

Ceramics Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

The following syllabus outlines the Sculpture class as it is normally offered in-person. Although we are beginning the year in a virtual setting, consider the content and overall information in the syllabus to apply to both virtual and in-class settings. More detailed information about how the coursework will be adjusted for virtual learning will be covered in class.

Ceramics 2, 3, and 4 provide an exploration of the properties of clay and an introduction or continuation to hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Pinching, coiling, sculpture, slab building, wheel throwing and combinations of these will be introduced. Students will work with surface treatments including paint, textures, colored slips glazes, and stains. Ceramics history and appreciation is included, this course is a non-required elective and should not be considered a study hall or a blow-off class.

Code of Conduct: All students are expected to follow all classroom and campus rules, policies, and procedures as outlined by: The teacher in class, Vandegrift High School, and Leander Independent School District.

District Grading System: [Here](#)

Grading Breakdown:

40% Projects: This is an advanced art course. We will spend the majority of time in class on projects but students are expected to spend time outside of class as well. The effort you put forth on these projects and your ability to follow guidelines will determine this grade.

30% Sketchbooks: Sketchbooks should be used in and outside of class to record thoughts and ideas on projects. Clay is a medium that requires a lot of planning.

30% Participation/Assessments/Critique: Assessments will be taken periodically as a means of assuring student learning. All students are expected to participate and contribute to discussions, clean up, group projects, etc. With online learning, students are expected to participate in discussions and participate in every online meeting.

Late Work: All work will be due on the assigned due date. Every week a major project is late, 20 points will be deducted. Every week a sketchbook is late, 10 points will be deducted.

Students will have up until the end of the cycle to turn in late projects and assignments. After the cycle, work will no longer be accepted.

Class Expectations:

1. Be Prepared: I expect students to come to class on-time with all supplies every time.
2. Be Respectful: The community in the art classroom is built upon mutual respect.
3. Be Creative: Students create their best work when they allow themselves the freedom to be creative.
4. Give Effort: The key to success is effort! Talent is not necessary to be successful in art class. There's no need to worry if you don't consider yourself to be "good at art." Your level of success will depend on how hard you are willing to work.

Tutorials/extra work time:

Please make an appointment with me for work time before or after school – just ask in advance.

Supplies:

9x12 sketchbook

Pens, pencils, sharpies, sharpener, etc.

Apron or large shirt

Plastic container with lid for slip (yogurt, small tupperware, etc.)

Metal Fork

Plastic bags

Example Tool kit: [Here](#) or [Smaller Kit](#)

To buy clay and tools in person: [Armadillo Clay Austin](#)

- if you buy personal clay or glazes, you can buy anything but make sure it is CONE 5. Please tell the people there that it needs to be CONE 5.
- You may use any color clay or grog texture (because we will NOT be recycling or resuing this year. It is for personal use only)
- They are located on the East Side. Open M-F: 9-5 & Sat: 9-12pm

This course provides endless possibilities for sculptural exploration, students may be asked to bring in certain “found objects” to work with. Students are encouraged to always be on the lookout objects and materials that could be used to realize a sculptural idea.

****Donated Items** are much appreciated: plastic/paper bags (grocery, shopping, etc), newspapers, magazines, old clothes (large shirts or button-ups) hairdryers, clothes iron, plastic bottles (gallon jugs), wire hangers, books, etc...

At this time, there will be no course fee for the first semester. Due to the nature of Sculpture classes and the amount of materials needed for students to create their art, this is subject to change next semester and a small fee might be asked of students in the spring.