



# Syllabus

## Ceramics I

ART 1201C / 80074/ Fall 2026

3 Credit Hours/ 6 Contact Hours

## Contact Information

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### Visual & Performing Arts Division Chair

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## Course Information

### Catalog Description:

This course covers basic concepts of ceramic design. Experience in the process of forming, decorating, glazing, and firing pottery.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic working knowledge of processes and materials relating to ceramics.
- Solve technical problems that commonly arise with the material of clay.

- Understand the basic fundamentals of design concepts.
- Interpret, the meaning of structure, spatial design, surface design, color, proportion and composition, function and content.
- Utilize a vocabulary necessary to discuss ceramic materials and processes, and to explain aesthetic decisions.
- Demonstrate habits that promote original and creative work, such as disciplined work ethic, willingness to take risks, and the routine of recording ideas in a sketchbook.

## Course Materials & Resources:

There are no textbooks for this class

## Delivery Method:

This course meets face-to-face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

## Class Structure and Requirements

### In Class

This is a studio class, which means that the majority of class time will be spent making the actual work. The student must show up on time and is expected to work hard for the duration of the class. The rest of the “in-class” time will be used for demonstrations, presentations, and critiques.

### Out of Class

Each student is expected to spend at least 4 hours per week in addition to class time to have any real success in the class. If the students schedule does not permit such a time commitment he/she might find the class to be difficult and unrewarding.

We welcome and encourage the student to use the open lab hours we provide. These hours are exactly that, lab hours, uninstructed, however they provide the student with the valuable time he/she will need to complete the projects required in the class. Lab hours will be posted on the door.

### Critiques

Open forum critique sessions, with small and large groups, will be held to critically evaluate and

discuss students' work. Conceptual, formal, and structural aspects of the project will be addressed. Critiques are vital to the student's development, and are never to be missed. On the day of the critique, all work must be finished and staged for a formal presentation. If it is not it will be considered late and graded accordingly.

The student is strongly encouraged to take an active part in class discussions and critiques. Critiques are a vital tool in the development of the student; however, without student participation, it becomes a painful, drawn-out exercise of staring into space. Your opinion counts, let's hear it!

### Project Evaluation

Projects will be evaluated for fulfillment of the assignment requirements, such as resolving design problems, concept development, and craftsmanship. Grades will be assigned not for merely completing the project but on the quality of the student's work, specifically:

- **Level of Challenge** (How far did the student go beyond the minimum requirements of the assignment to produce more numerous and challenging pieces? How thoroughly did the student explore the assigned problem?)
- **Aesthetics/Concept** (How original and personal is the student's solution? How far did the student reach beyond the obvious? How effectively were principles of design employed?)
- **Craftsmanship** (Is the construction sound? Did the student take time to finish and present the work in the best way possible?)

### Studio Maintenance

During the course of the semester, the student is responsible for mixing clay, loading and unloading the kiln, and washing kiln shelves. Each student must clean up after himself at the end of each class. This includes wiping down the floor and the worktable, cleaning and putting away the tools into their proper storage, and making sure that all glaze and clay bins are tightly shut. Realize that you are sharing the space with your peers, so please be respectful of the space. A studio-wide clean-up day will be scheduled at the end of the semester. All students are REQUIRED to attend this class. Failure to attend cleanup day will result negatively on your final grade.

### Materials

The lab fee covers most materials. These include clay, glazes, slips, tools, sponges, brushes, plastic buckets, clay boards, and plastic bags. The student is responsible for purchasing a sketchbook. Each student must have a sketchbook specifically dedicated to the class. The tools, glazes, and slips provided by the school are of the most common variety. If the student needs a special glaze, slip, or tool not offered by the school, he is strongly encouraged to purchase it from the local art stores or from numerous ceramic suppliers online.

### Attending GCSC Events

Over the course of the semester, the student is required to attend two (2) GCSC visual art events such as art show openings, artist lectures, and artist demonstrations. There will be four (4) such events offered over the course of the semester. While we have great theater and music programming, which you should attend if you get a chance, **only visual art events count towards your Event grade.** To verify attendance, the student will be asked to sign in. **If your name is not on a sign-in sheet, you will not receive credit.** Sign-in sheets are only available during opening receptions. All eligible events are listed on the [Schedule of Events](#) page in the About this Course folder. I strongly suggest planning ahead to make sure that you are able to attend at least two events.

### Extra Credit

To receive extra credit the student may write a one-page review of the show they've attended. The review should be based on the material you have learned in the class. You may approach the work from a formal standpoint and talk about composition, elements of design, media, etc. Your review may include the whole show, a couple of pieces, or just one piece that really grabbed your attention. (Please attach pictures of the work that you are describing.) Upload your paper to the "Extra Credit" folder found under the Lessons tab. A successful completion of this assignment will add two (2) percentage points to your overall grade. You may complete up to three (3) extra credit assignments over the course of the semester for a total of six (6) percentage points. Extra credit submissions, which fall short of a one-page minimum, or fail to address the subject in a manner that is relevant to the class, will not receive any points.

## Student Expectations

In this course, most of the communication and feedback will occur in class during class hours. Additional communication can happen through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out weekly reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

## Course Schedule

Assignment	Due Date*
Project 1	September 30
Project 2	November 2
Project 3	December 7
Project 4	December 9

\*All dates are subject to change.

## Grading

### GCSC Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A 90%-100%
- B 80%-89%
- C 70%-79%

- D 60%-69%
- F 59% and below

## Calculation of Grades

<b>Work</b>	80%
<b>Participation</b>	10%
<b>Studio Maintenance</b>	5%
<b>Events</b>	5%

## Course Policies

### Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially

responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

## Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

## Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

### "Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

### "Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

### "Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

## Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

## Prohibited Use of AI

*The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.*

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

## Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

## Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.

- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS)

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.