Washington University

Glassblowing-15 week

INTRODUCTION

The focus of this class: Basic competency in the craft; fundamental practical skills; learning fundamental blown shapes; making and serving bits

Instructor introduction, student introductions, discussion of goals and expectations, discussion of art -v- craft, textbooks, glass color

Basic Class Schedule: 4 Hour Lab
6:00 - 6:15 Attendance, discussion of the day’s activities, shop set up
6:15 – 6:45 Weekly demonstration with student assistance
6:45 – 9:45 Students work
9:45 – 10:00 Clean up

Shop Set Up: 5:45 to 6:15
Get out hand tools
Empty and replenish block buckets
Empty scrap buckets, quench bucket, and refill with clean water
Set out Color (frit trays, pick up boxes, garage)
Set up pipes and irons at warmer

Shop Clean Up: 9:45 to 10:00
Put away hand tools
Rack pipes and irons
Bag color and / or dispose of color scraps, vacuum and wipe trays clean
Scrape wax from tool bench, scrape and empty trim pans
Vacuum all work stations
Place Assistant chairs and stools under benches
Clean up dishes, dispose of all food containers
Collect annealed work from previous week (leave no glass in the class box)
Collect personal belongings - organize hot shop seating

Week One -
Movie clip: Glass is fantastic! Optional
Safety and first aid – mental preparation, clothing, eye and lung protection, sanitary concerns, burn first aid
Weekly shop duties – on time arrival, set up, clean up
Shop orientation
Use and care of equipment
Cold drills – handling irons and pipes, sitting at the bench
Approaching the furnace and gathering glass - cold practice (bucket drill), “touch and go” drill, first gather drills
Solid shaping drills – marver and bench, marbles and caterpillars
Making a punty - the opposite of a typical gather
**Week Two**
- Gathering and Solid shaping drills – review marver and bench
- Practice punties
- Transferring – using a solid ball
- The principle of Flashing
- Gathering with a blowpipe - demonstration
- Starter bubbles – making a “seed” bubble – capping and blowing methods
- Reheating and blowing a sphere with a neckline

**Week Three**
- Movie Clip: William Gudenrath (beginning of class) *Optional*
- Gathering drills
- Solid sculpture - making caterpillars
- Using diamond and straight shears properly
- Serving glass bits
  - **Demo:** Making a fun caterpillar with legs and horns
- Practice caterpillar sculptures
- One gather cups (or 1.5 gathers), second gathers and using shaping blocks
- Blowing a conical or cylinder cup
  - **Demo:** Making a cup
- Practice cups, puntying and opening

**Week Four**
- Discuss and order class color
- Cylinder Cups and Vases
  - **Demo:** Making a cylinder vase
- Second and third gathers and using shaping blocks
- Being a good assistant
- Tweezing and trimming before opening
- Using the soffietta (puffer)
- Practice cups and taller cylinders

**Week Five**
- Vessels with Bits
  - **Demo:** Making and Serving Various Bits, Making a Pitcher with a handle - the class will collaborate on practicing making and serving bits, and making a pitcher with a handle and decorative bit work. This will be an extended demonstration time with all students participating.
- Bit work and gathering methods
- Shaping with Paper
- Using diamond and straight shears properly
- Making taller vessels, tapered vessels, and practicing bit work
- Making and serving bits, receiving bits
Handles, prunts, wraps, running bits, lip wraps
Pitcher trimming and spouts
Practice pitcher vessels

**Week Six**
Bottles and Amphorae, Tapered Vase Forms

**Demo:** Making a Bottle or Amphora, or a Roman Bottle - pulled necks

Use of paper for shaping
Pulled neck techniques - on pipe and on punty
Various vase tops
Practice vases, bottles

**Week Seven**
One Hour presentation - Survey of ancient glass, Muranese glass and Venetian heritage, a short history of American Studio Glass; Movie clips: Lino Tagliapietra (end of class)

**Demo:** Various types of feet for vessels; cookies, coils, dropped foot, Roman folded foot,
Making a Vase with a Roman Foot

Dropping and cutting feet, serving bits for feet
Handling diamond shears
Practice cups, cylinder vases, bit work, vases with feet

**Week Eight - Spring Break - no class???

**Week Nine**
Movie Clip: Pino Signoretto  (beginning of class) *Optional*
Glass is plastic - sculptural forms, asymmetry
How to apply color - the use of frit (crushed colored glass) and stringer (color glass strands)

**Demo:** Making sculpture

Basic color techniques - frit rolling
Flattening, distorting, stretching, hot bits, asymmetric transfer
Practice Sculpture with color and colored bits, or using clear glass only

**Week Ten**
How to apply color - the use of frit (crushed colored glass) and stringer (color glass strands)

**Demo:** Making a colored Flattened Bottle

Basic color techniques - frit rolling
Flattened bottles
Practice Bottles with color and colored bits

**Week Eleven**
Open Shapes - Hemispheric Bowls and Plates, Wrapping bits, raking and trailing wraps

**Demo:** Making a Footed Bowl with a patterned surface decoration

Bowls, Plates
Shortening, flattening and use of centripetal force
Use of Pachioffis (wood jacks) and paper
Practice Bowls and Plates

**Week Twelve**
Bowls and Floppy Shapes; Optic Mold, Machine Wraps

- **Demo:** Making a Floppy Bowl with a patterned surface

Optic Molds and Surface Pattern Design
Color effects using molds and surface color
Practice using optic molds
Practice Bowls and Plates, Floppies
Movie clip: William Morris (end of class) *Optional*

**Week Thirteen**
Discuss drawing and sketchbooks, assign drawing / design project
Cones - Straight wall bowls

- **Demo:** Making a Cone Bowl with a Coil foot

Opening cones
Practice Cone vessels

**Week Fourteen**
Design and drawing - working on your own design; making what you design; studying glass

- **Demo:** Making an Optic Molded Pattern on an Inverted Cone vase

Making your own design with surface patterns

**Week Fifteen**
Making your own design

- **Demo:** Clamshell Plate with Spiral Pattern

Shape molds
Practice using optic molds using any shapes learned
Making your own design