CLASS TITLE: KILN OPERATOR

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of a Dean, and in coordination with instructional staff, fires kilns and assists in the ceramics studio.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Assist in the ceramics studio, glaze area, and kiln area. E

Assist students in use of kiln equipment; load and unload kiln according to established procedures and safety requirements. E

Assure studio tools and equipment are maintained and properly accounted for and stored according to established procedures. E

Operate equipment used in a ceramic studio such as kilns, hand torch, clay mixer and a variety of related equipment. E

Load and unload greenware and glazeware and stack kilns and place ceramic objects on carts. E

Maintain a variety of records and reports, including inventory of clay and glazes made, kiln firing logs, roll sheets and maintenance records on equipment. E

Organize kiln furniture on shelves. E

Schedule loading and firing of the kiln. E

Assist faculty and students with problems arising in the operation of making ceramics. E

Maintain supply and equipment area and help keep ceramics studio orderly and working properly. E

Help maintain inventory records of supplies and equipment. E

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

Basic principles of a wheel throwing ceramics studio
Basic knowledge of glazes
Firing electric and natural gas kilns
Health and safety practices and precautions applicable in a ceramic lab studio and kiln area

Established October 2000
KILN OPERATOR (continued)

Various clays and ceramic materials
Safe practices in classroom activities
Classroom procedures and appropriate student conduct
Equipment used in a ceramic studio such as electric kilns, hand torch, clay mixer and a variety of related equipment.
Basic instructional methods and techniques
Laws, rules and regulations related to assigned activities
Proper lifting techniques
Inventory methods and practices
Proper methods of storing equipment, materials and supplies

ABILITY TO:

Use a wide variety of ceramics processes
Understand firing the kilns to different temperatures (low-fire Earthenware, high-fire Astoneware, etc.
Keep detailed and precise records of glazes, firing schedules, etc.
Operate and maintain kilns and equipment
Work effectively and cooperatively with students and instructional staff
Mix and pug clay
Load and fire kilns
Maintain and repair equipment used in a ceramic studio
Reinforce instruction to individual or small groups of students as directed by the instructor
Provide instructional assistance to college students in a ceramics laboratory
Understand and follow oral and written directions
Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others
Maintain ceramic studio in a clean and orderly condition

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to 12 units of ceramics course work and demonstrated experience with kiln firing and maintenance

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Ceramics studio/lab instructional environment

PHYSICAL ABILITIES:

Hearing and speaking to communicate with students and faculty
Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate and maintain ceramics equipment
Seeing to observe ceramics aesthetics
Lifting heavy equipment and supplies
Reaching to retrieve and file records
HAZARDS:

- Exposure to glaze chemicals
- Operation of spray booth, bench grinder, and kilns
- Fire from kilns