

Midland College
Syllabus
ARTS 2347
Ceramics II
Semester and Year
SCH (2-4)
Instructor Name

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Opportunities for specialization by the student in ceramic processes. Prerequisite: Arts 2346.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. demonstrated new conceptual ideas and technical accomplishments in individual claywork;
2. demonstrated understanding, utilization, and discussion of design and compositional elements in both functional and sculptural aspects of clay;
3. made clay from scratch using ceramic raw materials;
4. made at least one ceramic glaze from scratch using ceramic raw materials;
5. participated in loading, firing, and maintaining ceramic kilns;
5. demonstrated originality of personal creative expression in individual clay work;
6. critically analyzed and discussed the functional and sculptural aspects of ceramics, including one's own work;
7. independently researched and discussed historical or contemporary ceramics/clay sculpture;
8. demonstrated professionalism in the presentation, discussion, and exhibition of finished ceramic work.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to teach the student:

1. experimentation and risk-taking with new conceptual ideas and technical challenges;
2. better compositional skills and greater utilization of design principles in ceramics and clay sculpture;
3. increased originality of personal creative expression in clay;
4. expanded competency in clay construction methods, surface treatments, glazing techniques, and firing methods;
5. greater understanding of the chemistry, calculation, testing, application, and firing of ceramic glazes;

6. knowledge of kiln structure, maintenance, firing processes and theory through hands-on experience with kiln maintenance, loading, and firing;
7. increased analytical skills in the discussion and critical analysis of art;
8. individual independent research and discussion of historical and contemporary ceramics and clay sculpture;
9. professional presentation of finished work for exhibition.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (Text may vary)

Required Text: THE CRAFT AND ART OF CLAY, fourth 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: Construction methods and materials are at the student's discretion. Ceramics II students are responsible for making their own clay and glazes from studio raw materials.

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

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND COURSE POLICIES

Class activities include reading, lecture, demonstrations, video, group activities, individual research and interpretation, critical analysis and discussion, oral presentations of research findings and of one's chosen projects.

Student Contributions: In addition to making clay and glazes from studio raw materials, all Ceramics II students are expected to participate in kiln loading, firing, and maintenance. Ceramics II students are responsible for their own raku and pit firings. Under appropriate supervision, Intermediate students (first and second semesters of Ceramics II) are expected to help load and fire the electric kilns. Advanced students (two or more semesters of Ceramics II) are required to participate in the loading and firing of the gas and wood kilns as well. The degree of a student's participation will depend upon the level of the student's experience with these kilns, to be determined by the instructor. All firings of all kilns will be by firing teams under appropriate supervision. No student may fire alone or without approved supervision without the instructor's permission.

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. 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. *Three unexcused absences will automatically result in a grade drop of one letter grade, with each additional absence dropping the grade by an additional letter. Unexcused absence for Project Critique will result in a grade of zero for that critique.* All absences are considered unexcused unless accompanied by a 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. 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, materials, and firing privileges for production work made for sales. College work is expected to meet aesthetic and functional guidelines as determined by the judgment of the instructor. 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, 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 for keeping Room 182 a pleasant and safe working environment. Everyone working in Room 182 is 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.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

The student, in consultation with the instructor, outlines research and development projects for the semester. Formal critiques of projects are scheduled (see *Ceramics II Project Assignments* handout), at which time the student presents project work for class

discussion and critical analysis. Grading for each project is based on the quality and creativity of the work presented as well as the depth of discussion and critical analysis of the project. Students are responsible for keeping track of critique dates. Critiques count 80% of the final grade, with class participation (attendance, glazing and firing 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. This class consists of 6 contact hours per week for 3 hours credit.

GRADING CRITERIA

A: Excel and experiment as you research and explore new ideas and techniques. Critical analysis and attention to aesthetic design and technical competency in your work. Appreciable growth in your work and skill level. 100% participation in critiques and in studio activities such as clay and glaze making, kiln maintenance and firing, class field trips, cleanup, etc.

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 absence, missing critique, late assignments, failure to participate in class activities and cleanup.

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

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,
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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