



S Y L L A B U S

Pottery and Ceramic Sculpture

Duration: 5 Days (Total: 20 Hours)

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1.0 Course Overview

This hands-on course introduces participants to the **fundamentals of pottery and ceramic sculpture**, including techniques in shaping, surface design, glazing, and firing. The focus is on exploring creativity while learning the technical processes of ceramic art.

2.0 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand types of clay and ceramic materials
- Apply handbuilding and wheel throwing techniques
- Sculpt, carve, and texture clay for creative expression
- Safely glaze and fire ceramic works
- Create, present, and care for ceramic artworks

3.0 Training Methodology

- Demonstrations and Studio Practice
- Step-by-Step Technique Tutorials
- Individual Clay Projects and Group Challenges
- Visual Design Journals
- Kiln & Tool Handling with Safety Instructions

4.0 Introduction to Clay and Ceramic Materials (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Learn about clay types, ceramic tools, and safety basics

Topics Covered:

- Clay Types: Earthenware, Stoneware, Porcelain
- Properties of Clay: Plasticity, Shrinkage, Drying
- Tools: Ribs, Loops, Needles, Sponges
- Studio Setup and Health Safety (Dust, Glaze Handling)

Activities:

- Clay Touch Lab: Compare 3 types of clay
- Tool Familiarization: Create textured test tiles
- Task: Sketch your first clay piece idea in your journal

5.0 Handbuilding Techniques and Surface Textures (3 Hours)**Objectives:**

- Build forms using traditional hand techniques

Topics Covered:

- Pinch Pot, Coil Building, and Slab Construction
- Scoring, Slipping, and Joining Techniques
- Texture Tools and Impression Making
- Drying Process and Timing

Activities:

- Demo: Make a coil vase or textured wall tile
- Exercise: Create a textured surface sampler
- Project: Build a small handbuilt container or sculpture

6.0 Wheel Throwing and Functional Forms (4 Hours)

Objectives:

- Practice throwing symmetrical forms on the pottery wheel

Topics Covered:

- Centering Clay and Basic Cylinder Shape
- Pulling Walls and Shaping Bowls, Cups, or Vases
- Trimming and Finishing Wheel-Thrown Pieces
- Common Troubleshooting (Wobble, Collapse, Cracks)

Activities:

- Demo: Basic cup or bowl
- Hands-On: Each participant creates a small thrown piece
- Task: Trim and refine your thrown form with guidance

7.0 Sculpture Design, Molding, and Carving (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Explore artistic expression through ceramic sculpture

Topics Covered:

- Clay Modeling and Armature Basics
- Additive vs Subtractive Techniques
- Creating Molds (One-Part/Two-Part Basics)
- Decorative Carving, Incising, and Perforation

Activities:

- Task: Create a small expressive figure or abstract form
- Lab: Practice basic carving patterns on test blocks
- Group Critique: Share concept, process, and message

8.0 Glazing, Firing, and Kiln Safety (3 Hours)**Objectives:**

- Understand glazing techniques and firing stages

Topics Covered:

- Bisque Firing and Glaze Firing Basics
- Applying Glazes: Dipping, Brushing, Pouring
- Color Reactions, Glaze Chemistry (Intro Level)
- Kiln Loading and Safety Protocols

Activities:

- Exercise: Apply glaze to a bisque-fired piece

- Task: Load and unload a kiln (demo or virtual)
- Group Discussion: Troubleshooting glaze issues

9.0 Display, Maintenance, and Creative Expression (2 Hours)

Objectives:

- Prepare finished works for presentation or sale

Topics Covered:

- Finishing Touches: Sanding, Signing, Labeling
- Photographing and Presenting Ceramic Work
- Repair and Handling of Finished Pieces
- Journaling: Reflecting on Creative Growth

Activities:

- Task: Set up a mini-display of your best work
- Peer Review: Feedback on final pieces and process
- Worksheet: Write an artist statement for your creation

10.0 Conclusion and Wrap-Up (1 Hour)

Key Takeaways:

- Celebrate creative process and plan for future clay work

Final Activities:

- Showcase: Final presentation or group gallery
- Certificate Distribution
- Feedback and Journaling: “My journey with clay so far...”