

**CERAMICS I**

Ms. Conner

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**TEACHER WEBSITE**

<http://connerstudioart.weebly.com>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to a variety of hand-building techniques and approaches that can be used to create ceramic artwork. This may include, but is not limited to coil building, slab building, reductive carving, and extrusion. Students may also study the contexts, conceptual inspiration and intention of artworks created by many historical and contemporary artists. Learning is done through lecture, skill and technique practice, researching, artmaking and critiquing. The skills learned during this course are designed as a platform for learning done in advanced art courses. **Periodically you should expect to spend time outside of class at home to complete studio projects.**

**EARNING ELECTIVE CREDIT**

As an elective, this is a class of choice. Remember that the class is still rigorous; active participation in class and completing assignments is key to getting a passing grade.

All high school students in the State of Minnesota are required to earn 1 studio art credit in any combination of visual arts, media arts, dance, theater or music courses of their choosing according to options offered through their regular school programs. If you complete all the required work to pass this class, you will earn .5 credits towards satisfying this MN graduation requirement. To earn the .5 Studio Art credit you must successfully complete the required coursework.

**The expectations are of the very highest standards of quality, creativity, originality and dedication from each of you who have chosen to participate in the learning opportunities presented to you here.** To succeed in this course you must commit to working hard, participating in repeated and consistent skill practice both in-class and by completing homework assignments, managing in-class work time effectively, turning homework and projects in according to assigned deadlines, and participating in several before and after school open studio sessions. Please consider carefully the demands this course requires.

**Tools and Required Materials**

Clay, ceramic tools, equipment and glazes will be provided to you during the semester. **It is important to remember that these tools do not belong to you,** they are expected to be used for future ceramic students. If tools or equipment is mistreated or damaged, you may be charged to replace them. It is also important to remember that you damage your tools, you will not be able to properly complete the projects. It is in your best interest to take care of the materials provided for you. We will go over equipment etiquette and procedures during the first week of the class.

\***Required by Tues 9/4**

**- 1 Sketchbook – 8”x10” or 9”x 12” (no smaller or larger)**

**- Pencils- #2 pencils are acceptable (preferably not mechanical)**

**These are required every day in preparation for class. If you do not bring them, your participation grade will suffer.**

**GRADING**

**You actively EARN your grade in this class.** You will be given all the tools and support needed in order to earn the grade you choose to receive, grades are based on the quality and level of completion of your work both in and outside of class. As the teacher, I merely record your accomplishments and progress into the grade book.

Remember: average work will possibly earn a passing, average grade. Above average grades are earned by dedicating extra effort, time, thought, creativity and skill towards completing all artwork and assignments.

**Quarterly Grade Weights**

15% Sketchbook Assignments, Homework Assignments

20% Studio Etiquette: Attitude, Participation, Critiques

65% Studio Projects and Research Assignment

\*Artist Research Assignment: In this assignment, you will research and write a short essay on a contemporary sculpture artist and give a short presentation to the class. This assignment will be given during the first month of school, but will not be due until November before Winter Break. Further details will be given in class.

**Note**: The final exam is not factored in to the quarterly grade weights. The Ceramics I final exam is comprised of your grade on a studio project that is completed during your final exam period. Then your semester exam grade is entered as a stand-alone grade book item that represents 20% of your overall semester grade. The other 80% of your final semester grade is an average of the two preceding quarter grades.

* Projects completed on time using only in class work time will usually earn a C grade depending on how focused, detail-oriented, determined and dedicated a student is while working towards completion.
* With a little extra effort in class as well as periodic effort outside of class during scheduled open studio hours, a student can always easily increase their own Studio Project grade!
* **To receive a passing grade in Ceramics all studio projects must be completed and turned in**!

**Eagle Ridge Academy Standard Grading Scale**

93%-100% = A 73%-76% = C

90%-92% = A- 70%-72% = C-

87%-89% = B+ 67%-69% = D+

83%-86% = B 63%-66% = D

80%-82% = B- 60%-62% = D-

**Grade A: Distinguished**

Distinguished students who receive an A in this course will have earned the distinction by consistently producing outstanding work that far exceeds the requirements and expectations set by the instructor for quality, creativity and originality. Such a student will have participated fully and enthusiastically in all group discussion and critiques, conveyed a positive attitude, shown generosity and helpfulness to his/her peers, and displayed obvious, marked improvement and growth over the course of the quarter/semester.

**Grade A-/B+: Excellent**

Students who receive and A-/B+ in this course have earned it by producing work that is truly excellent in quality, creativity and originality. Such students will have participated well during group discussions and critiques, conveyed a positive attitude, shown generosity and helpfulness to their peers, and displayed measurable improvement in technical skills over the course of the quarter/semester.

