

Ceramics 1 Syllabus, Fall 2019 (Clean Radio Edit)

Dearest friends, art students, and Vikings – lend me your ears. In electing to join our merry band of potters, you are committing yourself to high expectations and our rockstar code of honor. You may in turn expect certain things of me and the class. If you're smart you'll keep this so you know what's up.

Class Purpose: to further your capacity to create and appreciate art through the medium of ceramics, and to teach your mind and hands how to do something besides use electronics. (Plus, I intend to have and share some fun).

Learning: In complete two billion percent alignment with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements of mad scientists, artists, and Washington State (<http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/Standards/pubdocs/VisualArtsStandards.pdf>), you lucky people will learn the following:

- Various techniques to form, decorate, and fire clay to express yourself and create aesthetically pleasing sculptural and functional pieces (not ash trays, bongos or mushrooms).
- How to use research, sketching and art principles to generate good designs (not clichés or pot leaves).
- How to thoughtfully discuss aesthetic and technical aspects of ceramics and art.
- How to deal with setbacks, problem solve, and persevere to improve your process, work ethic and work.
- How to work together to maintain a happy, healthy and creative ceramics studio.
- A taste of ceramics history and culture and the work of potters past and present.

Requirements for success:

- **Respect** – for each other and our work, and for tools, classroom, and time we share.
- **Use every minute of class time.** The percent of class time you use purposefully working with clay predicts your grade. This class is more about process than product. If you get behind, spend extra time in the studio.
- **Pay attention.** Pull your head out of your phone and watch; listen. It will make your life way easier.
- **If you need help, ask for it.** Keep on asking until you get it.
- **Be ready to get dirty and work with your hands every day.** You will be working with clay almost every day. Nice clothes and long fingernails are never an excuse for not working. There are aprons to help keep you clean, or you can bring an old bath towel or a set of grubby clothes to change into. Fingernails need to be a practical length.
- **“Everyone needs deadlines” – Walt Disney.**
I have no desire or time to drop everything and work harder to grade late assignments to make up for your procrastination. If your privileges depend upon your grades, get things in on time. Grading late work, *if* I decide to give some credit for it, is at the very bottom of my pile of things to do. See those dinosaurs? Do you want to feel like them? No, you do not. Trust me – I’ve been there. (Some words of this comic have been changed to protect the innocent.)
- **Persevere** – If you ask for guidance when needed and keep on trying, you will get it.
- **Play team** – be an active part of our learning community. This means sharing your thoughts and work, working together, not disrupting others, and being responsible for the cleanliness, safety, care and maintenance of our class environment and equipment.



Grades: Be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions, attendance, and inactions. If you care about your GPA, your effort should show it.

- **60% Ceramics assignments:** Each project and the effort put into it is worth around 10% of your grade.
- **10% Sketchbook work:** ALL the sketchbook assignments combined are worth “only” one in-class project. Using sketchbook work as an excuse to avoid working with clay is Very Bad Grade Math.
- **20% Class participation (attendance, use of class time & clean up):** Graded as the percentage of class time used over the course of the semester working with clay (hint hint). Clean up means leaving everything put away and as clean or cleaner than when you found it. This is a health, sanity and safety issue. Being helpful can help this grade, being a jerk can earn you a point-dropping payback.
- **5% Fine Art Museum visit AND 5% Fine Art Gallery visit** – In Inglemoor art courses we ask you to go out and see art in person, in the form of visiting **BOTH** a fine art gallery **AND** a fine art museum (two separate places). One visit is due by Tuesday November 12th and the other by Friday January 10th. If you get them both in by 11/12 then you will get +10% for both. Late = -50% credit!

Time Management:

- **Try try again. Practice practice practice.** To quote an awesome former student, “art is a skill that can be learned with practice, not an innate ability a select few are born with.” I am interested to see how far you can advance when you use all your time working on your artistic process; I could care less about the first quick thing you can kinda throw together and then say “I’m all done”.
- **If you are tardy**, in order to avoid an unexcused absence, turn in a slip of paper with your name written clearly on it, as well as the time you entered class.
- **Sign out and let me know** when you need to leave the room. Failure to sign out/in, 15+ minutes out of class, or cutting out even a few seconds before the bell rings will count as an unexcused absence.
- **Absences:** Check online, check with friends, check with me to find out what you missed.
- There’s no such thing as “I’m all done”, “not enough time”, phone game or texting time, or study-hall for other classes’ homework. Cleaning up early and sitting around, or standing by the door for the last five minutes of class, is ~~a good way for your grade to suffer a horribly vile, evil and memorably unpleasant demise, so not kidding~~ unacceptable.
- **Viking Time** is a chance to get help, get in a little more worktime, and enjoy a little more ceramic awesomeness before you have to go back to your Muggle classes. There might even be snacks.
- A working art studio is not a playground. **Activities such as throwing clay in any manner, taking someone else’s phone and running/chasing each other will instantly take a chunk out of your grade. Subsequent offenses may result in suspension or removal from class.**

Cheating will be dealt with according to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). This includes (but is not limited to):

1. Faking or helping to fake a gallery or museum visit; copying responses from someone else’s visit form; or going with someone else and choosing the same artwork to talk about and collaborating on responses.
2. Plagiarizing sketchbook work, or turning in projects that are not your own, taken from someone else (theft has additional consequences) or done by someone else for you. Helping is encouraged, but this can be accomplished without doing a significant amount of work on someone else’s project.

