

# Ceramics Syllabus

## GRADING

### **Project Sketches/Rubrics/Critiques**

At the beginning of each project, you will receive a packet which includes sketching prompts to specifically help you come up with your own unique idea, a set of step-by-step instructions, the project rubric and the project critique. You must fill out the sketch page, rubric and critique and turn it in with your final project – each of these three assignments are worth 20 points in addition to the project grade.

### **Effort and Cleanup**

In this class and most art classes, you are primarily graded on EFFORT. That means if you show up with a positive attitude and try your very best you will succeed in Ceramics. At the end of every project you will receive a grade based on how well you clean up your area every day and if you participate in our clean up days. These are easy points to earn, so please try your best.

### **Projects**

Each project you complete will be broken down into five stages of artmaking: Concept, Composition, Craftsmanship, Criticism, and Effort. Each one of these areas is dependent on the other four.

Concept (the Formation of Ideas) - A successful piece of art begins with a good idea. We will explore different methods of forming ideas, characteristics of a good idea and a wide range of purposes of art.

Composition (translating an idea into visual form) - Just because you have a great idea, doesn't mean you know how to express it visually. We will use the elements and principles of design to give your idea a physical form. We will also practice methods of improving and editing designs during the creation process.

Craftsmanship (constructing your design in a media) - After you know what you want to create, you will learn skills, techniques and information about your materials that will allow you to successfully create a ceramics piece.

Creativity (evaluating the success and meaning of art) - Art is often intended to be experienced. Please use your imagination and planning stages to push yourself to make unique projects that you enjoy!

Effort (putting in the time to create a successful piece) – Not everyone is a naturally talented artist, but if you try your best you will be amazed with how much talent you will gain!

## CLASSROOM RULES

**Please do not touch others' artwork.** Ever. Some projects are *extremely* fragile and will sometimes break even with a delicate touch. Please respect other students and ask before you touch or move their project.

**You may not eat or drink in the ceramics room** at all. It is not safe to eat around chemicals and materials we use. You may have a drink if it is in a paper or plastic container (no glass) with a lid.

**If you are absent from class**, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make up that time. If you have an unexcused absence, the teacher is only required to give you quizzes and tests to make up.

**If you are not in the ceramics room when the bell rings, you are tardy.** The art room is not our room.

**Please clean up your area and tools** with five minutes left in class. Late passes will not be written if you are working instead of cleaning.

**Leave your backpacks** at the entrance to the room, or in a different empty art classroom. The room is too small and your backpack will get dirty!

**Please do not use your cell phone without permission.** We want you to take full advantage of the art room and all the creativity that comes from here – you can't do that if you are more focused on your phone than your project. If you use your phone without asking in class it will be taken and turned in to the office. If you answer your phone in the art room you will be docked 5 points from your current assignment.

## PROJECT RULES

Please help make Ceramics easier for everyone by following these rules:

1. Everything you create must be school appropriate. This means anything to do with: alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, nudity, bigotry, racism, hate, etc. Use common sense. If any project falls into one or more of these categories, and are found waiting to be fired, they will be disposed of. It will be teacher digression.  
\*If you make a pipe/bong/etc in this class, you could be charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. Your teacher is obligated to tell authorities if you are creating illegal objects.
2. Everything you create should include your name or initials. Things get lost or taken and this will help you/me find it.
3. Any time you create something with clay, the clay must be wedged first. If your piece is not wedged, is too thick, not hollowed out, or not dry it has a chance of exploding in the kiln. If your piece explodes, it could potentially damage other pieces as well, so please wedge your clay! If the teacher determines a piece to thick or heavy to be fired, it will be disposed of.

## ADVICE

Put forth your best effort on every assignment. Try. Don't waste the time/materials of others in this class. You have to be in this room every day for 45 minutes, so why not take something away with you every day?

Keep an open mind. Experimenting and trying new skills is one way to build knowledge.

Use your time wisely. Most Ceramics projects cannot be taken home, and is hard to catch up on if you get behind.

Listen and watch demonstrations carefully.

Don't be discouraged if it doesn't work perfectly the first time. Practice hones your muscles and your mind, and it will be easier to do the second, third or fourth time.

Listen to others. Your teacher and your classmates can save you time and effort, but only if you listen to their suggestions.

Ask questions when you don't understand, or have forgotten something.

Come to class, be on time and be on task.

## ART STUDENT SAFETY CONTRACT

### **Purpose:**

Art is a hand-on class. You will be doing many activities in this room that will require the use of chemicals, tools and machines. Safety in the Art Room is the number one priority for our students and teachers. To ensure a safe Art Classroom, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this Student Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times.

### **General Guidelines:**

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the Art Classroom.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the teacher before proceeding.
3. Never work alone. No student may work in the Art Classroom without a teacher.
4. When first entering the Art Classroom, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials until you are instructed to do so.
5. Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum in the Art Classroom. We work with many chemicals which are not safe to be ingested.
6. You are not allowed to use your cell phone without permission. Failure to follow this rule will automatically dock you 5 points from whatever project you are working on.
7. Perform only those projects authorized by the teacher. Never do anything in the Art Classroom that is not called for in the Art Classroom procedures or by your teacher. Carefully follow all instructions, both written and oral. Unauthorized projects are prohibited.
8. Observe good housekeeping practices. Work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times. Bring only your Art Classroom instructions, worksheets, and/or sketchbooks to the work area. Other materials (books, purses, backpacks, etc.) should be stored in the area designated by the Art Teacher.
9. Know what to do if there is a fire drill during an Art Period; containers must be closed and any electrical equipment turned off.
10. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including eye wash station, fire extinguisher and fire blanket. Know where the fire alarm and exits are located.
11. Dispose of all waste properly. Sinks are to be used only for water and those solutions designated by the instructor. Chemicals, clay, and other materials are to be disposed of all in the proper waste containers, not in the sink.
12. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all projects. Clean, rinse, and wipe dry all work surfaces (including the sink) and tools at the end of the project. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
13. Do not wander around the room or to other art classrooms, distract other students, or interfere with the Art Classroom projects of others.
14. Students are never permitted in the Art Storage rooms or preparation areas unless given specific permission by their teacher.
15. When using sharp instruments, always carry with tips and points pointing down and away. Always cut away from the body.

**Clothing:**

16. Any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used, students will wear goggles
17. Dress properly during an Art Classroom activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing must be secured.
18. Art aprons have been provided for you and can be worn during classroom.

**Accidents and Injuries:**

19. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc) or injury (cut, burn, etc) to the teacher immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear.
20. If a chemical should splash in your eye(s) or your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station for at least 20 minutes. Notify the teacher immediately.

**Handling Chemicals:**

21. All chemicals in the Art Classroom are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
22. When transferring chemicals from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
23. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the Art Classroom.

**Handling Glassware and Equipment:**

24. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass.
25. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
26. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
27. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the teacher for help!

**Questions:**

28. Do you wear contact lenses?

- a. Yes    b. No

29. Are you color Blind?

- a. Yes    b. No

30. Do you have allergies that will affect you in this classroom?

- a. Yes    b. No            If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Student Safety Contract Agreement:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and teachers. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe Art Classroom. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the teacher. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the Art Classroom or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the Art Classroom, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or dismissal from the course.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_