

**CERAMICS 1 COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Grinnell High School**  
**IOWA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
**Ellsworth Community College, Grinnell High School**

**COURSE NUMBER: ART 173**  
**COURSE TITLE: Ceramics**  
**COURSE MEETING, DATES & TIMES: Monday thru Friday**  
**DEPARTMENT: Art**  
**SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 3**

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Sketch Book

**INSTRUCTOR: Janet Ahrens**  
**E-MAIL: janet.ahrens@grinnell-k12.org**  
**WEB SITE: www.iavalley.edu**  
**BUILDING/OFFICE:**  
**Grinnell High School**  
**Room 72**  
**Ceramics Room**  
**DATE SYLLABUS WAS REVISED:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Working with clay: Hand-building and wheel work, glazing and other surface finishing techniques, and kiln operation. This course emphasizes aesthetics of both functional and non-functional ceramics. During the trimester the student will be exposed to the basic information about clay, glazes, and firing techniques. An awareness of the historical and contemporary developments in ceramics will also be undertaken.

**PREREQUISITES:** Art Foundations (GHS)                      **COREQUISITE:** none

**QUALITY STANDARDS/Performance Objectives/Course Objectives:**

**Quality Standards:**

- 1) Use artistic terminology appropriate to ceramics
  - A) Identify and discuss the used of the elements and principles of art
  - B) Identify and discuss technical terms relevant to ceramics
  - C) Enhance critical evaluation skills in ceramics
- 2) Demonstrate technical skills relevant to ceramics
  - A) Develop tactile skills in ceramics
  - B) Develop construction skills in ceramics
- 3) Employ design in ceramics as part of a creative approach to problem solving
  - A) Develop the necessary perception and visualization skills
  - B) Use ceramics to convey creative expression
- 4) Identify the historic context of various ceramic styles
  - A. Identify historical periods
  - B. Identify historical developments

- C. Discuss current trends in ceramics
- D. Recognize the relationship of ceramics to other artistic mediums

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ASSIGNMENTS MATRIX:**

Assessment Matrix (Matches Standards above):

Standard	Project	Demonstration	Critiques
1.		X	X
2.	X	X	X
3.	X		
4.		X	X

**TEACHING METHODS:** The students will be exposed to this information through lectures, demonstrations, individual and group critiques as well as possible field trips to museums and galleries.

**COMMUNICATION METHOD:** For communication outside of the class periods the Canvas will be used. This will be used to communicate assignment, due dates, post handouts and the use of high school student email. The student will be expected to go to the class site and print if necessary the appropriate materials by the time they will be used in class.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is an important component of any course. Information missed due to absences will affect your performance on activities that determine your final grade. Points missed because of an absence can only be made up if the absence is excused. An excused absence is defined as unavoidable and cannot be rescheduled. Communication with instructors about any absence is a must at the earliest possible time. Per the student handbook; students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and exams according to the school calendar. Missing scheduled classes and exams due to unapproved school absences will result in missing the points allocated for those days. If you are going to miss a class for a school-sponsored activity, you will need to do any make-up work **BEFORE** you leave. E-square is required for late work, all days your are absent and you will need this extra time to work.

**Seating Arrangements**

You all have an assigned seat and you are expected to stay in this seat unless I approved the change. I also reserve the right to change the seating chart at my discretion. Seating charts are not intended as a punishment but rather as an aid to creating the most effective teaching and learning environment.

**BEHAVIOR POLICY:** As part of this syllabus, students who have signed up for this course acknowledge their citizenship in the classroom society. All activities that occur in the room during class time will be directed towards the endeavor of learning the information that constitutes the course. This includes arriving on time, staying till you are dismissed with everything cleaned up, and by staying focused on the activities that constitute the course content. Activities that disrupt or interfere with classroom learning will not be tolerated. Students conducting such activities will be suspended from class and information and points missed will be lost and cannot be made up.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** The use of any electronic devices is not allowed in this course during class time unless the instructor requests computers. Having any electronic device operational during class will result in the student losing participation points.

**E-square:** Ceramics is a very labor-intensive lab course. You will need to utilize E-square almost daily to work on projects and glaze. Research and sketchbook can also be done during this time. Individualize help on the wheel and with structural problems will also be done during this time period. This time can also be used to make up absences.