What you can expect from me:

- I will be in class on time, ready to instruct; I will treat you with respect and listen to your concerns; I will be fair, and help and encourage all I can (and I will use run-on sentences and small fonts to fit words on a page).
- I am (was?) by nature a good-humored person (in my own tyrannical, draconian, ruthless way). IF you do not cause me grief, I will now and then bring cookies or some such. The things I have no tolerance for are wasting time, throwing things, unsafe or bullying behavior, stealing and vandalism, cutting out of class early, and being under the influence of drugs. Sorry if this cramps your style, but deal with it.

IF YOU DO NOT EARN A PASSING GRADE OR THE GRADE YOU WANT by the end of the semester, and are not a Senior in your final semester, you have the opportunity to change your grade. Contract with me for the work you need to do to earn your desired grade, do the work when you can, and then turn it in. When you have shown that you have earned a better grade I will do the necessary paperwork to change it on your transcript.

➔Info For Adult-Type Units Pestered For Money And Signatures:

➔**A \$35 class fee** covers everything and is due Friday September 13th. Please make checks payable to Inglemoor High School or IHS. Your student/you can also pay online (<https://inglemoor.nsd.org/resources/payments>).

➔**Know more than your student wants you to!** ParentVUE (there’s a link under the Resources tab on the Inglemoor homepage) **is the main way I communicate student progress**, and is your one-stop shopping center for gradebook and class info for all your student’s classes. **I strongly recommend you check regularly.**

➔**My website (flieschool.com)** has the handouts and resources needed for my classes. If you ever want to know what’s going on in classes, what the assignments are, etc., go there.

➔**Assignments without a score:** Around half the assignments are not due till the end of the semester, so **grades can change radically near the end** – blank boxes are wild cards. The class participation grade (below) is a decent barometer of how your student is performing.

➔ **The Class Participation grade:** If, over the course of the semester, a student averages using 85% of their worktime to work with clay and cleans up adequately, they can expect an 85% for their class participation grade. If they slack off for a bit and the grade drops, they can raise it again by working extra for an equal amount of time. **This grade acts as a bellweather:** if the current overall grade is an A but the class participation grade is lower, it's very likely that the A grade will drop if nothing is done to correct matters. **I often do not enter this grade unless it is different than the current overall grade** and I want parental-type peoples to have a warning, and students to realize (and fix) the error of their ways (or benefit from all the work that they've done that's not showing up yet in the gradebook).

➔ **Extra time:** If your student needs more worktime, the studio is open after school on most days. This can also be a way to earn sketchbook credit or extra credit.

Having been pestered with looking over and signing many of these forms myself, **I THANK YOU** for taking time to help your student and myself make this the best class possible.

Sincerely,
Rob Flye

Questions, thoughts and brilliant ideas always welcome.

The fine print: People allergic to hard work or who are easily frustrated should consult their doctor before taking ceramics. Doing nothing all period may cause your butt to spontaneously combust (when I light a fire under it). Ceramics can be crazy addictive time-sucking fun for some individuals; there is no known cure. Tip #1: Give yourself room to learn – like any sport or musical instrument, making art of worth takes practice. Ceramics is taught by mad scientists with flame throwers who have buckets of substances labeled 'bone ash' and ☠☠☠ – approach with caution. Not thoroughly cleaning up after yourself can lead to bad cleanup karma, where you will be cursed to clean up 1000x more later in life for each little thing you neglect now. (The funny thing is, you think I'm kidding). Clay is strongly attracted to black clothing. Not doing ceramics homework increases your risk of phonezombie infection. Tip #2: Your life, this class, and your art will only be what *you make* them – what you want, *work to make*. Ignoring fine print is known to make art students dasyppygal in the state of California. Keep practicing. This class contains nutsos. No, I don't know what your grade is. No, I don't care – I already graduated high school and got into and out of UW and grad school. Grow up.

Student name _____

Period _____

Syllabus Signature for Ceramics classes: Please sign, get signed and cut off/return this section to show that both you and your parent/guardian understand the requirements for success in this class as outlined in the syllabus.

Student signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

1st Day Homework – do in the space below

1. Go home and find a ceramic object you use
2. Draw an outline and a cross-section
3. Measure your ceramic object and write the dimensions next to your drawing – height x width x depth. Indicate units (inches or centimeters).
4. If the piece has an interesting design on it, sketch it also to give an idea of what it looks like.
5. Describe three specific physical characteristics (things that you can see and touch) that you like or dislike about the piece. A blue stripe around the rim is a physical characteristic; “It’s cool” or “my uncle gave it to me” are not.



profile sketch



cross-section