

**THE GAMBIA COLLEGE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (BRIKAMA CAMPUS)**

**DEPARTMENT: ARTS**

**LECTURER: MR. EBRIMA L. JALLOW**

**Course Title: Introduction to Ceramic Arts**

**Course Duration: 14 Weeks**

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the fundamental techniques, materials, and concepts of ceramic arts. Through hands-on projects, students will explore various methods of working with clay, glazing, and firing techniques. Additionally, they will be exposed to the history and cultural significance of ceramics in art.

**Week 1: Introduction to Ceramic Arts**

- Overview of the course
- History and cultural significance of ceramics
- Safety protocols and studio etiquette

**Week 2: Types of Clay and Tools**

- Introduction to different types of clay (earthenware, stoneware, porcelain)
- Basic tools and equipment for working with clay

**Week 3: Hand-building Techniques**

- Pinching, coiling, and slab construction
- Creating basic forms: bowls, cups, and small sculptures

**Week 4: Introduction to the Potter's Wheel**

- Basic wheel throwing techniques
- Creating cylinders and basic forms

**Week 5: Glazing Fundamentals**

- Introduction to glazes and underglazes
- Techniques for applying glazes

**Week 6: Surface Decoration**

- Carving, graffito, slip trailing, and texture techniques
- Incorporating surface design in hand-built and wheel-thrown pieces

**Week 7: Bisque Firing**

- Understanding the bisque firing process
- Preparing pieces for the bisque firing

**Week 8: Glaze Application and Glaze Firing**

- Applying glazes to bisque-fired pieces

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- Understanding the glaze firing process

#### **Week 9: Raku Firing (Optional)**

- Introduction to Raku firing technique
- Conducting a Raku firing session (if facilities permit)

#### **Week 10: Alternative Firing Techniques (Optional)**

- Introduction to pit firing, smoke firing, and other alternative firing techniques

#### **Week 11: Advanced Wheel Throwing Techniques**

- Creating more complex forms (e.g., bowls with lids, pitchers)
- Exploring altered and assembled wheel-thrown forms

#### **Week 12: Sculptural Ceramics**

- Introduction to sculptural techniques in ceramics
- Creating free-standing sculptures and relief sculptures

#### **Week 13: Glaze Testing and Experimentation**

- Developing custom glazes and glaze combinations
- Testing glazes on sample tiles

#### **Week 14: Critique and Reflection**

- Reviewing and discussing completed projects
- Reflecting on personal progress and growth throughout the course

#### **Assessment Methods:**

- Class participation and engagement
- Completion of assigned projects
- Quizzes and/or short assessments on techniques and concepts
- Final project and presentation

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Various types of clay (earthenware, stoneware, porcelain)
- Basic ceramic tools (kiln, pottery wheel, hand-building tools)
- Glazes, underglazes, and other surface decoration materials
- Kiln access for bisque and glaze firing

**Note:** This outline is designed for a 14-week semester, but it can be adjusted to fit shorter or longer timeframes as needed. Additionally, consider including a syllabus with more detailed information on assignments, grading criteria, and class policies.

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Ebrima L. jallow Ass. Lecturer.  
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Mr. Jallow Arts Department