's involvement in the learning process in ceramics* and that will be measured by his/her ability to complete the objectives as stated above. There will be no letter grades given on any projects; instead, value points (number in parentheses) have been assigned to each objective. **Each student will begin the semester with an "A" grade** and will maintain it if he/she completes all the objectives. A student will get either ALL the points or NONE for each objective. Points will be deducted only if an objective is not completed.

A student's semester grade will go down by one grade for each minus 10 points and the grade will be determined by the number of MINUS points accumulated:

A = minus 9 or less

B = minus 10

C = minus 20

D = minus 30

F = minus 40 or more

When each piece comes out of the final glaze fire, the student should show it to the instructor to receive credit and an evaluation of form and technique. DO NOT accumulate all your pieces to show the instructor at one time during the reviews.

MATERIALS REQUIRED (must have by *third* class meeting):

- * Tool kit (purchase from LCC Bookstore) - contains following:
 rubber kidney
 needle
 serrated steel scraper
 wood modeling tool
 fettling knife
 loop tool
 2 Japanese brushes - large and small
 turntable
- * bamboo rice paddle (purchase at Longs, Daiei, Foodland, etc.)
- * clay, 25 lbs to begin with, but you'll need more (purchase from LCC Bookstore)
- * small sketchbook/notebook
- * sponge -- sea sponge is best but artificial cellulose sponge is o.k.
- * wooden/masonite board, approximately 12"x12" for carrying wet clay pieces (optional)
- * nylon fishing line -- for cutting clay -- we will give to students

Contribution of recycled items. Bring in by Friday, September 2, 2005 (2 points)

DO NOT PURCHASE NEW:

- * 10 plastic bags -- any size (vegetable/fruit/bread bags o.k.)
- * 1 small, medium, or large plastic bowl or container, e.g., margarine, ice cream container or similar.

TEXT for reference: *Make It in Clay* 2nd edition, by Charlotte F. Speight and John Toki. Copies are available on Reserve in the Library. All reading assignments refer to this book. (See color plate 13 to view Kay Mura's sculpture.)

DEMONSTRATIONS with their accompanying video tapes will be given only once on the scheduled day. Any changes in the schedule will be posted in advance. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any changes or additions. This is a lab-lecture class in which it is expected that the student will need the entire class period plus outside open lab time to finish his/her semester projects.

DATE ACTIVITY (All videos and demos will begin 5 minutes after the beginning of class.) Anyone who needs to review a lesson can do so by asking the instructor for the appropriate tape/dvd. Any day not specifically listed below should be considered a work day.

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DATE ACTIVITY (All videos and demos will begin 5 minutes after the beginning of class.) Anyone who needs to review a tape can do so by asking the instructor for the appropriate tape. Any day not specifically listed below should be considered a work day.

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| Jan. 9, Mon. | Introduction. Purchase supplies |
| Jan. 11, Wed. | Introductory videotape (Lecture and slides.) Read chapter 2, pp. 7-16. |
| Jan. 13, Fri. | Demonstration and videotape: "Pinch Pots, pt. 1"
<u>ASSIGNMENT</u> - make 3 pinch pots: 1.) a highly textured one, 2.) an asymmetrically shaped one, and 3.) a round one with a small opening,

Read

p.17-25 (6 points) |
| Jan. 16, Mon. | HOLIDAY: Martin Luther King Day |
| Jan. 18, Wed. | Demonstration and videotape: "Pinch Pots, pt. 2"
<u>ASSIGNMENT</u> - make 2 more pinch pots: 4.) two or more pinchpots joined together to create an interesting form and 5.) a covered pinch pot with handles and feet. (4 points) |

- Jan. 20, Fri. Slides.
- Jan. 23, Mon. Demonstration / videotape: "Coiling, pt. 1"
ASSIGNMENT – 1.) make a coiled bottle form out of exposed or "smoothed-out" coils. (minimum wet height of 8 inches, minimum diameter at widest point 6 inches and maximum diameter of opening 2 in.)
Read pp 26-37. (5 points)
- Jan. 25, Wed. Demonstration / videotape: "Coiling, pt. 2" ASSIGNMENT – 2.) make a coiled bowl with a flared rim. The diameter at the rim must be twice the diameter at the base. (minimum 8 in. at rim and 4 in. at base, wet) (5 points)
- Jan. 27, Fri. Read Chapter 7, pp. 107-119.
- Jan. 30, Mon. Demonstration / videotape: "Glazing, pt. 1 and 2". Read pp. 140, 144-158
- Feb. 3, Wed. FIELD TRIP. We will meet at **9:30 /11:30** at the ***Hawaii State Art Museum***, 250 South Hotel Street 2nd floor (Hotel at Richards Street)
Website: www.state.hi.us/sfca (5 points)
- Feb. 6, Mon. Demonstration / videotape: "Slab Technique, pt. 1"). Read Chapter 4, pp. 41-58.
- Feb. 8, Wed. Demonstration / videotape: "Slab Technique, pt. 2"
ASSIGNMENT – 1.) make a real or imaginary house/dwelling/building from slabs. (10 points)
(minimum overall dimension (height + width + depth) =19 in.wet)
- Feb. 13, Mon. Lecture and videotape: "Kilns and Firing" (Read Chapter 7, pp. 159-185.
- Feb. 17, Fri. Videotape: "Ceramic Artists of Hawaii: Victor Kobayashi
- Feb. 20, Mon. **HOLIDAY:** Presidents Day
- Feb. 22, Wed. Lecture and slides for non-functional sculpture.
ASSIGNMENT No. 1: make a ***hollow-built*** sculpture that is non-functional and based on a form that is ordinarily not made of ceramic, e.g., a loaf of bread, etc. ***IT CANNOT BE AN ANIMAL.*** It must ***enclose space*** and have a wet minimum overall dimension of 24 inches. Read Chapter 5, pp 59-80 (10 points)
- Feb. 24, Fri. Review for QUIZ.

