

Syllabus

TrackersNW Earth Colors Primitive Pottery Workshop Raw Materials for Primitive Pottery (Week 1)

The primary focus of this workshop is on the collection and processing of native clays and raw minerals for primitively fired pottery. This includes daily pot making and firing of pots. Classes start at 8:30 a.m., break for lunch at noon until 1:00 p.m., then resume from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students may continue to work into the evening.

June 2010

Sunday, June 6, 12:00 p.m.

Check in, set up tents if camping, get clay, start making test pots, check out displays and demos. Part of group may go prospecting. Pit firing of instructor's pots when group returns.

Monday, June 7

Early risers (1st group) leave for prospecting and return by noon. Late risers (2nd group) make pots in the morning. Everyone gathers at 1:00 p.m. for clay processing demo. At 2:00 p.m., 2nd group leaves for prospecting, while 1st group process clay and make pots, firing in trash can kiln after 2nd group returns.

Tuesday, June 8

Processing clay. Demos on blending clays and construction of pots. Students make pots. Firing test pots and demo of second firing for black carbon paint.

Wednesday, June 9

Pot making and blending clays for different tasks. Processing slips and Terra Sigillata. Firing led by students.

Thursday, June 10

Pot making and decorating; discussion of colorants and stains. Demo of Anasazi black-on-white pottery painting and firing. Firing led by students.

Friday, June 11

Finish decorating and painting pots. Students fire pots.

Saturday, June 12

Morning firing of last pots. Check out at 2:00 p.m.

The schedule may change, depending on weather, group size or other circumstances. Breakfast (7:00 to 8:30 a.m.) will be simple, serve-yourself meals. Lunches are the students' responsibility and dinner (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.) will be simple meals, cooked in primitive fired pottery. Students are encouraged to supplement meals if they are big eaters or have special food requirements.

TrackersNW Earth Colors Primitive Pottery Workshop Shaping and Forming Pottery for Primitive Firing (Week 2)

This intensive workshop focuses on the construction and decorating methods, both ancient and contemporary, for forming pots to be firing primitively. This includes making and firing pots daily. Classes start at 8:30 a.m., break for lunch at noon until 1:00 p.m., then classes resume from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students may continue to work into the evening.

June 2010

Sunday, June 13, 12:00 p.m.

Check in, set up tents if camping, get clay, start making test pots, check out displays and demos. Part of group may go prospecting. Pit firing of instructor's pots when group returns.

Monday, June 14

Clays and slips for primitively fired pottery. Demos of various forming techniques, including pinch, slab, coil, corrugated, paddle & anvil, etc. Students form pots. Firing in trash can kiln.

Tuesday, June 15

Forming large pots, lids, handles and nuances of shaping pots. Students form pots and lead pit firing.

Wednesday, June 16

Demos on decorating pottery, including slip application, burnishing, textures, etc. Making Terra Sigillata slips and application. Students continue making and decorating pottery. Firing led by students.

Thursday, June 17

Troubleshooting forming problems and how to fix them, including cracks, warping, etc. Making and using paper-clay. Students finish forming and continue decorating pots. Firing led by students.

Friday, June 18

Finish decorating and detailing pottery. Firing oxidation versus reduction atmosphere: Firing demos- one oxidation, one reduction.

Saturday, June 19

Morning firing of last pots. Check out at 2:00 p.m.

The schedule may change depending on weather, group size or other circumstances. Breakfast (7:00 to 8:30 am) will be simple serve-yourself meals. Lunches are the students' responsibility and dinner (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.) will be simple meals, cooked in primitive fired pottery. Students socialize after dinner or continue working on pottery. Students are encouraged to supplement meals if they are big eaters or have special food requirements.

TrackersNW Earth Colors Primitive Pottery Workshop Into the Fire, Firing Primitively (Week 3)

This intensive workshop focuses on various primitive firing methods and nuances both ancient and contemporary. Pot making and firing will take place daily. Classes start at 8:30 am, break for lunch at noon until 1:00 p.m., then classes resume from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students may continue to work into the evening.

June 2010

Sunday, June 20, 12:00 p.m.

Check in, set up tents if camping, get clay, start making test bowls, check out displays and demos. Pit firing of instructor's pots.

Monday, June 21

Demos on forming and decorating pottery. Demo of oxidation verses reduction firing atmosphere. Students make pots. Firing in trash can kiln.

Tuesday, June 22

Nuances and alternative methods of firing, including demo of firing in a wood stove, making and firing trash can kilns. Students continue making and decorating pots. Firing led by students.

Wednesday, June 23

Complex firing situations, including firing carbon paint using Anisazi and Maricopa firing techniques. Students continue making and decorating pots. Firing led by students.

Thursday, June 24

Firing large pots individually and multi pots fired in a primitive kiln. Students finish up last pots. Firing led by students.

Friday, June 25

Finish decorating pots. Fuels for firing primitively, including firing with dung fuel. Firing led by students.

Saturday, June 26

Morning firing of last pots. Check out at 2:00 p.m.

The schedule may change depending on weather, group size or other circumstances. Breakfast (7:00 to 8:30 am) will be simple serve-yourself meals. Lunches are the students' responsibility and dinner (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.) will be simple meals, cooked in primitive fired pottery. Students are encouraged to supplement meals if they are big eaters or have special food requirements. Students socialize after dinner or continue working on pottery.