

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Section 3, Fall 2017

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Office Hours:	MW 11-11:45
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MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignments, etc., as well as access to your grades, can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Studio work in ceramics; a survey of methods used by contemporary artists. Includes use of the potter's wheel, handbuilding techniques, clay preparation, glazing and firing for utilitarian and sculptural work.

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. 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. 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.

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). **Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class.**

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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)

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

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

Recommended Reading: (available in the King library)

Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception

Books:

Contemporary Ceramics Peterson, Susan

Hands in Clay 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

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), some general art stores, or Clay Planet. (Clay Planet is a local supplier located in Santa Clara, 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 a metal fork 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, 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: \$75

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT): Many materials used in this course require special handling. A HAZMAT tutorial and training will be conducted by instructor and staff.

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):

1. **“The Heart” (25%):** 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 10/16**
2. **“Slab/Abstraction” (15%):** 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 10/30**
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 12/19**
4. **“Wheel Throwing/Raku” (10%):** An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. Assignment option of continuing wheel throwing or handbuilding a set of functional cups. Raku firing process and/or high fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) **Due 12/11**

Written Assignment (5%): response to readings on differences and similarities between craft/design/art (CLO 6) **Due 9/27**

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) **11/29**

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 **5/23**. (CLO 1,2,3,4,6)

Extra Credit: (5% maximum)

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).

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.** Assignments late due to medical/personal reasons may be exempt from penalty pending appropriate medical documentation and/or permission of instructor.

Access to your grades throughout the semester will be made available through the SJSU Canvas system. 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

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 more than one class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time.

Clean up begins 20 minutes before class ends. It is crucial that 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**. As needed, we will do additional cleanups during class time. All finished and graded work

must be removed from the studio promptly. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place at the end of the semester.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

Library Liaison

Elisabeth Thomas (elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu)

Website: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/collectiondevelopment/CDhumanities>

Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Spring 2017, Course Schedule

(subject to change with fair notice by announcement/email)

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W 8/23	Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour
2	M 8/28	- Bring in good references for heart assignment, sell tools and clay, Demonstration – working solid, pinch pots, combining parts. Start wet work on hearts.
2	W 8/30	- wet work on hearts, PPT lecture – historical ceramics, demonstration-extruder
3	M 9/4	No class, Labor Day
3	W 9/6	-- Introduce slab/abstraction project (PPT), demonstration – slab construction for boxes, start making boxes, wet work on hearts
4	M 9/11 T 9/12	Demonstration – detailing, wet work on hearts, introduce colored slips for hearts Visiting Artist lecture: Lauren Gallaspy 5-6 in Art Building
4	W 9/13	- work on slab boxes and hearts, Demonstrations – texture, slip dipping, introduce reading response/written assignment
5	M 9/18	-finish making boxes for slab assignment and check sketches (for abstraction)
5	W 9/20	- last class day for wet work on hearts , wet work on slab/abstraction assignment
6	M 9/25	-wet work on slab/abstraction, PPT lecture – ceramic sculpture
6	W 9/27	-wet work on slab/abstraction, reading response/written assignment due (5%) at beginning of class, bisque hearts
7	M 10/2	- introduce sculptural vessel assignment (PPT), demonstration- underglaze washes and heart glazing, wet work on slab/abstraction
7	W 10/4	-wet work slab/abstraction, Demonstration- press molding, slip casting, mold library,

		start glazing hearts, finish all underglaze application, glaze fire
8	M 10/9	- check sketches for sculptural vessel assignment, last class day wet work on slab/abstraction assignment, demonstration- overglazes, heart glaze fire
8	W 10/11	-Demonstration- coiling, start wet work on sculptural vessel assignment wet work on sculptural vessels, last chance to glaze hearts/fire
9	M 10/16	CRITIQUE – Hearts (25%)
9	W 10/18	Lecture on kiln loading and firing, bisque slab/abstraction assignment, wet work sculptural vessels
10	M 10/23	wet work on sculptural vessel, demonstration - oxide wash, apply to slab/abstraction assignment
10	W 10/25	-wet work on sculptural vessel , last day for oxide washes on slab/abstraction, introduce last assignment –wheel throwing/cups
11	M 10/30	- CRITIQUE – SLAB/ABSTRACTION ASSIGNMENT (15%) , wheel throwing demo
11	W 11/1	- start wheel throwing (everybody)
12	M 11/6	-wheel throwing (everybody)
12	W 11/8	- throwing, last class day wet work on sculptural vessel assignment , introduce option for handbuilt cup set
13	M 11/13	- throwing/cups, trimming demo
13	W 11/15	- throwing/cups, handles demo
14	M 11/20	- ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK , bisque sculptural vessels, pass out ceramic terms and review
14	W 11/22	No class, Thanksgiving (classroom open)
15	M 11/27	-review ceramic terms, bisque throwing assignment, Demonstration – high fire glazes for sculptural vessels
15	W 11/29	- QUIZ: ceramic terms , Demonstration –raku firings for cup assignment, glaze sculptural vessels
16	M 12/4	-raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), glaze high-fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels
16	W 12/6	- ABSOLUTE Last glaze firings, last raku firings
17	M 12/11	- Last class day, Mandatory all studio cleanup, CRITIQUE: throwing/cup assignment (10%)
Final Exam*	Tues 12/19 9:45-12	Potluck and FINAL CRITIQUES- Sculptural Vessels (30%)