**Grade B/B-: Very Good**

Students who receive a B/B- in this course have consistently produced very good work that met all requirements set by the instructor for quality creativity and originality. They will have participated occasionally in group discussions and critiques, conveyed a positive and open attitude, and shown a very good grasp of the course content and required technical skills.

**Grade C+/C: Good**

Students who earn a C+/C in this course produce work that meets all requirements, though the results are sometimes mixed. They maintain a neutral attitude, they sometimes lack initiative, and their work doesn’t always show improvement.

**Grade C-/D+: Adequate**

A student earning a C-/D+ most likely has missing assignments and/or many assignments that have been turned in for partial credit. Their attitude may be poor, class time may be frequently wasted, and their work is generally missing some key components.

**Grade D/D-: Minimum Passing**

No one should be earning a D/D- in this course. A student who is in class every day and completes all of their work should be earning an adequate grade. Check to make sure that all work has been completed in a timely manner.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

* **Homework assignments in this course will be assigned periodically** and will vary in subject, scope and magnitude. Assignments will ask you to perform tasks such as:
  + - conducting artistic and conceptual research
    - creating a series of project/design sketches
    - compiling photos of objects, other artworks, etc. from which to draw project inspiration
    - writing project reflections and critique notes
* As assignments arrive you will receive more information
* **Homework is work to be completed AT HOME.** Sometimes, on rare occasions, you will be allowed to work on other homework assignments for Ceramics if you are finished with all other studio work, but this should not be counted on as a regular option.

**LATE WORK POLICIES**

To reach your highest potential in Ceramics, all studio projects and assignments including homework, written papers and guided activity work must be turned in on time.

**Studio Project Late Policy**

* Studio Projects and all their components are due on the given specified date unless changed by the instructor. If there is a change, you will be notified in class and on my website.
* **After the in-class due date no more in-class work time will be set aside for you to continue working on past-due studio projects.**
* If a project is not complete at the time it is due it becomes homework. You will need to work outside of class to complete the project in order to receive a grade. To accomplish this, you must utilize scheduled before and after school open studio time.
* Complete but late studio project work can be turned in **without penalty for up to TWO DAYS** following the original due date. Though the grade for the project will not be penalized the grade for critique will suffer due to the inability to participate.
* **After the initial 2 day grace period, the project is considered late.** Each day it is late, there will be a 10% deduction from the final grade.
* If a studio project is not turned in after a two week period, studio projects are considered missing indefinitely, will no longer be accepted, and will receive zero (0) points unless there are extraordinary circumstances involved, at that point a meeting will be set up with myself and principle to discuss further steps needed.
* **Incomplete or highly damaged/mistreated studio projects that are turned in will receive zero (0) points.** You will have the opportunity to fix the issues, but it would be considered late.
* If you take Art Department supplies/equipment home to complete a studio project but do not return what you borrow to do so, you will be charged the cost of replacement item(s).

**Homework Assignment Late Policy**

* Late homework assignments will receive a 10% point deduction per school day late.
* Homework assignments turned in more than 5 school days late will receive zero (0) points.

**ABSENT WORK POLICY**

A student who misses school due to illness will be given the day back to school plus one day for each day absent to make up and turn in assignments and studio projects.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

* **You are expected to arrive daily with the correct materials and supplies including at least a real (non-mechanical) pencil and an eraser.**
* You must work on your assigned studio project artwork during the entirety of each class period. You may bring projects home to do extra work, but you must always bring your work to class every day in order to get my guidance and feedback.
* If you finish early, you will be given time to work on Ceramics homework, such as sketchbook assignments or your research assignment. This class is for **CERAMICS ONLY**, it will not be used as a free study hall.

**Studio Etiquette: Attitude and Participation Grade**

* Part of your grade for this class is based on your attitude and daily participation
* In order to earn a good Studio Etiquette grade, the expectation is that you will come to every class prepared to learn and to participate fully. This process involves:
  + - being respectful of the instructor, all the classroom space and furniture, the Art Department equipment/supplies/materials, and each other
    - bringing all the required materials to class each day
    - completing assignments and projects on time
    - cleaning up after yourself thoroughly and properly
    - You will participate in critiques after every project deadline. That means that at the beginning of class on critique day you should be prepared to present your work and receive feedback from the class and the instructor. Critiques are an integral part of this studio class. It is used to give meaningful feedback to others in order to grow as an artist and a person.
* **Failing to meet these expectations will adversely affect your Studio Etiquette grade** — meaning you will lose points here if:
  + - you work on other coursework, homework, play games/surf the web/SnapTwitFakebookText on your phone/iPod, and/or you spend too much time talking to friends instead of working on your assigned studio project during class time. (*Note: you can talk to friends during class, but you should also be able to get your work done at the same time!*)
    - you don’t clean up after yourself or help others clean up thoroughly and properly
    - you come to class chronically unprepared (needing to go to your locker for materials or asking to go to the bathroom constantly)
      * + Note: If habitually coming to class unprepared becomes a pattern, in addition to losing Studio Etiquette points, you will also be issued a tardy for the class period at each occurrence. *This means if your behavior reaches the point where you consistently forget things and constantly need to be excused to go to your locker to retrieve things during class you will be marked tardy for the period.*
* you are disrespectful during critiques (*talk while others are presenting, constantly have pessimistic/meaningless comments, critique the person instead of the artwork, refuse to participate, etc*)

