

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**COURSE OUTLINE
EXPLORATORY CERAMICS**

Date: March 2006

Subject Area: Electives

Proposed Grade Level(s):6-8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Grading: A-F

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Beginning ceramics class is designed to expose students to the elements of ceramics and three dimensional designs. The class will introduce the basic concepts of working with your hands to create a 3-D product. Sculpture and 3-D design will be studied and imitated through projects. Students will apply skills learned regarding color painting sculptures and glazing to finish their products. Students will begin with basic skills in clay molding.

GENERAL GOALS/PURPOSES:

Students will:

- Learn to appreciate 3-D art through study of sculptures
- Learn basics of manipulating clay
- Learn techniques for painting and glazing clays
- Assess their own work and critique strengths and weaknesses
- Understand the components of final product production including the uses of the kiln in production
- Work together at tables to share ideas, ask questions and model artistic behaviors
- Be exposed to works from different artists

STUDENT READING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Read assigned directions, instructions, lessons, and/or biographies
- Read self-reflections on projects

STUDENT WRITING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Write self-reflections on projects
- Write a thank you letter of appreciation to the City of Folsom
- Write to the artist of their choice about their favorite piece (as a lesson – artist may be from any time period)

STUDENT ORAL COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Share with the class about their final product
- Participate with groups in discussion about art and artists

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Learn to appreciate 3-D art through study of sculptures: Students will be exposed to, discuss, and be able to identify sculpture and artist.
2. Learn basics of manipulating clay: Students will learn to manipulate clay both by hand, and using different tools such as the spinning wheel. Students will apply knowledge to create projects.
3. Learn techniques for painting and glazing clays: Students will learn process, technique, and safety concerning finishing projects with paints and glazes. Students will learn to apply both to projects.
4. Assess their own work and critique strengths and weaknesses: Students will journal each project and write about their frustrations and successes. Students will use journal to critique each project.
5. Understand the components of final product production including the uses of the kiln in production: Students will study how a kiln works. Students will know the importance of the kiln and temperatures in ‘firing’ their projects.
6. Work together at tables to share ideas, ask questions, and model artistic behaviors: Students will learn and model cooperative group learning. Students will learn to work as a cohesive group whether on a group or an individual project.
7. Be exposed to works from different artists: Students will study art from different artists, the historical period of reference, and what may have influenced that artist. Students will practice their methods of critique on the artists’ works.

THIS COURSE WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE CAHSEE AND/OR THE FCUSD EXIT EXAM IN:

Writing, Reading, and Math

LAB FEE, IF REQUIRED:

None

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

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| (6) Standard 1.0 | Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to grade level. |
| (6-8) Standard 2.0 | Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. |
| (7) Standard 1.4 | Students will ask and evaluate questions; and develop ideas leading to inquiry. |
| (7) Standard 2.5 | Students will understand and explain the use of a simple mechanical device by following technical directions |
| (8) Standard 3.7 | Analyze a work of [art], showing how it reflects the heritage, traditions, attitudes, and beliefs of its artist. |

DISTRICT ESLRs TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will:

- **Self-Directed Learners:** Take initiative, participate, and learn how to use assessment to improve skills.
- **Effective Communicators:** Understand what it is to be effective communicators, develop the necessary skills to enhance their ability to communicate effectively, and regularly practice those skills. Students will communicate with partners, teacher, and within small group/table settings.
- **Quality Producers:** Learn how to apply different skills throughout the class. Students will create final products that reflect listening and reading skills.
- **Constructive Thinkers:** Creatively express themselves and what they have learned through their creations/designs.
- **Collaborative Workers:** Learn how to implement group dynamics in class and in their group projects.
- **Responsible Citizens:** Develop a better understanding of themselves and the world around them through their course work and through the units of study.