



Introduction to Ceramics & Advanced Ceramics 2024-2025

Teacher Contact Information

Teacher Name:

Jillian Downs (she/her)

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School Site: Nevada Union High School

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Course Description

Introduction to Ceramics: This class is a full-year course that will give students a broad experience of ceramic material and techniques. Major emphasis will be on projects dealing with various aspects of technical proficiency. Meets the Visual Arts requirement for CSU/UC. *Note: Students will be requested to donate \$50 per year for materials, although not required.*

Advanced Ceramics: Students complete independent work under the supervision of the teacher, using individually designed projects. Emphasis will be on development of a unique style of work. Meets the Visual Arts requirement for CSU/UC. *Note: Students will be requested to donate \$50 per year for materials, although not required.*

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Cr.1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

Cr.2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work

Cr3: Refine and complete artistic work

Pr4: Select, analyze, and interpret work for presentation

Pr5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation

Pr6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work

Re7: Perceive and analyze artistic work

Re8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

Re9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work

Cn10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art

Cn11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

The Elements of Art and Principles of Design

Line - Shape - Form - Value - Space - Color - Texture - Rhythm - Balance -
Emphasis - Proportion - Gradation - Harmony - Variety - Movement

Participation Expectations

Every class period is valuable: Staff at NUHS hold students to the highest academic integrity and expect all students to be on task, on time, follow directions, maintain focus, maintain intellectual character and creativity, respect the class rules and the teacher, clean-up after themselves and help-out when asked or they see a need.

Be kind: It is of utmost importance that students in this class respect each others' artistic process. We will always speak constructively to each other about our artwork, and be aware that making art puts us in a vulnerable space where empathy, patience, and kindness is required.

If your assignment is completed, but everyone is still busy with the project:

1. Ask if any improvements, or revisions, can be made to the artwork
2. Work on an individual idea for your next project
3. Do Extra Credit
4. Ask to help out

Class Rules are as follows:

1. **Keep class-time distraction-free** by putting your phone in your designated holder for the entire class period. The only permissible use of mobile phones will be to document artwork. Students must always ask for permission to use their phones.
2. **Sit in your assigned seat** for attendance and start-of-period announcements.
3. **Do not be Tardy** - you will be marked *Tardy* if less than 5 minutes late, and you will be marked *Absent* if more than 5 minutes late.
4. **Snacks and drinks are OK.** Make sure to clean up after yourself and put your trash in the trash can.
5. **Treat the space, and your materials, like they're your own.** Students will clean tools and personal workspace DAILY.
6. **Do not throw clay** on the ceiling, walls, or at other students. Students will receive lunch detention as a consequence.
7. **Do not waste clay or glaze:** Always put extra back in the container, not down the drain.
8. **Do not talk while the teacher, or guest speaker, is speaking.** Come to attention quickly and follow directions.
9. **Projects must be on time** unless you have been absent for a valid reason. Submit a picture of the project to Schoology by the Due Date. 10% deduction for late work.
10. **Label your artwork** on bottom with your First and Last name, and year created.

11. **Don't take work home until...** It's completely graded and posted on Schoology.
12. **Artworks will show the highest quality** of craftsmanship for each student's particular skill level.
13. **Work must be of original thought**, following the NUHS Student Handbook on Academic Honesty & Plagiarism.
14. **Students must individually complete the Clean-Up Procedure** every day at the end of the period. Instructions are displayed above each class sink.
15. **Students must work with their peer group to complete End of Period Clean-Up Tasks** every day. These groups are determined at the beginning of the year. 10 minutes will be given for clean-up.
16. **Stay in your seat until the final bell rings.** Do not leave early, you will be marked Absent.
17. **Students will adhere to the Miner Code of Conduct**, as written in the Student Handbook.

Noncompliance with any rules will result in further disciplinary action and possible restorative practices. A warning will be given, prior to communicating with a guardian.

A paper copy of the Class Rules will be sent home to be **reviewed and signed by the student's guardian and student** together. Signatures mean that they have reviewed all documents pertaining to the course and are in compliance with all policies, requirements, and expectations. **Students must return this form, signed by the end of Week 2 = 10 points**

Donation checks are requested to be in class by the end of Week 2. You can make checks payable to: *NJUHSD*. \$50 is the suggested donation, but not required. Thank you!

Grading Policy

To do well in this class, students need to complete all the assignments with an attention to detail and careful craftsmanship. All students (regardless of artistic skill) can do well in this class, if they complete all the assignments with an effort to learn and improve. Assignments will be worth points: The letter grades on report cards follow the traditional 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, etc.

| NJUHSD District Studio Habits Rubric | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exceptional | Exceeds Expectation | Meets Project Requirements | Below Expected Requirements | Unacceptable |
| The student utilized class time to explore several choices and experimented with different (or selected) tools or technology before selecting one. The project was continued until it was as complete as the student could make it; gave it effort far beyond what was required, and took pride in going well beyond the requirement. | The student tried a few ideas before selecting one; made decisions after referring to one source or limited techniques and solved the problem in a logical way. The student worked hard and completed the project, but with more effort and experimentation it might have been outstanding. | The student tried out an idea that worked adequately. The student finished the project but it could have been improved with more effort. Adequate interpretation of the assignment but lacking finish. Chose an easy solution and did it indifferently. | The student did the assignment but gave no evidence of trying anything distinctive. Attention to detail is lacking. The project was completed with minimum effort and quickly executed. | The student did not utilize class time in order to fulfill assignment requirements: basic technique is not evident. |

Student Absences/Tardies

Students will always be able to access assignments through Schoology, and appropriate time will be given for students to make up work. Students will be marked *Tardy* if less than 5 minutes late, and will be marked *Absent* if more than 5 minutes late.

Mobile Phone Policy

Upon entering the classroom, students will place phones in a holder with a corresponding number to their name. Phones will remain there until the final bell. The only permissible use of mobile phones will be to document artwork. Students must always ask for permission to use their phones. However, Iphone users will need to change camera settings, for documenting artwork in class, by going to Settings>Camera>Formats>Most Compatible

Late Work Policy

It is important that students complete assignments, and gain the knowledge

of the assignment during the unit of study. Therefore, points are taken off for work that is turned in late (with forgiveness for sicknesses, power outage, or events out of a student's control).

- 10% off for all work turned in after the deadline.

Assignments that were assigned in quarter 1, will not be accepted after quarter 1. Same goes for quarters 2, 3, & 4.

Resources

Schoology <https://schoology.njuhsd.com/home>

[Student Handbook](#)

[Photopea](#) is free photo editing software

[Google Sites](#)

<https://www.artnews.com/>

<https://art21.org/watch/>

Share NU Art on Instagram - Send works to @nuartguild on www.instagram.com/