**TECHNOLOGY**

Technology can be helpful to take notes or conduct in-class artist research. **Occasionally** you will be asked to bring a digital device (laptops/ tablets) to class for such activities if you have access to the tools we will be working with. There may be scheduled days where laptops are provided for you. Phones will not be used as tools for research.

**General Technology Guidelines When Conducting Artistic Research**

* During lectures, discussions and critiques you must put all electronic devices away.
* When participating in research activities, technology is for individual, not group, use.
* ***At all times*** I must be able to see what you are doing when I walk past you. Do not change the screen or turn the screen away from me as I walk by you.
* Technology must be used for class work, not games, Facebook, texting, surfing the internet, etc.
  + **You get one warning** if I see that you are using your device inappropriately. After the initial warning:
    - **1st incident:** I will confiscate your device and turn it in to the office for pick-up at the end of the day.
    - **2nd incident:** all of the above plus your will receive a pillar referral form
    - **3rd incident:** all of the above plus a parent/teacher email and/or discussion will take place
    - Depending on the frequency and severity of your inappropriate device use you may lose the privilege of using technology in class for the duration of the semester.
    - If we are using the schools laptops and you use them inappropriately or damage them in some way, they will be taken away along with a phone call home and depending on the damage, possibly a meeting on replacing the item.

**Technology Guidelines Concerning Personal Music Enjoyment and Phones in the Classroom**

You will not be allowed to use personal devices to listen to music during class time. As a class we will collectively choose the music or take turns in choosing the music. Art class is a time to interact and learn and communicate with one another and with your instructor, phones/ music devices become a distraction.

**HALLWAY PASSES DURING CLASS**

Passes are given under certain circumstances, if there is an emergency, you will sign out of the classroom on a sheet next to the door with a time and date. If you forget something in your locker you will do the same, but points will be deducted from your daily participation grade. Each student will use pass that is designed for the art room, any roaming in the halls or skipping class will result in a Pillar Referral Form/ Call Home. If this becomes a constant issue, you will be put on the “NO PASS” list and will have to use passing time before and after class.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The requirements for each homework assignment and studio project will be spelled out in detail as will assessment guidelines. In order to assess for skill development and artistic growth, I use a variety of assessment methods in this course including but not limited to rubrics, self-assessments, reflection sheets, and individual and/or group critiques. Assessments function as a guide to you and me both in determining the level of conceptual development, crafted quality and technical skill you develop through completing your work.

**INTEGRITY**

As one of the pillars at Eagle Ridge, we strive for our students to have integrity in their work, classroom and daily lives. In a studio class, it is easy to fall into the trap of ‘copying’ another artist’s work, especially for the sketchbook assignments. If you trace work, use another student’s previous work and present it as your own, have another student complete the work for you, do not site texts, images, etc. this will be considered plagiarism, and you will receive a zero, a call home as well as have a conference with myself, the principals and your parents/ guardians. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

**DISCARDED ARTWORK AND SUPPLIES**

During the school year, any personal materials or items left behind at the end of class will be placed on the floor inside the door for you to collect when you realize you’re missing things. The Academy is not responsible or liable for items left behind in my classroom.At the end of the school year The Eagle Ridge Academy Art Department is not responsible for any student artwork or materials left in the classroom or hallways.

* Any materials or supplies left behind after the last day of finals at the end of the semester and/or school year will be appropriated to our art supply collection or discarded.
* Any artwork left behind or discarded (intentionally or not) after the last day of finals at the end of the  semester and/or school year becomes the property of the Art Department and may either be kept/displayed as example work or discarded at our discretion.
* You are strongly encouraged to keep artwork for submission to the Annual Student Art Exposition in the spring.

**REMEMBER**

**This is a class for growth, I do not expect you to come into the class with all of the knowledge of a professional artist or the skill of a professional artist. I encourage you to have fun, experiment, and learn from difficulties and failures. Relying on talent will only get you so far. It is through determination, work and reflection that you will achieve the skills of an artist, those skills will never fail you.**

\*The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Please Read through and sign your name, showing that you understand the expectations and requirements of the course.**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_