

Art I / Clay Arts Course Expectations

Mr. Mazuzan

My Art classes, regardless of their specific area of focus, are designed to foster a deeper understanding of the fundamental and uniquely human experience of visual self-expression.

These classes have clearly defined bodies of knowledge and articulated content areas as well as a wide variety of learning opportunities and outcome assessments. Their core purpose is to lay out pathways for students to gain enriched visual literacy, skill refinement, and greater self-confidence in their artistic decision-making.

I try to create a studio environment that is illuminating, inventive, exhilarating, and joyful. It's my hope that this environment will encourage students toward greater honesty and integrity in both the production and self-assessment of their work. I also hope that it encourages a growing appreciation for the global nature of artistic expression and for its many manifestations throughout history.

The over-arching purpose of these classes is not so much to train my students to become artists, but rather to teach them how to question like artists as well as become lifelong appreciators of the creative possibilities inherent in the visual world. It is to this end, that I try to promote learning that:

- is open to a wide variety of viewpoints;
- rearranges ideas to gain new perspectives;
- challenges you to work to your potential;
- stretches your limits;
- develops self-confidence in the worth of your own thoughts;
- does not allow frustration to get in the way of solving difficult problems;
- avoids habitual thinking or the obvious solution;
- values craftsmanship;
- respects tradition and embraces change;
- attempts to find beauty in common and everyday experiences of life;
- encourages dreaming and imagination

Subject: Fine Arts - Visual Arts

Grade level: Clay as an Art Form (10 – 12)

Course Overview:

Clay Arts is a full year course offered to sophomores through seniors and is designed to introduce students to a wide array of forming and finishing techniques. Students are expected to fabricate both utilitarian and sculptural forms as well as learn to use a basic vocabulary pertaining to clay as an art making material. Students are expected to focus on craftsmanship, and encouraged to stretch the creative possibilities inherent in the production of their work. Experimentation with non- traditional surface treatments is introduced as a way of finishing their sculptures. This course is for the self motivated open minded student who enjoys 3-D artistic problem solving.

Content:

- Clay preparation
- Hand-building techniques
- Proper tool use
- Utilitarian objects
- Sculptural forms
- Glazing techniques
- Non- traditional surface treatments
- Kiln use
- Studio maintenance

Learning opportunities:

- Introduction and course expectations
- Full class demonstrations
- Exemplars of high quality student work
- Practice time for skill development
- Extended and culminating projects
- Handouts
- Books and posters
- Internet research for images and ideas

Assessment criteria: Clay Arts

Concepts and Skills:

Students are able to:

- demonstrate the use of a wide range of forming techniques;
- explore both traditional and non-traditional surface treatments and finishes;
- create with craftsmanship;
- demonstrate proper studio conduct, and respect for materials, tools, and the work of others.

Elements and Principles:

Students are able to:

- use the elements and principles of design to create interesting, unique, and creative solutions to their clay projects

Art as Language:

Students are able to:

- use an artistic vocabulary unique to clay arts;
- view art as a means of communication;
- express personal ideas through their clay projects,

Aesthetics and Art Appreciation:

Students are able to:

- express an informed artistic opinion;
- accept many points of view;
- improve work through self-reflection and group critiques.

Multicultural Perspectives:

Students are able to:

- view the production of clay objects as a global art form with deep historical roots.