

# Ceramics Orientation 100 - Welcome to Ceramics!

Prerequisite: None

**Purpose:** To introduce students to Ceramics at Dallas Makerspace. This class will cover the fundamentals of ceramics, followed by a complete walkthrough of the Ceramics space, and a brief demonstration of our cleaning procedures. The following topics will be discussed: clay and clay bodies, cones and firings, the production process and our shelving system, glazes, tools and equipment, and proper clean up. Students will gain an understanding of the ceramics process at Dallas Makerspace to be cleared to use the Ceramics space and the pottery wheels.

Syllabus:

## FUNDAMENTALS

### Clay and Clay Bodies

- What is clay?
- Clay bodies
  - Stoneware:
  - T-Mix:
  - Slip:
  - Porcelain:
- Where do we get our clay?
  - Trinity Ceramic Supply
  - American Ceramic Supply

### Cones and Firings

- Pyrometric cones
- To what cones do we fire to?
  - Bisque:
  - Glaze:
- What is the difference between low fire clay and high fire clay?
- How does the kiln work?
- Firing calendar

## WALKTHROUGH

### Shelving System and Production Process

- Work in-progress
  - Labeling work: Name and Date
  - How long can pieces stay on the in progress shelves before disposal?
- Finished greenware ready to be bisque fired
- Fired bisqueware ready to be glazed
  - how long can pieces stay on the ready to glaze shelf before disposal?
- Finished glazeware ready to be glaze fired

- Fired glazeware
  - End of production process
  - How long can pieces stay on the fired glazeware shelf before disposal?
- Monthly Kiln News post on the Ceramics Talk page

### Glazes

- Basics of glazing a ceramic piece
- What glazes does Ceramics stock?
  - Amaco Potter's Choice
  - Amaco Celadons
- Glaze requests
- Suggested donation of \$1-\$5 per use

### Tools and Equipment

- Slipcasting
  - Molds
- Handbuilding
  - Tools in cabinets
  - Slab roller
    - Assembly and disassembly
    - Components
- Throwing
  - Sponges, buckets, and spray bottles
  - Bats and wareboards
  - Ribs, wire cutters, needle tools, trimming tools, etc.
  - Pottery wheels
    - Assembly and disassembly of washpans
    - Assembly of workspace
    - Components

### Cleaning Procedures

- Rinsing handbuilding tools
- Wiping down slab roller
- Wiping down bats and wareboards
- Rinsing throwing tools
- Cleaning wheels
- Washing washpans in the utility sink
- Proper clay disposal in the utility sink
- Monthly Tasks

### Ceramics Classes

Ceramics Orientation 100, Beginners Hand Building 101, Beginners Throwing 101, Beginners Trimming 102, Beginners Glazing 103, Beginners Slipcasting 101