San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
Art 132- Topics in Intermediate Ceramics, The Historical Vessel  
Section 1, Fall 2015

Instructor: Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer  
Office Location: IS 124C  
Telephone: (408) 924-4683  
Email (preferable): monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: MW 11-11:45  
Class Days/Time: MW 12-2:50  
Classroom: IS 124  
Prerequisites: Art 46 or permission of instructor

Course Description  
Investigation of ceramic form and surface design with emphasis on the vessel.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

This semester, the focus will be on the historical vessel. Studying the form, function, and processes of historical vessels across various cultures, students will conceptualize and create re-interpretations of historical precedents and examine the role of the vessel in contemporary society. Relevant fabrication techniques, firing techniques and surface treatments will be demonstrated and practiced. Studio assignments, demonstrations and lectures, will deepen your technical skills and increase your awareness of diverse approaches to the vessel. Art 132 includes students with a broad range of experience in ceramics. I expect some students to work on a more independent and self-directed level, while other students might need to be assertive in seeking assistance with technical problems and discussions of works in progress. I expect all students to challenge themselves within the parameters of each assignment, as well as to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom. Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critiques. Active participation in critiques is mandatory and essential for your progress. Additionally, there will be a research/written assignment tied in directly to one of your studio projects. Students will receive instruction in kiln-
firing procedures and will be assigned various levels of participation in the firing process. Basic studio
maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. Students might occasionally
be asked to attend relevant lectures and 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 (six hours per week is baseline). **Regular
attendance is crucial to your success in this class.**

**Course Content Learning Outcomes**

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

CLO1- research, conceptualize, and use appropriate fabrication processes to complete individualized
interpretations of historical vessels
CLO2 - select and apply appropriate surface treatments
CLO3 - demonstrate an understanding of the physical characteristics of clay and the firing process
CLO4 - safely use ceramics lab equipment and understand general lab policies
CLO5 - properly load and fire gas and/or electric kilns
CLO6 - build on general knowledge of historical and contemporary trends in approaches to the ceramic vessel
CLO7 - practice and develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)

**Recommended Reference Books for Purchase** (all serious students in ceramics should own these!)

- Craft and Art of Clay
  Peterson, Susan
- Mold Making and Slip Casting
  Martin, Andrew
- The Ceramic Glaze Handbook
  Burleson, Mark

**Recommended Reading:** (available in the King library)

**Periodicals:** Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception

**Books:**

- Contemporary Ceramics
  Peterson, Susan
- Contemporary Ceramic Techniques
  Conrad, John
- Hands in Clay
  Speight, Charlotte
- History of American Ceramics
  Levin, Elaine
- Postmodern Ceramics
  Del Vecchio, Mark
- The Potter’s Dictionary of Materials and Techniques
  Hamer, Frank

**Websites of Interest:** cfieonline.org (you should subscribe to this!), for images- artaxis.org,
accessceramics.org, ayumiehorie.com (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current
events, exhibition opportunities- glazy.org, criticalceramics.org and critcalceramics.org/oldsite,
ceramicstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, sjsartidea.wordpress.com, artshiftsanjose.com
Tools and Materials: Don't wear good clothes to class, 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, 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.
In addition, you will need to immediately provide a lock for your locker, a metal fork, plastic to wrap your wet work (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags work well), some plastic containers (yogurt cups, etc.) and some paintbrushes of various sizes (watercolor brushes work best). A spray bottle is also very useful. You have the options of purchasing clay as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild ($10 per bag), mixing up free recycled clay, or mixing your own clay body (with instructor consent, you purchase the materials at Clay Planet). Check with me if you’re interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.
Estimated cost of class: $70.

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 for more than one period, I expect you to contact me by e-mail as soon as possible. Not doing so could negatively affect your grade. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time.

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 (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, mandatory area 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 each studio assignment 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, presentation). 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.

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade):

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.
Studio Assignments (totals 85% of final grade)

1. **Pattern Planters (20%)**: With clay prepared by class, construct large-scale functional planter forms. Surfaces will be derived from your research into historical examples of pattern in ceramic surface. (CLO 1-7) **Due: 10/7**

2. **Iron Chef (10%)**: Working within limits of instructor provided materials, complete quick functional form of your choosing. (CLO 1-7) **Due: 10/14**

3. **A Visit to Ancient Greece (25%)**: Create an accurate replica of a recognizable Greek vessel. After researching the conventions of Greek narrative decoration, develop your own contemporary narrative, to be re-enacted and photographed. These images will be printed on our glaze decal printer and transferred to your vessel. (CLO 1-7) **Due: 11/30**

4. **Collaborative Project (20%)**: Incorporating techniques in tarpaper construction, develop your own proposal for a collaborative project (form and surface). Construct with appropriate techniques and surfaces. (CLO 1-7) **Due: 12/7**

5. **WhyKea? (10%)**: Using appropriated white plates, combine digital laser decal transfer process with your research into art historical ceramic traditions to make a statement about the relevance of ceramics to contemporary culture. (CLO 2-7) **Due: 12/7**

**Written Assignment (5%)** research and proposal for “Whykea?” project. (CLO 5, 7) **Due: 11/8**

**General class participation (10%, ongoing)**: Overall improvement and growth during the semester, basic studio maintenance and etiquette, preparedness for assignments, the quantity and quality of your effort during studio work time and outside of class, and your engaged and constructive participation in class critiques. Includes participation in ceramics area studio cleanup, scheduled for final day of 5/15. (CLO 1-7)

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

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course:

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

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/20030624-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.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

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.
## Course Schedule - (subject to change with fair notice by e-mail/classroom announcement)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M 8/24</td>
<td>introduction to class, <strong>introduce first assignment: Pattern Planter</strong>, orientation and facility tour for new students</td>
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<td>W 8/26</td>
<td>demonstration- clay mixing, make clay, start wet work first assignment, coiling demonstration</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>M 8/31</td>
<td>make clay, wet work, <strong>PowerPoint</strong>: use of pattern in historical ceramics</td>
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<td>W 9/2</td>
<td>make clay, wet work</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>M 9/7</td>
<td><strong>Labor Day, no class</strong></td>
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<td>W 9/9</td>
<td>demonstration – colored slips, wet work planters</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>M 9/14</td>
<td>last class day wet work on planter forms, <strong>introduce second assignment: Iron Chef</strong></td>
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<td>W 9/16</td>
<td>Iron Chef wet work, last class day to apply slips to planter forms</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>M 9/21</td>
<td>Last day wet work Iron Chef, <strong>introduce 3rd assignment: A Visit to Ancient Greece (PowerPoint)</strong></td>
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<td>T 9/22</td>
<td>-Tuesday night lecture series 5-6, Adam Shiverdecker</td>
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<td>W 9/23</td>
<td>bisque pattern planters, begin wet work on Ancient Greece assignment</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>M 9/28</td>
<td>Glaze fire pattern planters, <strong>proposals due for Ancient Greece assignment</strong></td>
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<td>T 9/29</td>
<td>-Tuesday night lecture series 5-6, Marnia Johnston</td>
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<td>W 9/30</td>
<td>glaze fire pattern planters, bisque iron chef, re-enactments/photography for Ancient Greece</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>M 10/5</td>
<td>Glaze fire iron chef, continue photography</td>
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<td><strong>CRITIQUE: Pattern Planters</strong></td>
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<td>M 10/12</td>
<td><strong>Introduce 4th assignment: Collaborative Project</strong>, wet work</td>
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<td><strong>CRITIQUE: Iron chef</strong></td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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