

Intermediate/Advanced Hand Building

Artist-Instructor: Dana Nicloy

Curriculum Objectives:

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perceive and describe formal qualities and expressive content in ceramic products.
2. Demonstrate technical skills needed to produce products with aesthetic qualities.
3. Demonstrate techniques of forming pottery.
4. Use vocabulary related to ceramics/pottery.
5. Use criteria for making judgments about ceramics/pottery.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of the history of pottery.

Week 1 – Inspiration & Design – class will begin with an instructor demo.

- Introduction & review of foundational techniques
- Sketching and planning advanced forms
- Exploring creative sources of inspiration (architecture, nature, abstract art)

Week 2 – Advanced Coil Techniques – class will begin with an instructor demo.

- Building large, tall, or complex vessels using coils
- Strategies for maintaining structural integrity
- Adding curves, angles, and unusual profiles

Week 3 – Slab Construction Beyond Basics – class will begin with an instructor demo.

- Complex slab assemblies: boxes, multi-sided forms, and architectural shapes
- Joining slabs with strength and precision
- Experimenting with cut-outs, windows, and layered forms

Week 4 – Surface Design & Texture – class will begin with an instructor demo.

- Carving, sgraffito, and stamping
- Layering surface treatments for depth and complexity
- Underglaze painting and advanced patterning techniques
- Smoothing, finishing, and correcting imperfections
- Bisque firing preparation

Week 5 – Refinement & Pre-Firing Prep – class will begin with an instructor demo and lesson on glazing.

- Layering glazes for depth and texture
- Wax resist, underglaze transfers, and experimental glazing
- Applying glaze to highlight form and surface design

Week 6 – Complete, Critique & Reflection

- Complete glazing artwork during the first part of the class.
- Group critique and discussion of finished pieces the second part of the class
- Reflecting on personal growth and technical development
- Guidance for continuing other media application to the piece

Skills Developed:

- Refining construction techniques
- Adding texture and decorative surfaces
- Advanced glaze theory and application
- Please note that all pottery may be subject to issues such as cracking, blistering, and glaze running due to the firing process, which can affect the functionality of your piece.
- While we strive to minimize defects, they are a natural part of the pottery experience. We recommend wearing appropriate clothing that you don't mind getting clay on, trimming your fingernails, tying back long hair, and removing any hand accessories. Please note that finished pottery pieces that are not picked up within 7 days will be discarded.