Department of Art & Art History
Art 46-Introduction to Ceramics, Section 3, Spring 2014

Instructor: Monica Van den Dool
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Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-11:45, or by appointment
Class Days/Time: TuTh 3:00-5:50
Classroom: IS 165

Course Description
This course is designed for beginning students in ceramics. Through demonstrations, discussions, and lectures, you will be provided a general introduction to a wide range of ceramic techniques and concepts, including studio practice in handbuilding, introductory wheel throwing, slip casting/press molding, low and high-fire surfaces and glazes, and firing procedures. PowerPoint presentations will provide an overview of both historical and contemporary ceramics. Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critiques. Engaged participation in critiques is mandatory and essential for your progress. Additionally, there will be a quiz on ceramics terminology and a short reading response/written assignment. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. In addition to studio work, students might occasionally be asked to visit on-campus galleries.

Three units.

Other Requirements: Ceramics is a medium that demands long hours and constant attention so expect to spend significant additional time outside of class working on your projects (3-6 hours per week is baseline, will vary from week to week).

Course Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
CLO1 - Practice handbuilding, wheel throwing, and slip casting/press molding ceramic fabrication processes to complete a variety of studio assignments
CLO2 - Select and apply appropriate surface treatments (glazing)
CLO3 - Demonstrate an understanding of some physical characteristics of clay and the firing process
CLO4 - Safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab policies
CLO5 - Apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class
assignments (studio and written)
CLO6 - Practice and develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)

Tools and Materials:

Don't wear nice clothes to class (or bring an apron/work shirt), since you will be getting dirty. You'll need an assortment of tools (needle tool, trimming tools, ribs, fettling knife, small sponge, cutting wire, etc.) Normally sold as a kit, these items are available through the SJSU Ceramics Guild (easiest! $15), the Student Union, or Clay Planet. (Clay Planet is a local supplier located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3. 408-295-3352, clay-planet.com). A few additional tools (such as small inexpensive carving tools) would be very helpful, these can be found at Clay Planet or some general art supply stores. You will also need some plastic containers (yogurt cups, etc.) and some paintbrushes of various sizes (watercolor brushes work best). A spray bottle is very useful but optional.

In addition, you will need to immediately provide a lock for your locker, a metal fork, and plastic to wrap your wet work (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags work well). Clay is available, as needed, through the Ceramics Guild for $10 a bag; you should start the semester with two bags. Check with me if you're interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio. So, unless you have outside supplies, most of you should bring in a total of $35 to our next class. Bring cash, or two separate checks ($15 for tool kit, $20 for two bags of clay).

Estimated cost: $50

Recommended Reading: (available in the King library)
Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception
Books:
Contemporary Ceramics Peterson, Susan
Craft and Art of Clay Peterson, Susan
Hands in Clay Speight, Charlotte
Images in Clay Sculpture Speight, Charlotte
History of American Ceramics Levin, Elaine
Postmodern Ceramics Del Vecchio, Mark
Sculptural Ceramics Gregory, Ian
Contemporary Ceramic Techniques Conrad, John
The Potter’s Dictionary Hamer, Frank

Websites of Interest: For images- artaxis.org, accessceramics.org, ayumiehorie.com (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities: criticalceramics.org and criticalceramics.org/oldsite, ceramicstoday.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, sjsartidea.wordpress.com, artshiftsanjose.com

Classroom Protocol

You are required to come to class prepared and on time and expected to stay and work for the duration of the class. As a courtesy to all, use of cell phones or any other electronic media is generally prohibited during class meeting times. If you are ill or unable to attend class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible. Not doing so could negatively affect your grade. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time.

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Clean up: Clean up begins 20 minutes before class ends. ALL areas that you have used must be cleaned before you leave the studio. For the safety of everyone sharing the studio, take care not to generate excessive dust (no dry sanding) and do not use any toxic materials in the studio. All clean up of dry materials will be done with a wet sponge. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the date scheduled for our final exam.

Grading Policy
I expect a high degree of commitment to this class. Your persistence, imagination, and level of involvement in solving visual problems determine the quality of your work. Be sure to challenge yourself within the parameters of each assignment. The criteria I use in assigning grades for studio assignments are the quality and complexity of the ideas being explored (including preparation, research, and preliminary sketches) and your success in executing these ideas (problem solving, craftsmanship, attention to detail, presentation).

Access to your grades as well as copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment, handouts, notifications etc. will be made available through the SJSU Canvas system (http://sjsu.instructure.com), accessible through your SJSU One account. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):

1. “The Heart” (20%): Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed heart to scale of 10”. Introduction of various handbuilding techniques and low fire surface treatments, learn to control form and texture, and to observe and model high levels of detail. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 10/5

2. “Slab/Abstraction” (20%): Combining slab construction techniques and experimental processes develop and create three abstracted texture studies in modular format. Iron oxide stains as surface. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 10/24

3. “Sculptural Vessel” (30%): Using coil construction, you will design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 12-18” in which the form/imagery subverts its function (holding flowers). The mold library and slip casting/press molding will also be introduced for possible inclusion. High fire glazes introduced. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 12/5

