San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
Art 46, Introduction to Ceramics, Section 3  
Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Crystal Morey
Office Location: IS 208
Email: crystalmorey@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm
Class Days/Time: Monday/ Wednesday 3:00 to 5:50
Classroom: IS 166

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 various types of hand building, introductory wheel throwing, slip casting, press molding, low and high fire surface treatments and firing procedures.

PowerPoint presentations will provide an overview of both historical and contemporary ceramics. Studio assignments will vary in length and will be followed by group critiques. Participation in critiques is mandatory. 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, three hours per week at minimum. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading and unloading is also considered part of the class.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

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

CLO1 - Practice hand building, 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:
Clay available as needed through the Ceramics Guild for $10 a bag. Start with two bags.

Basic Tool Kit: Not included:
Available for $15 through the Ceramic Guild: Estimated cost: $50
- Needle tool
- Small sponge
- Cutting wire
- Smooth metal rib
- Fettling knife or small old kitchen knife
- Small kidney shaped wooden rib
- Apron (don’t wear nice clothes to class to class, since you will be getting dirty)
- Sketchbook (bring this every class to take notes on lectures and glazes, and sketching ideas)
- Spray bottle
- Fork
- Paint brushes
- Towel
- Plastic for wrapping work (kitchen trash bags are ok, dry cleaner plastic is best)
- Combination lock
- Plastic containers (yogurt containers with lids work great)

Required Texts/Readings/Material
“Art, Design, and Craft” provided article.

Recommended Reading:
Websites: artaxis.org accessceramics.org criticalceramics.org ceramicstoday.com ceramicsdaily.org

Periodicals:
Ceramics Monthly
Ceramics: Art and Perception

Books:
Craft and Art of Clay, Peterson, Susan
500 Ceramic Sculptures, Lark Books
500 Figures In Clay, Lark Books
Contemporary Ceramics, Peterson, Susan
Hands in Clay, Speight, Charlotte
Postmodern Ceramics, Del Vecchio, Mark
The Potter’s Dictionary of Materials and Techniques, Hamer, Frank and Janet
Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

1. **Test Tiles (5%)** With an overview of slab, coil, and pinch construction we will create a sphere and cube complete with texture, underglaze and glaze. Each shape should be 5" in one direction. These shapes are found in everything and can be used together in combination to visualize following projects. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

2. **Sea Creature (20%)** Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed sea creature of at least 10". Reflect on the shapes made in our test tiles and use them in planning your creature. We will use various hand building 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)

3. **Zoomorphic Sculpture (20%)**: This will be a narrative sculpture composed of human figures, animals or a combination. We will use all of the hand building techniques we have learned so far to create wall hanging or table-top sculptures with a story or concept. Strive for highly detailed shapes and textures that are realistic and believable. 15" in one direction, oxide finish. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

4. **3D Painting (20%)**: Since the beginning of time artists have been inspired by works from the past, reworking older ideas into something new and contemporary. In this project you will find a significant art-historical painting and recreate it as a sculpture. Use your imagination to plan and make a three dimensional sculpture inspired by your chosen reference piece. The color in your painting can play a distinct role in the visual outcome of your work; we will use low fire underglaze and glazes to make these pieces come alive. Plan for your finished piece to be at least 12 to 15 inches in one dimension. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

5. **Functional Vessel (10%)**: In this project an introduction to techniques of wheel throwing, focusing on control of form, and slip casting and modified forms will be explored. Complete four well-crafted cups with a trimmed foot and a sculptural handle. High fire glazes. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

6. **Written Assignment (10%)**: Response to assigned reading, “Art, Design, and Craft”. A minimum of 300 words typed with correct spelling and grammar. Explain your ideas on these topics and how it relates to the projects you have made in class. (CLO 5, 6)

7. **Quiz (5%)**: Basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3)

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

**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 based on 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 Mysis.

Grades will be assigned according to University policy from A to F as outlined in the SJSU catalog.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0% Unsatisfactory</td>
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NOTE that University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Attendance and Participation:**

You are required to come to class prepared, on time and expected to stay and work for the duration of the class. If you are ill or unable to attend class, please contact me by e-mail as soon as possible (crystalmorey@gmail.com). Not doing so could negatively affect your grade. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time. I will accept late assignments at any time until the end of the semester, but they will be downgraded by one full letter grade. All assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

“This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

“A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 SJSU Studies (R, S, & V) shall be required of all students as a graduation requirement.” To see full text, review University Policy S11-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S11-3.pdf.

**Classroom Protocol**

Please respect the studio as well as your fellow students by cleaning up after yourself. Also, please mind the fragile nature of clay and be very careful in not handling other people’s work. The last 15 minutes of each class will be dedicated to cleaning. 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 a mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the date scheduled for our final exam.
Please wear appropriate clothing to class, do not wear headphones during lectures / demonstrations, and respect other students by turning off mobile phones while in class.

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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

“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.”

