

# 02\_Introduction to Clay

Content Area: **Art**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Semester**  
Length: **1 Week**  
Status: **Published**

## **General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy**

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The Ceramics course is a one semester course designed to offer the students an understanding of the history of ceramics, while giving them an introduction to the fundamentals of hand building and wheel throwing. This is designed to be a hands on learning experience. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements and principles of line, shape, space, texture, and color. Focus will be on hand building methods and techniques including press, pinch, coil and slab. While students will be introduced to building with clay, the craft of wheel thrown pottery will be studied on a limited basis. Additionally, the course will include an examination of clay, glaze, decoration methods, and the firing process. Students will have the opportunity to engage in team work, design, creative problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

## **OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

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Objective:

- Students will introduced to the history of ceramics and the fundamentals of clay.

Essential Questions(s):

- How does knowing the contexts, histories, and traditions of art forms help us create works of art and design?
- Why do artists follow or break from established traditions?
- What conditions, attitudes, and behaviors support creativity and innovative thinking?
- What factors prevent or encourage people to take creative risks?
- How does collaboration expand the creative process?
- Why is it important to know and understand the different stages of clay?
- Are early forming, drying, and firing techniques still relevant today?
- Why are the origins of ceramics an important part of understanding our history?

Enduring Understandings:

- Students will understand that clay is one of the most naturally occurring substances on the planet, as old as human life, an interplay of earth, fire, and water.
- Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
- Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art-making goals.

## **CONTENT AREA STANDARDS**

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Anchor Standard 1: Generating and conceptualizing ideas

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- a. Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
- b. Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art and design.

Anchor Standard 11: Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding

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- a. Describe how knowledge of culture, traditions, and history may influence personal responses to art.
- b. Describe how knowledge of global issues, including climate change may influence personal responses to art.

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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CAEP.9.2.12.C.4

Analyze how economic conditions and societal changes influence employment trends and future education.

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

- How art preserves aspects of life.
- Early techniques are still essential to the process of forming and firing different clay bodies.

- Knowing the contexts, histories, and traditions of art forms help us create works of art and design.
- Collaboration expands the creative process.
- There are different stages of clay.
- You can learn about the lives of people of different times, places, and cultures through their art.

## **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- Develop ideas and understandings of society, culture, and history through their interactions with and analysis of art.
- Develop innovative and creative thinking skills.
- Explore different clay bodies, stages of clay, glazes and clay forming techniques.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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### **Alternate Assessments**

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- Projects
- Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences

### **Formative Assessments**

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Teacher observation

Teacher feedback and discussions

Student Journal/Sketchbook

### **Summative Assessments**

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Teacher Rubrics

Final Projects

Reflection Worksheet

Self evaluation/Critiques

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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"Introduction to Clay" slide presentation

Multiple clay bodies

Samples of clay at different stages of ware

Glaze varieties

Worksheets

Posters

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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Students understanding of the history of clay will help them better grasp the impact of societal changes both socially and economically.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.