

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

HUMANITIES 118 – INTRODUCTION TO KUMEYAAY BASKETRY & POTTERY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

An introductory course to teach the traditional Kumeyaay process of creating juncus baskets and pottery. Students will learn gathering, material processing, and the cultural importance and uses of various basketry patterns and pottery styles and types. Field trips to various cultural sites for gathering purposes are a required component of this class. *Also listed as KUMY 118. Not open to students with credit in KUMY 118.*

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

The course content will be separated into two 8 week sections. The first 8 weeks will focus on pottery and the second half of the semester will focus on the juncus baskets. Topics include:

- 1) The importance, significance, and history of the various symbols and patterns that are present in the baskets.
- 2) Discussion of basic Kumeyaay geography, customs, and culture in general.
- 3) Discussion of cultural differences between the Kumeyaay speaking world and the students' own cultures in the areas of the arts and the role and status of the Kumeyaay women and men.
- 4) Presentation of Kumeyaay songs during harvesting and the importance of its use in the preservation of the Kumeyaay knowledge through the oral narrative.
- 5) Instructional lessons on pottery and baskets. The meta learning that takes place and its importance in developing self-efficacy.
- 6) Life skills which include the gathering, preparation and use of traditional plants and tools. Topics include:
 - a. Gathering Clay
 - b. Grinding clay
 - c. Creating the pottery
 - d. Gathering wood for burning
 - e. Burning pottery
 - f. Collecting basket material
 - g. Processing juncus grass
 - h. Learning basket patterns
 - i. Understanding the significance of moon cycles and songs related to gathering of materials.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain which clay is used for pottery and which plant materials are used for baskets.
- 2) Understand the connection between the various uses, purpose, and cultural significance for pottery and baskets.
- 3) Understand the philosophy, spiritual beliefs, and traditions of the Kumeyaay.
- 4) Understand the complete process of creating both, baskets and pottery.
- 5) Understand Kumeyaay construction and tool-making techniques and regional variations
- 6) Visit various cultural sites and areas for appropriate gathering.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to identify, explain, compare and contrast the concepts of the course.
- 2) Reports, journals and/or responses through which students describe, analyze and reflect on field experiences (e.g., materials collection, etc.) that bring them into direct personal contact with the course material.
- 3) Essays, research assignments and/or presentations that measure students' ability to apply course concepts correctly to discussions around Kumeyaay basketry and pottery production.
- 4) Homework assignments that measure students' ability to identify, explain, compare and contrast the key concepts of the course.
- 5) Skills demonstrations related to harvesting, processing, construction, creation of patterns, moon cycles and songs, etc.

Special Materials Required of Student

Required materials: box cutter/ knife, small ice pick, metal lid, scissors, small towel, bowl, river rock, wooden spoon, sifter, bandanas.

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

Instructor may use a variety of instructional techniques to engage students' attention, meet various learning needs, and promote thought and interaction:

- 1) Lecture and discussion to encourage dialogue and learning between students of varying backgrounds and points of view
- 2) Field trips and tours of local cultural sites
- 3) Instructional videos
- 4) Oral presentation(s) and skills demonstration

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Writing assignments that identify and explore aspects of Kumeyaay conflict resolution.
- 2) Writing assignments that reflect on assigned instructional videos.
- 3) Writing assignments on field experiences related to Kumeyaay conflict resolution.
- 4) Create group presentations that explore aspects of Kumeyaay conflict resolution.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example):
 - a. Bibby, Brian. *The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry*. Heyday, 2011. (latest edition)
- 2) Supplemental: as assigned by instructor
 - a. *Our Way of Knowing: Our Creation Story, Our Beliefs, Our Philosophy*. Barona Cultural Center & Museum, 2018.

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Have skill set to create traditional Kumeyaay pottery and baskets.
- 2) Have knowledge of cultural significance pertaining to uses, gathering of materials, and symbol used in baskets and pottery.
- 3) Have in-depth understanding of geographical areas used for harvesting.
- 4) Describe the social, cultural and historical aspects of the Kumeyaay people.

5) Identify and discuss differences/similarities between Kumeyaay culture in family life, food and geography and other cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Create examples of Kumeyaay artistic works (pottery and juncus baskets)
- 2) Evaluate Kumeyaay arts and culture within their sociocultural context.
- 3) Differentiate between plant and building materials and related knowledge (harvesting, processing, and storage) and how they are applied.