In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

“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/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.
# Art 46 / Beginning Ceramics
## Fall 2015
### Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be shared both in-class and via Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | 8/24  | Introduction to course. Orientation and facility tour.  
**Homework:** Bring lock, $35 for clay/tools and extra supplies. |
| 1    | 8/26  | **Slide Lecture:** Sea Creature assignment.  
**Demo:** Slab, pinch and coil construction overview.  
Purchase clay & tools. Assign lockers.  
**Class Work:** Start hand building sphere and cube test tiles.  
**Homework:** Bring three colored reference images of the Sea Creature assignment #1. |
| 2    | 8/31  | **Demo:** Slab, pinch and coil construction review, combining parts to create Sea Creatures.  
**Class Work:** Work on test tiles. Review image references for Sea Creature assignment. Start wet work on Sea Creature assignment.  
**Class Work:** Wet work on Sea Creature assignment. |
| 2    | 9/2   | **Demo:** Texture and detail.  
**Class Work:** Work on Sea Creature. |
| 3    | 9/7   | Labor Day – Campus Closed |
| 3    | 9/9   | **Demo:** Texture review, adding tails and fins.  
**Demo:** Colored slip and underglaze.  
**Class Work:** Wet work on Sea Creature. Bisque test tiles. |
| 4    | 9/14  | **Slide Lecture:** Zoomorphic sculpture project.  
**Demo:** Coil construction combined with slab for wall mounting.  
**Class Work:** Wet work on Sea Creature.  
**Homework:** Images for Zoomorphic Sculpture, sketches. |
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| 4    | 9/16  | **Class Work:** Review image references and sketches for Zoomorphic Sculpture. Wet work on Sea Creature.  
**Lecture:** Ceramic terms for quiz. |
| 5    | 9/21  | **Class Work:** Start wet work on Zoomorphic. Fine-tuning and carving on creatures.  
**CERAMIC TERM QUIZ (5%)**  
**LAST DAY FOR WET WORK: Sea Creature** |
| 5    | 9/23  | **Demo:** Combining human and animal elements.  
**Class Work:** Wet work Zoomorphic. |
| 6    | 9/28  | **Class Work:** Wet work on Zoomorphic sculptures. Bisque Sea Creature. |
| 6    | 9/30  | **Demo:** Underglaze and glazing Sea Creature.  
**Class Work:** Glaze Sea Creature. Wet work Zoomorphic |
| 7    | 10/5  | **Class Work:** Wet work on Zoomorphic sculptures. Glaze Sea Creature  
**LAST DAY TO GLAZE SEA CREATURE.** |
| 7    | 10/7  | **Class Work:** Wet work Zoomorphic |
| 8    | 10/12 | **Slide Lecture:** Introduce 3D Painting assignment  
**Class Work:** Wet work Zoomorphic  
**Homework:** Written Response |
| 8    | 10/14 | **Homework Due:** Writing assignment (10%)  
**CRITIQUE: Sea Creature (20%)** |
| 9    | 10/19 | **Class Work:** Fine-tuning and carving Zoomorphic  
**Homework:** Thorough research of your paintings and thoughtful planning of your 3D Painting sculpture based on your chosen painting.  
**FILL OUT THE HANDOUT: DUE TUESDAY! (5%)** |
| 9    | 10/21 | **Homework Due:** Bring in painting research; we will meet individually during class.  
**Class Work:** Fine-tuning and carving Zoomorphic, if ready begin 3D Paintings wet work.  
**LAST DAY FOR WET WORK: Zoomorphic Sculpture** |
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| 10   | 10/26  | **Lecture:** Loading kilns and firing, Bisque Zoomorphic assignment  
          **Demo:** 2D to 3D.  
          **Class Work:** Begin 3D Paintings wet work. |
| 10   | 10/28  | **Demo:** Wall work.  
          **Demo:** Oxide washes for Zoomorphic assignment.  
          **Class Work:** Wet work 3D Paintings, BUILD, BUILD, BUILD! |
| 11   | 11/2   | **Class Work:** Wet work 3D Paintings.  
          **LAST DAY TO COLOR/OXIDE:** Zoomorphic assignment. |
| 11   | 11/4   | **CRITIQUE:** Zoomorphic Wall Sculptures (20%) |
| 12   | 11/9   | **Demo:** Wheel throwing. Start throwing assignment.  
          **LAST DAY FOR WET WORK:** 3D Painting assignment, underglaze painting |
| 12   | 11/11  | **Veterans Day:** Campus Closed |
| 13   | 11/16  | **Demo:** Wheel throwing. Start throwing assignment.  
          **Class Work:** Bisque 3D painting. |
| 13   | 11/18  | **Class Work:** Finish up cups |
| 14   | 11/23  | **Class Work:** Apply high fire glazes to throwing assignment.  
          **LAST GLAZE DAY FOR CUPS!** |
| 14   | 11/25  | **Independent Work Day – Happy Thanksgiving!!** |
| 15   | 11/30  | **LAST GLAZE DAY FOR 3D PAINTINGS!** |
| 15   | 12/2   | **Class Work:** Finish up any last details on projects. If we have extra time we will start cleaning and organizing |
| 16   | 12/7   | **FINAL CRITIQUES: 3D Paintings (20%) and throwing assignment (10%) POTLUCK!** |
| Final Exam | 12/11 | **MANDATORY STUDIO CLEANUP. PART OF 10% PARTICIPATION GRADE.** IS 165 Friday December 11th, 12:15 to 2:30 |