

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ARTS225 RAKU

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ARTS225 RAKU

B. New or Modified Course: MODIFIED

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: FALL Year: 2016

D. Effective Term: Fall 2017

E. Sponsoring Department: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 2
 Laboratory: 2
 Out of class student work per week: 8

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ARTS216 CERAMICS II

I. Laboratory Fees: YES (Also students purchase clay vouchers at Finance Department)

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Dennis Russo, Dennis.Russo@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ARTS216 CERAMICS II

An indepth study and practice of the ceramic process of Raku, a 16th century ceramic process originating in Japan. Students will learn the historical origins and meanings of Japanese Raku and its adaptation by Western potters. Students will learn the process of making Raku clay and glaze. They will also learn to fire a Raku kiln. Students will work on individual and group projects. Students will purchase vouchers for clay through the Finance Department, and will be responsible for purchasing ceramic tools and fire resistant gloves on their own.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Raku is a ceramics course of special interest to students who want to learn and practice more participation in the firing of ceramic work. The Raku process enables students to learn how to fire small gas kilns safely and to have more artistic control over their art work.
The course has been offered annually in the summer session since 1980.
- B. This course needs the use of the ceramics studio including work tables, potter's wheels, glaze making area, electric kilns, and outdoor Raku kilns and supplemental Raku tools.
- C. This course generally transfers as a program elective in a four-year studio art degree.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for the Associate of Fine Arts, Visual Arts Degree as an Advanced Studio Elective.
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Lectures, films and digital slides lectures on the history of Raku in Japan and the Western World.
- B. Lectures and digital slide lectures on the technical process of Raku from the making of Raku clay to the firing of Raku ware.
- C. Studio assignments to be fired in the Raku process such as:
 - 1. 2-3 projects assigned by the instructor
 - 2. Individual student projects
- D. Demonstrations by the instructor on firing the Raku kiln.
- E. Group critiques of finished art work.
- F. Final written exam.

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze, identify and critique, both orally and in writing, the formal elements and their meaning of historical and contemporary Raku. (GE-NJ1, 6, ER, *)

2. Employ creative problem solving to develop an idea into a finished artwork.*

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Produce a portfolio of ceramic artworks that employ the formal elements and principles of ceramic art making.
2. Employ various handbuilding and wheelthrowing techniques to visually express ideas.

**Embedded critical thinking.*

C. Assessment Instruments

1. art work
2. demonstrations
3. portfolios
4. group critiques
5. individual critiques
6. small group work
7. written final exam

VII. Grade Determinants

What factors may enter into the determination of the final? LIST the grade determinants. Please note any grade determinants that will be *required* for the course. For example:

- A. art work
- B. hands on quizzes on firing process
- C. tests
- D. participation in critiques

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. art historical images on web/film & video
- D. Actual examples of traditional and non-traditional Raku art work.

VIII. Texts and Materials

LIST which of the following types of course materials will be used. Specify title and publication information about textbooks and any other major text sources or other materials.

- A. suggested textbook: *Mastering Raku* by Steven Branfman. A Lark Ceramics Book, ISBN-13 978-1454703679. Reprint Edition. 2012.
- B. Actual historical and contemporary Raku art work

- C. film andrfaqz video
- D. web sources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

Ceramics studio with work tables, glazing area, clay making machine, extruder, air brush unit, use of electric and Raku kilns, assorted Raku implements such as iron tongs.

X. Honors Options