**COURSE CONTENT ADVISEMENT:** This course addresses topics that may be sensitive, offensive, and/or controversial. If you are uncomfortable with any topic or the manner in which it is presented, please discuss your concerns with the instructor or with Dr. Patrick Kennedy or Mr. Seney/GHS.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Most courses require consistent & reliable access to computers. The GHS provides all students with Macbook. You are encouraged to use them for educational or college-related activities and to facilitate efficient exchange of useful information. Use of equipment and networks must conform to policies and procedures of the college and access may be denied to any student who fails to comply with these requirements.

**COLLEGE EMAIL.** All students have access to school e-mail. Most users will have an email address of [firstname.lastname@grinnell-k12.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@grinnell-k12.org). Questions? Contact the college IT Helpdesk at <https://goo.gl/forms/A5N9MPoLhuZDOz9y2>. Typical response times for student technology issues related to college systems will be 2 business days or less.

**BAD WEATHER:** The administration strives to make weather-related decisions regarding delays or closings by 6:00am for day classes and by 3:30pm for night classes. Your best bet is to check KCCI (Channel 8) via the television or their website, as this is the first station contacted. (Website at: [www.kcci.com](http://www.kcci.com)). We also contact radio stations, 99.5 FM and 1190 AM so tune in to one of them if you're in your car. No matter what...your safety comes first, so make a responsible decision and contact your instructor if you decide not to attend school. The college participates in a free Emergency Notification System (ENS) and you will be automatically enrolled. Students will be notified via text and/or email messages to be sent in the event of a college closure or emergency.

## **MATERIAL THAT DETERMINES YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

**SKETCH BOOK:** Each student must produce a sketchbook as an on-going process during the trimester that contains thoughts and ideas as well as developmental sketches. The sketchbook must be brought to each class for use and discussion. An appropriately completed sketchbook will be at least twenty pages in length with dated entries. This will support the grade earned from the ceramic assignments completely. Completely unsatisfactory sketchbooks will result in the lowering of the grade earned from studio assignments by one whole letter grade. Sketchbooks in-between will result in the lowering of the grade by one half letter.

**STUDIO PROJECTS:** A variety of projects will be done during the class that will determine the final grade. The projects are designed for the student unfamiliar with the medium of clay to develop their skills. Studio assignments are described below so that you will have a complete list.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Studio examples, demonstrations, individual and group critiques, videos, and possible field trips.

**GRADING AND EVALUATION:** Completion of each studio assignment

Criteria for grades     --meets each assignment criteria  
                                  --creativity and inventiveness  
                                  --sensitivity to medium

Studio work must be seen in progress by the instructor in order to be submitted for a grade. Work that is not seen in progress will NOT be accepted for a grade.

**Grading:** Each assigned project will receive an individual grade based for each project as they are in progress or finished, but the final grade will be given to the studio work as a portfolio at the final critique. Interim grades will help you understand your level of performance on each assignment. The final portfolio will consist of a minimum of **15 pieces**, including the specific assignments described below.

**Final Grade:** You earn your grade. Start today to earn the grade you wish to receive in this course. NOTHING can be done at the end of the trimester to improve a grade. The final grade will be determined by the addition of points from studio projects presented as the portfolio. The final grade will consist of the following percentages: portfolio/studio projects; 100%, minus any deficiency in the sketchbook.

## **GRADING SCALE:**

**A:** Work that goes well beyond the standard results of assignments and demonstrates exceptional learning. This is learning at 90% or better of the possible.

**B:** Work that satisfies the assignments and demonstrates strong learning. This learning at 80% or better of the possible.

**C:** Work that simply satisfies the assignment(s), displaying only average learning. This learning at 70% or better of the possible.

**D:** Work that is below average standards of learning. This learning at 60% or better of the possible.

**F:** Work that does not meet the criteria of the assignment(s) and is unsatisfactory in the level of learning. This is learning at less than 60% of the possible.

**I:** Indicated that not all the required course work has been submitted for a grade. This grade will be issued in extreme and verifiable situations. Course work must be complete by the end of the following semester or the incomplete grade automatically becomes an **F**.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT:** In addition to producing their own work students are expected to be involved with the daily operation of the studio including kiln loading and firing as well as assigned daily clean up.

