



**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Ceramics I

ARTS 2346_0001

Niko Weissenberger

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.
NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

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Course Description:

A studio art course that introduces basic building, throwing, and other techniques as it relates to the design and production of ceramic sculpture and pottery.

Exploration of ideas using basic ceramic processes, including hand-built pottery, wheelthrown pottery and glazing techniques. Prerequisites (for art majors only): ARTS 1312 and 1317 or consent of instructor. Semester Hours 3 (6 lec/studio)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

None

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Niko Weissenberger

MCC E-mail:

nweissenberger@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: NA

Office Location: CSC-F 149

Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

Tuesday - 10:00 – 11:00 & 12:00 – 1:00

Thursday - 12:00 – 1:00

Required Text & Materials:

No text required

Tool assortment for hand-building and throwing

Plastic bags

Spray bottle

Brushes

A bucket (or two)

Towel, apron, and/or junky clothes

Sketchbook - A note on keeping a sketchbook: Ceramics is a science as well as an art.

Taking notes and doing research are essential to success. Bring your sketchbook to class every day.

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MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning, Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

- To develop basic clay construction skills
- To become familiar with clay materials and glaze application
- To introduce kiln loading and firing processes in electric and gas kilns
- To critically evaluate ceramic work, individually and in a group
- To explore ceramics, past and present, for illustration of technique and examples of aesthetic
- Generate works that demonstrate descriptive, expressive, and conceptual approaches.
- Apply the elements of art and principles of design.
- Use varied processes including, but not limited to, hand building, throwing, glazing, and firing.
- Demonstrate additive and subtractive processes.
- Analyze and critique works verbally and/or in writing.
- Relate ceramics to art history and contemporary artistic production.
- Demonstrate an appropriate level of professional practice, including safety, craft, and presentation.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4. Project due dates, demonstrations, firing schedules, and critiques will be posted on the calendar in the classroom. Demonstrations and critiques cannot be made up.

Course Grading Information:

There will be various projects given throughout the semester. Your grade will be based on the craftsmanship, creativity, and effort devoted to projects as well as your participation in class and maintenance of the studio. Assessments will be averaged together for your final semester grade.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-

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evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

This class meets twice a week for three hours each day. Demonstrations and lectures could be presented at any time, so it is essential that you attend class regularly and on time. Attendance will be taken immediately at the start of class; you must arrive on time and stay through the end of class to be counted present. Students who may be present yet are not actively participating in classwork will be counted absent. If a student is tardy to class three times, it will count as one absence. After three tardies, your classroom privileges may be revoked. All absences, for any reason, are treated equally. You are responsible for catching up on missed material. If you miss more than 25% of the total classes (7 classes) you may be dropped or receive a failing grade.

Assignments and projects are based on information discussed in class, so attendance is essential. Though time will be given during class for work on projects, you will need to spend extra time in the studio outside of class. Consider this your homework. Late work is not accepted.

The last day to drop this class is October 24, 2023. After that date, you will receive a grade for this course, whatever that may be.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity. Studio maintenance and cleanup is required.

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No cell phone or computer usage in class. No disruptive or disrespectful behavior. You may be asked to leave immediately and counted absent should you fail to comply with conduct rules. Should problems persist, you may be dropped from the class.

* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

*This syllabus is subject to change without notice.

06/24/2025



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to begin the steps for requesting accommodations. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by Accommodations (Disability Services). For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122
Room 319, Student Services

Title IX:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. We care about your safety and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report a Title IX incident are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email titleix@mclennan.edu for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email titleix@mclennan.edu to submit a report.

Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com>

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/> to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

Success Coaching Services is here for you.

We know life can be overwhelming sometimes—and that challenges outside the classroom can impact your success inside it. That's why our Success Coaches provide personalized support to help you navigate it all.

Success Coaching is available to every MCC student, no matter where you're starting from. Whether you're looking for direction, need quick advice, or just want someone to talk to, our coaches are here to listen, celebrate your strengths, and help you move forward with confidence. At Success Coaching Services, your voice is heard, your goals matter, and your future is our focus.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching, call 254-299-8226, or email success@mclennan.edu.

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing crew@mclennan.edu.

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing counseling@mclennan.edu.

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic Integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

For online and blended/hybrid courses, students must have access to a reliable computer and internet. For more information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system go to: <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html>

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication

method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.