

Midland College
Syllabus
ARTS 2346
Ceramics I
Semester and Year
SCH (2-4)
Instructor Name

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction for the student to basic ceramic processes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have:

1. made clay from scratch using ceramic raw materials;
2. demonstrated the hand building methods of pinch, coil, slab, drape, and press mold;
3. applied principles of design and composition with both functional and sculptural ceramic creations;
4. used a potter's wheel to form clay;
5. demonstrated creative expression through original works of art in clay;
6. critically analyzed and discussed historical and contemporary ceramic art;
7. applied a variety of ceramic surface treatments involving both additive and subtractive methods;
8. demonstrated a variety of glazing and firing methods in different temperature ranges;
9. researched historical and contemporary art/artists, written a research paper, and presented an oral research report;
10. demonstrated professionalism in the presentation, discussion, and exhibition of finished ceramic work.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (Text may vary)

Required Text: *Working With Clay*, second edition, by Susan Peterson

Reference Material for projects and assignments may be found in the ceramics studio reference library, the Midland College Learning Resource Center, the Midland County Public Library, and on the Internet.

Supplies: Clay and glaze materials are provided by the studio. Students are expected to participate in making class clay from raw materials. Students are responsible for providing their own clay tools. A Ceramics I supply list is attached.

[Adobe Reader](#) (Links to an external site)

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND COURSE POLICIES

Class Activities and Assignments include reading, hands-on demonstrations, video, group activities, critical analysis and discussion, individual research and interpretation, a research paper, and oral presentation of research.

Attendance is extremely important in this class. Technical information and demonstrations are presented in a sequential and cumulative manner. Students missing necessary information present a safety hazard in the ceramics studio. Those missing steps in the preliminary process of ceramics will find it almost impossible to catch up with the class as it moves on to the next steps. The process of ceramics is time consuming and this course requires a commitment of time and effort. Missing class, arriving late for class, and leaving early will definitely result in a lowered grade. All absences are considered unexcused unless accompanied by written note in the following situations: illness with a doctor's note, school-sponsored activity with a sponsor's note (including athletics), and death in the immediate family. *Three unexcused absences will automatically result in a grade drop of one letter grade, with each additional unexcused absence dropping the grade by an additional letter grade.* It is the student's responsibility to get in touch with the instructor regarding absences and make-up work

Ceramics Studio Policies: Midland College does not provide studio space, clay, glaze materials, and firing privileges for personal projects such as production work made for sales. Work to be fired is expected to meet aesthetic and functional guidelines as determined by the judgment of the instructor. *Quality and creative expression take precedence over quantity.* Objects such as beads, cookie-cutter crosses and ornaments, coasters, ceramic jewelry, napkin rings, ashtrays and smoking paraphernalia, mass-produced tiles, and other such objects are not considered college level work and will not be allowed. Local commercial ceramics establishments provide clay, glazing, and firing for such products. Studio clay, glazes, tools, and equipment are not to be taken out of the studio for work at home. Work made at the college may be fired at the college, but Midland College does not provide a supply and firing service for home studio production work.

Studio Safety, Housekeeping, and Courtesy: Consideration for others and their work as well as good cleanup is a must in keeping Room 182 a pleasant and safe working environment. All students working in Room 182 are responsible for reading and abiding by the safety, housekeeping, and courtesy policies set forth in the *CERAMICS & SCULPTURE STUDIO POLICIES* attached to this syllabus. Improper use of Midland College studio equipment will result in suspension from class. Improper use is defined as actions which are destructive to equipment, dangerous to people, and those which deviate from the taught and proper procedures.

Cell phone use is prohibited in the classroom, in the kiln closet between ceramics and painting studios, and in the Art Wing hallway. Restrict cell phone usage to the kiln yard or outside of the building.

Honor other students' work time and space. Many students find constant conversation very distracting to their work. Please be sensitive to this. Keep voices down in the hallway and the kiln closet, and be considerate of those working around you by avoiding excessive talking, loud conversations, and loud music.