**Clean Up: Do Not Make Any Dust!**

Clay and glaze dust can kill us. Clean up will begin 10 minutes (more time will be added if it becomes necessary) before the end of each class session. You will need more than 10 minutes to clean the wheel. Work surfaces, wedging tables, potters wheels, sinks, glaze areas, and slab roller must be cleaned with a sponge. Students will be assigned the tasks for each session. **Students will not leave the studio until clean up is complete and you are dismissed. Any student who leaves a mess will not be welcome in class.**

**Clay, glaze and firing policies:** Grinnell High School provides you with the materials of clay, glazes, under glazes, etc as well as the firing facilities. Each student is responsible for their own clean up, including the cleaning of excess glaze which has gotten onto kiln shelves.

**Clothing:** Aprons and coveralls are provided. Long hair must be tied back.

**Academic Integrity:** The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. The Student Handbook Violations include cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsification of records and official documents.

**Plagiarism/academic dishonesty:** is a serious violation of GHS's Student Conduct Code. Instructors handle violations in various ways, but you should be aware that further administrative disciplinary actions may be taken, up to and including course failure and expulsion from college. Please learn about plagiarism and how to properly cite others' work.

**CONSEQUENCES:** the student will fail (0 points) the exam/paper/project.

**Please refer to student handbook and the college catalog for all in-depth college policies and procedures which are available on the GHS website.**

**CELL PHONES:** cell phones and pagers must be turned off, kept out of sight, and no text messaging during class.

**SMOKE FREE AIR ACT:** GHS complies with Iowa's Smoke Free Air Act of 2008. In conjunction with this, the GHS Board of Directors prohibits the use of tobacco in any form (including nicotine simulation or vapor products such as e-cigarettes) on its grounds or in any of its facilities or vehicles. This includes personal vehicles owned or operated by students while on school grounds. Civil penalties can be assessed to those found in violation of this regulation. To register a complaint, contact a District official or the Iowa Department of Public Health at 1-888-944-2247 or visit [www.IowaSmokefreeAir.gov](http://www.IowaSmokefreeAir.gov).

**EDUCATIONAL EQUITY STATEMENT:** It is the policy of GHS to provide equal educational and employment opportunities without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, marital status, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex in its educational programs, activities, practices and policies. Marshalltown Community College and Iowa Valley Grinnell students who feel they have been discriminated against are advised to contact Nate Chua, Title IX Coordinator, at 641-844-5743 or [nate.chua@iavalley.edu](mailto:nate.chua@iavalley.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXT:** None.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT:** (IVCCD) understands its responsibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact Martha Schwandt (641-844-5769 or [Martha.Schwandt@iavalley.edu](mailto:Martha.Schwandt@iavalley.edu)) if you have learning issues related to a physical or mental impairment.

**STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER** E-Square is offered every Tuesday – Friday 7:45 – 8:25 to independent help and work time.

### **DROP/ADD POLICY**

Students who find it necessary to add or drop one or more of their classes must complete a Drop/Add form in the Registrar's Office.

If dropping classes in the fall and spring terms, students have the first week of classes to get 100% tuition refund, 50% tuition refund starting the second week and 0% after the end of the second week. The refund periods could be shorter or longer depending on the length of the course and are prorated.

Fees are not refundable after the first week of class for a regular semester. Tuition refunds for summer or interim will be prorated accordingly.

Refunds are based on the date the Drop/Add form is completed, signed, and returned to the Registrar's Office, not the last date of attendance. If you believe you have an exception to this policy refer to Course Catalog.

Once classes begin, if a class is added at the same time another is dropped, full tuition and fees will be assessed for the added class, with the appropriate refund of tuition credited for the dropped class.

**COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** To "officially withdraw" from one or more courses without academic penalty, a student must submit a drop/add form to the Registrar's Office located in Student Services. A student who stops going to class without officially withdrawing will earn an "F."

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:** Students are expected to take finals during finals week and should not make arrangements to leave any earlier in the semester. All classes will hold a final or culminating event during finals week with the exception of night or otherwise exempt classes.

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (StAP)** The MCC community is committed to and cares about all students. If you or someone you know at MCC feels overwhelmed, hopeless, depressed, or exhibits reckless or impulsive behaviors, solution-focused counseling services are available to students at no charge. To access the StAP, stop by room 211 on the MCC campus, or to set up an appointment, call 641-844-5753, or email Coordinator Nancy Adams @ [nancy.adams@iavalley.edu](mailto:nancy.adams@iavalley.edu).

**THIS SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Attachment: Assignment List