- Feb. 27, Mon. Lecture and slides for ceramic combined with non-ceramic materials.
ASSIGNMENT No.2: Make a form which, *after* it has been glaze fired, is combined with non-ceramic materials such as yarn, feathers, wood, fabric, metal, etc. The piece cannot function without the non-ceramic part which should be essential to the total design but not be more than 50% of the visually important parts of the piece.
m.o.d. 21 inches wet (10 points)
- Mar. 1, Wed. QUIZ.(10 points)
- Students should have completed **building** all assignments through slabs by this day to assure completing all assignments for the semester.*
- Mar. 3, Fri. Non instructional day. There will be no class but ceramics lab will be open and students may come in to work on projects.
- Mar. 15, Wed. Lecture and slides on historical pot. You should have looked carefully in the text at the illustrations of ceramics from various historical periods. Read pp. 14, 32, 48, 66, 79, 108 and 138.
ASSIGNMENT No. 3: Make a ceramic object which is similar in form and spirit to a specific historic period in ceramic art, e.g., Japanese Jomon, Pre-Columbian, Etruscan, Egyptian, etc. You do not need to copy directly, but you should try to capture the spirit and attitude towards form of a potter from a particular historical period. (m.o.d. 21 inches wet) (10 points)
- Write a short research paper of two pages on that particular historical period and style: 1 page of writing and 1 page with at least two representations (1 must be a drawing by the student) of examples of the style. (5 points)
- Mar. 17, Fri. FIELD TRIP. We will meet at **9:30 /11:30** at the front entrance of the Honolulu Academy of Arts. (Beretania at Ward Avenue, across from Thomas Square). (5 points)
- Mar. 20, Mon. Lecture and slides for animal project.
ASSIGNMENT No. 4: make a sculpture of real or imagined animal. It must be hollow built with a minimum overall dimension of 24 inches wet. (10 points)
- Mar. 22, Wed. REVIEW and critique of finished pinch, coil and slab projects. All work must be fired and glazed. (5 points)
- Mar. 27 – 31 **HOLIDAY:** Spring Break

- Apr. 14, Fri. **LAST DAY FOR WET WORK** (Pieces must be in classroom at the end of the day. NO WORK CAN BE BROUGHT IN AFTER THIS. NO EXCEPTIONS!!)
- Apr. 26, Wed. **LAST DAY FOR GLAZING**
- Apr. 28, Fri. No class. Pick up any finished work.
- May 1., Mon. * Historical Ceramics paper due
* Make-up test
* Pick up any finished work
- May 3, Wed. **CLEAN-UP** Attendance is required. (no-show = minus10 pts.)
- May 5, Fri. **FINAL REVIEW (regular class time):** bring in last 4 projects plus the dwelling. (5 points) You will be given your semester grade that day.
- If all the firing isn't finished by this day, then we will have the final review on Monday, May 8 and follow the Final Exam schedule as follows:
- 9 a.m. class will meet 10 a.m – 12noon
11 a.m. class will meet 12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

CERAMIC LAB RULES AND INFORMATION

- A. The ceramic room is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. so that students can work on projects outside their normal class time. In general, students should work only when the ceramics lab assistant or an instructor is present. The lab is also open most weekends and a schedule will be announced.
- B. A student may work while another class is in session, but should first ask the permission of the instructor. Also, working space priority is given to the class in session. BE CONSIDERATE! No talking/socializing when an instructor is talking/ lecturing, demonstrating, or showing videos or slides.
- C. To prevent "rip-offs" and breakage, and to make space in our crowded room, please take finished ware home as soon as possible. You will have to bring them back for grading. *There is no space for storage.* Also,
- 1.) to save energy and insure better security, the front door should be left closed.
 - 2.) no student should use the instructor's office door for exit or entry.
 - 3.) keep kiln room door closed.
- E. For your safety:
- 1.) Clay dust contains free silica which is TOXIC and, when inhaled over a long period of time can result in the development of silicosis, a lung disease. To keep the dust level down in

order to maximize safety and minimize exposure, the room will be damp mopped as often as possible. Each student must clean up after him or herself with a damp sponge or rag -- no sweeping (creates dust)!

2.) Make sure you wear dust mask anytime you mix clay, glazes, or use spray booth.

3.) No bare feet in classroom; you must at least wear slippers.

4.) Keep kiln room door closed. During the firing of the kilns, TOXIC fumes are released.

Keep your exposure to these at a minimum by staying out of the kiln room during the firings. If you must go in, make it as short a stay as possible.

F. Also:

1.) The telephone is for business pertaining to the ceramics lab. This is not a social center or answering service. Please do not have your friends call you here.

2.) Don't just grumble to other students. If you have any complaints, talk with the instructors. If they don't know, they can't change anything.