

ART 31A Course Outline as of Spring 2001

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: ART 31A

Title: BEGINNING POTTERY

Full Title: Beginning Pottery

Last Reviewed: 3/10/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	2.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	35.00
Minimum	1.50	Lab Scheduled	4.00	5	Lab Scheduled	70.00
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	6.00		Contact Total	105.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 70.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 175.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
Wheel and hand-building methods of pottery. Glaze application and decoration techniques. Experiments in glaze making.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: Wheel and hand-building, glaze making and application. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:  
Recommended:  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC. (CAN ART6)  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:

<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
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<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
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### **CID:**

CID Descriptor:	ARTS 230	Introduction to Ceramics
SRJC Equivalent Course(s):	ART31A	

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Certificate Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

1. Develop an understanding of the basic use of clay and glazes in the creation of pottery forms.
2. Develop an awareness of visual and functional relationships such as proportion, scale, positive and negative shapes, form and surface.
3. Develop hand skills necessary for basic mastery of ceramic forms created at the potter's wheel and at the handbuilding tables and for basic mastery of glazing.
4. Develop a working vocabulary of ceramic terms and a firsthand understanding of their meanings.
5. Cultivate an understanding of the creative process which includes both the development of disciplined work habits and the practice of handskills, as well as risk-taking and experimentation.
6. Exercise ability to make critical aesthetic and technical judgments through class critiques.
7. Examine and analyze examples of pottery, both historical and contemporary.
8. Define health and safety issues that arise from the use of materials and equipment associated with ceramics. Train students in the safe handling of clay and glaze materials and of equipment used in ceramic processes.

### **Topics and Scope:**

The primary intent of Art 31A is visual awareness and performance using clay and glazes in a studio setting. This includes:

1. The ability to produce basic pottery forms -- cylinders, bowls, vases, simple lidded containers.
2. The ability to complete pottery forms with premixed glazes.
3. The ability to make aesthetic and technical decisions and judgments about these basic forms.

4. The ability to perform specific techniques to demonstrate understanding of the creation of pottery: throwing on the potter's wheel, pinching coiling, using both soft and firm slabs, decorating with colored clays, glazing and firing.
5. The ability to intelligently and safely use and care for the materials, tools and equipment associated with ceramics: clays, glazes, slips, handtools, potter's wheels, slabrollers, kilns.

The scope and sequence of the course will be presented as follows:

1. Through lectures concerning the visual, technical, and historical aspects of pottery.
2. Through lecture/demonstrations of the proper use of materials, equipment, and techniques.
3. Through student practice and demonstration of ceramic techniques and processes.
4. Through one-on-one assistance, discussion and evaluation with individual students.
5. Through group critique discussions and presentations of in-process and completed pottery.

Specific areas of study within Art 31A include:

1. Clay used in the creation of pottery: color, texture, temperature, suitability.
2. Glazes used on the surface of pottery: color, texture, temperature, application.
3. Forming methods: potter's wheel, handbuilding.
4. Glaze application: dip, pour, brush.
5. Firing: electric, gas, raku kilns. Low, mid and high temperatures.
6. Concepts and concerns of form and function inherent to the creation of art pottery.

### **Assignment:**

1. Use the potter's wheel to create clay cylinders and a series of simple forms: mugs, vases, bowls.
2. Utilize slabs of clay to form geometric or organic-shaped pottery: plates, boxes, vases.
3. Use clay itself as a decorative surface: scraping, stamping, incising sprigging, applying colored slip.
4. Use glazes as a decorative surface: dipping, pouring, spraying, wax resist, sgraffito.
5. Overglaze with oxides: brushed, spattered, wax resisted, poured.
6. Examine books and magazines devoted to ceramic art and techniques.
7. View videos of master potters at work.

### **Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

None, This is a degree applicable course but assessment tools based on writing are not included because skill demonstrations are more appropriate for this course.

Writing  
0 - 0%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances

Skill Demonstrations  
20 - 30%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

None

Exams  
0 - 0%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

A final exhibit of completed work will be the major basis for course grade Other factors include attendance, effort, artistic growth and participatio

Other Category  
75 - 100%

### **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Ceramics, Glen Nelson, 5th ed., Holt Rinehart Winston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, 1984.