

# ARTS-140: BEGINNING CERAMICS: HAND-BUILDING

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## Effective Term

Fall 2025

## CC Approval

02/07/2025

## AS Approval

02/13/2025

## BOT Approval

02/20/2025

## COCI Approval

N/A

## SECTION A - Course Data Elements

### CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Art (Master's Degree)	

### Subject Code

ARTS - Arts

### Course Number

140

### Department

Arts (ARTS)

### Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

### Full Course Title

Beginning Ceramics: Hand-Building

### Short Title

Beg Ceramics: Hand-Building

### CB03 TOP Code

1002.30 - Ceramics

### CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

### CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

### Rationale

Non- substantive review, updating to fit course leaf template and adding a more current text book.

## SECTION B - Course Description

### Catalog Course Description

The basic processes and technologies of ceramics and appreciation of clay as a form of artistic expression will be explored. An introduction to a variety of hand-building methods and hands-on use of these processes to create various hand-built pieces. Includes an introduction to the appreciation of historic ceramic objects. Lectures on clay, glazes, kilns and firing. Appropriate for all art majors and minors as well as general interest students.

**SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment****Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

**Repeatability**

Not Repeatable

**Grading Options**

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

**Allow Audit**

Yes

**Requisites****SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

**Units**

3.00

**Activity Hours**

108

**Outside of Class Hours**

54

**Total Contact Hours**

108

**Total Student Hours**

162

**Distance Education Approval****Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

**Online Delivery Methods**

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

**SECTION E - Course Content****Student Learning Outcomes**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Create hand-built ceramic works that utilize historic and contemporary practices, theories and materials while evaluating these works using proper visual art terminology.
2. Safely handle and maintain materials, studio facilities, and equipment.

**Course Objectives**

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Differentiate clay varieties and ceramic process stages.
2. Create ceramic forms utilizing pinch, slab and coil building techniques.

3. Analyze existing ceramic pieces and distinguish the forming processes used in creating them, while connecting these techniques and or styles to ancient ceramics and the various cultures that have produced them.
4. Produce and apply surface treatment to a variety of different forms.
5. Analyze existing ceramic pieces and distinguish the processes used to develop their surfaces.
6. Create objects that demonstrate an ability to translate ideas into tactile forms.
7. Assess and critique ceramic works in group, individual and written contexts using relevant critique formats, concepts and terminology.
8. Operate and maintain studio equipment, facilities and materials.

### Course Content

1. Clay and Forming
  - a. The origins of clay as a material and ceramics as a process.
  - b. The major forming techniques including molding-pinching, slab construction and coil-building.
  - c. A general historic and contemporary overview of the practical applications of forming methods.
2. Surface Development
  - a. The major surface development - decoration techniques including texture, slip, glaze and firing atmospheres.
  - b. A general historic and contemporary overview of the practical applications of surface development and decoration.
3. Composition and Discussion
  - a. Three-dimensional compositional techniques and concepts related to form-making and surface development.
  - b. Critique methods and terminology.
4. Studio Equipment
  - a. Operation and maintenance of studio tools, equipment and facilities including general hand-building tools, slab roller banding wheels, clay mixer, bisque kilns, and the raku kiln.

### Methods of Instruction

#### Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	This Studio Arts Class will be taught with both formal and ongoing integrated lecture. Image and video-enhanced lectures covering core concepts, terminology, and the historic development of ceramics followed by all-class or small-group discussions on the same topics.
Lab	Instructor-guided lab / studio time to apply concepts and skills to course content through guided exercises. Lab time will include both one-on-one and group instruction.
Observation and Demonstration	Lectures and demonstrations will often if not always be accompanied by visual aids and/or real hands-on experience. Further, students will learn by interacting with the materials and process inherent in studio arts. Course content may be delivered through demonstration; clay forming and finishing demonstrations covering techniques, concepts, and material applications.
Critique	Oral or written group critiques analyzing finished examples of student work related to specific course assignments. Peer critiques reinforcing students' capacity to think critically about course assignments.
Field Trips	Students in this course may view artwork in the professional contexts of a gallery or museum. This activity will reinforce the students' understanding of historic and contemporary approaches to ceramics.
Other	Student presentations on historic and contemporary works from a diverse range of cultures.

#### Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards  
 Chat Rooms  
 Discussion Boards  
 E-mail Communication  
 Telephone Conversations  
 Video or Teleconferencing

#### Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms  
 Discussions

## Group Work

**Course design is accessible**

Yes

**Methods of Evaluation****Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Portfolios	Each student's "course portfolio" will be made up of assignments from the semester. The portfolio will be evaluated by the instructor and student at "final critique." Generally the creativity, craftsmanship, presentation and demonstrated improvement of the portfolio as a whole will be evaluated.
Projects	Student self evaluations, peer evaluations and instructor critique will be used to evaluate each project. Class participants may be given the opportunity to improve, and or redo each project before the end of the term and the final review of all projects as a whole within the "course portfolio."
Class Participation	Participation and performance in both oral and written critical analysis of work. Student participation in group, and all class critique will be evaluated. Evaluation will include correct use of visual language and terminology. and the student's ability to give and receive constructive criticism will also be evaluated.
Exams/Tests	Tests and exams may be used to ensure each student is able to identify, understand and practically apply specific processes and techniques.

**Assignments****Reading Assignments**

Selected readings from student proposals, textbook, class handouts, periodicals or library collections.

For example:

1. Students will research a historic style / type / or single piece of hand-built ceramics. The readings on their chosen subject should help inform them as to how, when and why the culture they are studying produced ceramic objects.
2. Students will read instructor-provided handouts (from "The Critique Book" or similar) on critique formats, concepts and terminology relative to this course level.

**Writing Assignments**

Written critical self-analysis.

For example:

1. Write a three-paragraph essay analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of three to five of your pieces.

Writing about humanity and ceramics.

For example:

1. After researching an ancient style / type / or single piece of hand-built ceramics write a paper that explains how, when and why the culture they are studying produced these ceramic objects.

**Other Assignments**

A number of hand-building assignments that demonstrate an understanding of basic hand-building techniques. These studio assignments / projects should include pinch, coil, and slab-building forming techniques. Assignments should focus on the visual strength and quality of form. Further traditional pulled handles and secondary forming techniques should be taught as well.

For example:

1. Create 2 coil-built vase forms that have a shoulder, are over 10 inches tall, and relate to each other.
2. Create 6 hand-built cups with traditional handles using slab-building and darting techniques.
3. Create 2 hand-built pieces over 12 inches tall that utilize both coil and slab building techniques.
4. Create a piece inspired by the form, surface, and, or function of an ancient piece of ceramics that you learned about.

**SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials****Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Anton Reijnders

**Title**

The Ceramic Process: A Manual and Source of Inspiration for Ceramic Art and Design

**Edition/Version**

1st

**Publisher**

Herbert Press

**Year**

2021

**ISBN #**

1789940486

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**Material Type**

Other required materials/supplies

**Description**

A variety of clay working tools (clay tool kit from campus bookstore).

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**Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Suzanne Staubach

**Title**

Clay: The History and Evolution of Humankind's Relationship with Earth's Most Primal Element

**Edition/Version**

1st

**Publisher**

University Press of New England

**Year**

2013

**Rationale**

This book is the most current version and is pivotal in providing students with a worldly contextual understanding of ceramics as a material.

**ISBN #**

1611685036

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**Course Codes (Admin Only)****ASSIST Update**

No

**CB00 State ID**

CCC000449075

**CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**CB11 Course Classification Status**

Y - Credit Course

**CB13 Special Class Status**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**CB23 Funding Agency Category**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**CB24 Program Course Status**

Program Applicable

**Allow Pass/No Pass**

Yes

**Only Pass/No Pass**

No