Smoking is prohibited in all buildings on campus as well as the kiln yard. Designated smoking areas are located at outdoor ashtrays installed a short distance away from building entrances/exits. Do not stand or sit just outside the art wing doors to smoke. A bench is provided near the designated smoking area at the north entrance to the art wing.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

In place of written exams there are four major project assignments with a formal group critique on the due date for each assignment (approximately every four weeks). Project assignments are due on the assigned due date and critique, as outlined in the *Ceramics I Project Assignments* handout. Students are responsible for keeping track of critique dates. *Unexcused absence from a Project Critique will result in a grade of zero for that project. Unfinished work presented for a Project Critique will be considered late and will drop a letter grade per class meeting until it is completed.* At critique the student will present the assigned work to the class and discuss the technical and aesthetic aspects of the assignment. One of the projects includes the oral presentation of a written research paper. The grade for each project assignment will be based on the student's oral presentation of the work as well as on the quality and creativity of the work presented. Each critique counts 20% of the final grade, with class participation (attendance, class activities, cleanup, etc.) counting another 20%. Numerical grades, in percentages, equate to letter grades as follows: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60 = F. The final course grade will indicate the student's degree of success in meeting the course goals and objectives.

GRADING CRITERIA

A: Good attendance, arrive on time and work productively the entire class period, good cleanup. Extra attention is given to quality and creativity of work beyond the basic timely completion of assignments. Open to experimentation and research.

B: Complete all assignments on time and participate in all critiques. Good progress in work.

C: Complete all assignments on time with average effort. No extra effort evident.

D: Poor attendance and products, poor class participation, poor cleanup. No real progress noticeable.

F: Habitual tardiness and leaving class early, excessive unexcused absences, missing critique, late assignments, failure to participate in class activities and cleanup.

Success in this class is a matter of commitment and communication. If you have special circumstances, questions about the assignments, or other problems, please talk to the instructor..

DROP / WITHDRAWAL

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor.

Withdrawal from course: The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal.**

2023-2024 WITHDRAWAL DATES

Fall	November 27
Fall First 8-Week Session	September 28
Fall Second 8-Week Session	November 27
December Mini-Semester	December 26
Spring	April 11
Spring First 8-Week Session	February 22
Spring Second 8-Week Session	April 25
May Mini-Semester	May 23
Summer I	July 3
Summer II	August 8

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

For Research information, tutorials, library information, web links and more, access the **Distance Learning Webpage for the [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#).**

Academic Database Access

1. Go to [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#).
2. Click on big green box labeled "A-Z Databases."
3. Click on link for desired database
4. **You will be taken to the Midland College Microsoft 365 site, and from there you will be taken directly to EBSCO.**
5. **Sign in to Microsoft 365.**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT for Canvas problems

1. Navigate to the page in Canvas where the problem exists
2. Click the Help icon in the dark green toolbar on the left
3. Select “Report a Problem”, complete the short form and Submit
4. Check your MC student email account for responses to your ticket.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit <https://www.midland.edu/services-resources/accommodation-services.php> and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations. For more information or questions, please contact Shep Grinnan, Counselor at sgrinnan@midland.edu or 432-685-4505.

Phone, Midland College Special Needs Counselor: 432-685-5598

[Midland College Disability Services](#)

[Microsoft Accessibility](#)

[Canvas Accessibility](#)

[Turnitin Accessibility](#)

[Adobe Reader Accessibility](#)

[Google Reader Accessibility](#)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

[Academics and Student Services](#)

Phone, Midland College Testing Center: 432-685-4735

**Phone, LanguageHub, Midland College On-Campus Writing Center: 432-685-4811,
182 TC**

Language Hub Online (available to all students in Canvas)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUE PROCESS

[Midland College Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

PRIVACY POLICIES

The below privacy policies apply to this course, as they are applicable to your conduct on this online platform.

[Midland College Website Privacy Policy](#)

[Canvas Privacy Policy](#)

[YouTube Privacy Policy](#)

[Canvas Student Guide](#)

[Turnitin Privacy Policy](#)

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name:	
Email:	
Office Location:	
Office Phone:	
Office Hours:	
Department Chair:	Dagan Sherman
Division Dean, Fine Arts and Communications:	Dr. William Feeler
Secretary:	Ms. Lula Lee
Division Office:	135 AFA
Phone:	432-685-4624
Division Office hours:	8-5, Monday-Friday

Non-Discrimination Statement

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Nicole Cooper, Title IX Coordinator

129 SSC

432-685-4781

TitleIX@midland.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

UPDATED AUGUST 2023