4. “Wheel Throwing/Raku” (10%): An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. Raku firing process and/or high fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) Due 12/5

Written Assignment (5%): response to readings on differences and similarities between craft/design/art (LO 6) 2/11

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (LO 3) 4/29

Class participation (10%): overall improvement and growth, studio maintenance/kiln
loading and unloading, preparedness for assignments, quantity and quality of your effort in studio, engaged and constructive participation in class critiques. Includes participation in ceramics area studio cleanup, scheduled for final day of 5/16. (LO 1,2,3,4,6)

**Extra Credit: (5% maximum)**
Each student has the option to complete reviews on a museum exhibition for the following point/percentage value: The De Young Museum (2.5%), the Asian Art Museum (2.5%). Students will write a brief (200 word minimum) account of each. A writing outline will be made available. Reviews will be accepted all semester until 5/13.

I will assign you a numerical grade for each of your projects in this class, as follows (a “C” and above constitutes a passing grade for the course):

- 97-100 = A+
- 93-96 = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73-76 = C
- 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 63-66 = D
- 60-62 = D-
- 59 and below = F

A= Excellent work  
B= Above average work  
C= Average work  
D= Below average work  
F= Unsatisfactory work

All work must be finished and turned in according to described deadlines and instructions. **I will accept late assignments at any time until the end of the semester, but they will be downgraded by one full letter grade.**

**University Policies**

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.
Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

Emergency phone number: 911    Campus police escort: 42222
# Course Schedule, Art 46, Spring 2014
(subject to change with fair notice by announcement/email)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Th 1/23</td>
<td>Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T 1/28</td>
<td>Bring in <strong>good references</strong> for heart assignment, sell tools and clay, Demonstration – working solid, pinch pots, combining parts. Start wet work on hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 1/30</td>
<td>- wet work on hearts, PPT lecture – historical ceramics, <strong>introduce reading response/written assignment</strong>, demonstration-extruder</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>T 2/4</td>
<td>-Introduce slab/abstraction project (PPT), Demonstration – detailing, wet work on hearts, introduce colored slips for hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 2/6</td>
<td>-demonstration – slab construction for boxes, start making boxes, wet work on hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>T 2/11</td>
<td>-<strong>reading response/written assignment due (5%)</strong> at beginning of class, work on slab boxes and hearts, Demonstrations – texture, slip dipping</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 2/13</td>
<td>-finish making boxes for slab assignment and <strong>check sketches</strong> (for abstraction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>T 2/18</td>
<td>- <strong>last class day for wet work on hearts</strong>, wet work on slab/abstraction assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 2/20</td>
<td>-wet work on slab/abstraction</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>T 2/25</td>
<td>- <strong>introduce sculptural vessel assignment</strong> (PPT) wet work on slab/abstraction, demo: press molding and slip casting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 2/27</td>
<td>- bisque hearts, wet work on slab/abstraction</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T 3/4</td>
<td>-wet work slab/abstraction, Demonstration- underglaze washes and heart glazing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 3/6</td>
<td>- <strong>check sketches for sculptural vessel assignment</strong>, <strong>last class day wet work on slab/abstraction assignment</strong>, start glazing hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>T 3/11</td>
<td>-Demonstration- coiling, start wet work on sculptural vessel assignment wet work on sculptural vessels, glaze hearts/fire</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Th 3/13</td>
<td>-lecture on kiln loading and firing, bisque slab/abstraction assignment, last chance to glaze hearts/fire, wet work sculptural vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>T 3/18</td>
<td><strong>CRITIQUE – Hearts (20%)</strong>, demonstration - oxide wash, apply to slab/abstraction assignment</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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|      | Th 3/20 | - wet work on sculptural vessel, last day to apply oxide wash, fire slab/abstraction assignment  
|      |        | *Spring break next week* |
| 10   | T 4/1  | -wet work on sculptural vessel  
|      | Th 4/3 | -CRITIQUE – SLAB/TEXTURE ASSIGNMENT (20%) |
| 11   | T 4/8  | - wheel throwing demo, start throwing assignment  
|      | Th 4/10 | -wheel throwing |
| 12   | T 4/15 | - lecture on clays and clay bodies, throwing  
|      | Th 4/17 | - last class day wet work on sculptural vessel assignment, pass out ceramic terms and review, wheel throwing |
| 13   | T 4/22 | -Demonstration – raku, throwing  
|      | Th 4/24 | -PPT lecture – ceramic sculpture, bisque sculptural vessel assignment, review ceramic terms |
| 14   | T 4/29 | -ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK, Quiz – ceramic terms (5%), bisque throwing project, start glazing sculptural vessels  
|      | Th 5/1 | -Demonstration – high fire glazes and review raku glazes, glaze sculptural vessels, glaze fire, bisque throwing assignment |
| 15   | T 5/6  | -apply high fire glazes, raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), glaze sculptural vessels, glaze fire  
|      | Th 5/8 | raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), last glaze fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels |
| 16   | 5/13  | -FINAL CRITIQUES- Sculptural Vessels (30%) and throwing assignment (10%) |
| Final Exam | 5/20 | 12:15-2:30 - MANDATORY STUDIO CLEANUP |