

Course Outline
ARTS 150
Ceramics I
3 credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Ceramics I

Explores ceramic materials and processes emphasizing development of hand building techniques and an introduction to the potter's wheel; provides basic understanding of clay, glazes, and kiln operation.

3 credits: 2 lecture hours and 2 laboratory hours per week.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate the ability to execute thoughts and intentions through the manipulation of clay.
2. Demonstrate creativity, imagination and aesthetic judgement through assigned projects.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of functional and sculptural concepts.
4. Demonstrate learned techniques and processes in production of ceramic objects.
5. Demonstrate an understanding and use of the vocabulary related to ceramics.
6. Hand build clay forms using basic building techniques: coil-building, slab construction and pinch methods.
7. Understand basic ceramic firing procedures and kiln operation.
8. Embellish clay forms with surface techniques and textural treatments.
9. Experiment with throwing on the potter's wheel (throwing cylinders).
10. Identify clay bodies including earthenware and stoneware.
11. Prepare clay by kneading and wedging.

12. Apply glazes using brushing, pouring, and dipping techniques.
13. Use ceramic modeling and carving tools.
14. Discuss and critique one another's work.
15. Demonstrate good craftsmanship.
16. Understand the basic history of ceramic art and the current trends in clay.
17. Keep safety precautions and practice in the ceramics studio/classroom.

Major Topics

Hand building techniques including pinch, slab construction and coiling.

Introduction to wheel-throwing.

Sculptural and functional concepts in relation to the ceramic form.

Clay bodies, glazing and surface treatments.

Aesthetic issues in relation to ceramic.

Historical background of ceramics, up to contemporary approaches.

Kiln-firing procedures.

Safety issues and precautions in the ceramic studio.

Course Requirements

Attendance (and punctuality)

Participation: in class work, clean-up, kiln loading, group critiques and discussion.

Completion of assignments.

Come prepared to each class – have appropriate supplies.

Good craftsmanship.