

**York Suburban High School
Course Syllabus**



**Sculpture
841**

I. Course Description

Grades: 9-12

0.5 Credit; 1.00 Weighted Value

Length: 1 semester; Format: Meets Daily

Prerequisite: Introduction to Ceramics

Course Description: This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore a variety of ceramic sculpture techniques as well as gain an understanding of the historical significance of sculpture. Students will devote the semester to both realistic and abstract sculpture. While the majority of the pieces will be created in clay, other materials will be introduced when appropriate. Exploration of both structured and independent problems, historical relationships, and research of 20th century sculpture create the foundation of this course.

Students will create sculptural projects based on the following concepts: differences among clay bodies, the role of firing in the ceramic process, properties of glazes, surface decoration, production using both traditional and contemporary hand building and wheel throwing techniques, understanding of the correlation between past and present ceramics, and presentation of work. Students will gain an appreciation of accomplishments and contributions made by sculpture artists, and will be exposed to the history of sculpture. This understanding will aid in making well informed decisions in the implementation of design and planning, in creating art with impact and interest, and in discussing artwork, both in writing and verbally.

II. Materials

Ceramics and sculpture materials and supplies will be given to the student as needed for the course.

III. Course Goals & Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Students will gain an appreciation of accomplishments and contributions made by ceramics artists, and will be exposed to the history of ceramics and sculpture.
2. Learn and use proper terminology while creating sculptural projects.
3. Utilize the elements and principles of design when creating or talking about works of art.
4. Design and develop an independent project for approval and completion. This includes demonstrating the ability to complete visual research, set and reach goals and write an artist's statement.
5. Prepare and set up an exhibit of their sculptural works in a portfolio show at the end of the semester.

IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)

Students will cover the following topics: clay bodies, kiln firing, glazes and other surface decoration, hand building and wheel throwing techniques, the relationship between past and present ceramics, and presentation of work.

Projects may include, but are not limited to: abstract slab sculpture, ugly face jugs and mugs, houses, metamorphosis sculpture, landscape, thrown assemblage, and independent project, and a variety of surface decorating techniques.

V. Assignments & Grading

Course Requirements: Students must complete every assignment and written critique to pass the class. Each assignment will be assigned a points value based on the complexity and duration of the project. Students must also keep a notebook and "journal", which will be used for sketching, brainstorming, and note taking. Additionally, students must present a portfolio of their work as a display in the Portfolio Show.

Grading System: Individual project grades will be based on effort/use of time, planning, concept, and craftsmanship. Quizzes on procedures and techniques may be up to 50 points each. Written critiques may be up to 20 points each. Attendance and participation (clean up) is worth 5 points per day. Characteristics, NOT talent are assessed. How the student improves their talent or skill, their attitudes, behaviors, and work habits are the important factors. Late work will result in lowered grades.

Behavioral Expectations: Students must be present and demonstrate good work habits on a daily basis. They are expected to work to their potential for the entire class period and to maintain a clean work area. Students are expected to respect themselves, their artwork, others and their artwork at all times. Students are expected to use studio supplies and equipment carefully and responsibly. Throwing anything will not be tolerated.

Cumulative Assessment: Students will be required to design and develop their own independent project as a part of the cumulative assessment. Additionally, they must present their 5 best artworks as a display in the Portfolio Show at the end of the semester.