

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Section 04, Fall 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Marcia Boyajian</b>
<b>Office Location:</b>	<b>IS 208</b>
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>TTH 10:45 a.m. -11:45 a.m. or by appointment</b>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	<b>TTH 8:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</b>
<b>Classroom:</b>	<b>IS 165</b>
<b>Department Office:</b>	<b>ART 116</b>
<b>Department Contact:</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a>

**Course Format****MYSJSU Messaging**

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

**Course Description**

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

**Course Content and Objectives**

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 hand-building, 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 three short reading response/written assignments. 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.**

**Tools and Materials:**

Clay available as needed through the Ceramics Guild for \$10 a bag. Start with two bags. No outside clay.

**Basic Tool Kit (Available for \$15 through the Ceramic Guild)**

Needle tool  
 Small sponge  
 Cutting wire  
 Smooth metal rib  
 Fettling knife  
 Small kidney shaped wooden rib  
 - 2 trimming tools

**Not included:**  
 Apron/work shirt (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 and a small old kitchen knife  
 Paint brushes  
 Towel  
 Plastic for wrapping work  
 (kitchen trash bags are ok, dry cleaner plastic is best)  
 Plastic containers with lids (No food containers)

Additional tools can be purchased online or at the local supplier, **Clay Planet**, located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3. 408-295-3352, <http://shop.clay-planet.com/>

\*\* In addition, you will need to **immediately** provide a lock for your locker.\*\*

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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)*

**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

**Required Texts/Readings/Material:** A selection of excerpted course readings will be available online in PDF form, on the class Canvas site.

Paula Crawford and Kendall Buster, *The Critique Handbook* Chapter 1

Paula Crawford and Kendall Buster, *The Critique Handbook* Chapter 2

Paula Crawford and Kendall Buster, *The Critique Handbook* Chapter 5

**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

**Library Liaison**

**Elisabeth Thomas** ([elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu](mailto:elisabeth.thomas@sjsu.edu))

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

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

**Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)**

**Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):**

1. **“Wild Animal” (15%):** Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed wild animal to scale of 10”. Introduction of 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) **Due 9/14**

2. **“Narrative Vessels” (15%):** Using coil construction, you will design and construct 3 functional bottles 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 10/12**

3. **“It’s Not Just a Box” (15%):** Using slab construction, you will design and construct a box, but not just a box. The box should be unified in design and decoration. It should be no smaller than 10 inches and no larger than 16 inches. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) **Due 10/26**

4. **“Wheel Throwing/Raku” (10%):** An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. Assignment option wheel throw or handbuild a set of functional cups. Raku firing process and/or high fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) **Due 11/28**

5. **“Morphed Abstraction” (25%):** Combining slab construction techniques and experimental processes develop and create an abstract sculpture. Iron oxide stains as surface. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) **Due 11/28**

**Written Assignments (10%):** two response to readings from Critique Handbook on critiquing (CLO 6) **Due 9/19 and 10/10**

**Quiz (5%):** basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) **11/21**

**Class participation (10%):** Given 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 **12/11** . (CLO 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 **12/10**

**Final Examination or Evaluation**

**12/15/2017 - 7:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** - Potluck and **FINAL CRITIQUE**– “Morphed Abstraction Project” (25%).

**Grading Information (Required)**

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

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

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.”

### **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 cleanup 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/>"

**Art 46 / Intro to Ceramics, Fall 2017, Course Schedule**

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

**Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24	<b>Introduction to class</b> , orientation and facility tour. Let's get our hands dirty! Assign lockers
2	8/29	- Purchase clay, purchase tools. - Demonstration of pinch building techniques. <b>Introduction of "Wild Animal" project</b>
2	8/31	- Demonstration. - Individual meetings to review images selected for assignment. <i>Bring at least 2 images of a wild animal to class</i> - Begin work on " <b>Wild Animal</b> " project.
3	9/05	- Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress. - Continued work on " <b>Wild Animal</b> " project
3	9/07	<b>Power-point lecture:</b> "History of contemporary American ceramics" - Continued work on " <b>Wild Animal</b> " project <i>Announcement: LAUREN GALLASPY. Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017. Demo: 12:00 - 4:00 in IS 124. Lecture: 5:00 - 6:00 in Art 135.</i>
4	9/12	- Last day to work on " <b>Wild Animal</b> " project. - Introduce reading response/written assignment <b>Homework:</b> Read Chapter 1 and 2 from the <i>Critique Handbook</i> , found on Canvas <b>LAUREN GALLASPY-</b> Demo: 12:00 - 4:00 in IS 124. Lecture: 5:00 - 6:00 in Art 135.
4	9/14	<b>Critique – "Wild Animal" project due 15%</b> - Introduction to critique process, - Kiln firing lecture, bisque firing.
5	9/19	- <b>Reading response/written assignment due (5%)</b> at beginning of class, - Texture demonstration. Power-point lecture on texture and detail. - Introduce underglazes and low fire glazes. - Load bisque kiln.
5	9/21	- <b>Introduce "Narrative Vessels" assignment.</b>

		- Coil construction demonstration. <b>Begin 2<sup>nd</sup> project.</b>
6	9/26	<b>Power-point:</b> “Narrative vessels (Japanese?)” - Introduce mold library and slip casting/press. Continue work on narrative vessels project.
6	9/28	- Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
7	10/03	<b>Homework:</b> - Read Chapter 5 from the <i>Critique Handbook</i> , found on Canvas
7	10/05	- Texture demonstration. - Class makes stamps - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
8	10/10	- <b>Reading response/written assignment due ( 5%)</b> at beginning of class, - Glaze demonstration “ <b>Wild Animal</b> ” project - <b>Finish “Narrative Vessels”</b> project.
8	10/12	<b>Critique “Narrative Vessels” 15%</b> <b>Introduce “It’s Not Just a Box”</b> project - Slab construction demonstration
9	10/17	- Load kiln, bisque – “ <b>Narrative Vessels</b> “ - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
9	10/19	- Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
10	10/24	<b>Finish “It’s Not Just a Box”</b> - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
10	10/26	<b>Critique “It’s Not Just a Box” project 15%</b> <b>Introduce wheel throwing</b> - Wheel throwing demonstration – centering, center hole, pulling - Begin work on wheel throwing
11	10/31	<b>Power-point :</b> “ <b>World Pottery- the Culture of the Vessel</b> ” - Wheel throwing demonstration – centering, center hole, pulling cylinders - Load kiln, bisque – “ <b>It’s Not Just a Box</b> ” - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
11	11/02	- Demonstrate glazing - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
12	11/07	<b>Introduce “Morphed Abstraction”</b> - Glaze “ <b>Narrative Vessels</b> ” and “ <b>It’s Not Just a Box</b> ”, Load kilns - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
12	11/09	<b>Powerpoint: Abstraction</b> - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
13	11/14	- Wheel throwing demonstration. - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
13	11/16	<b>Review ceramic terms</b> - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.

14	11/21	<b>QUIZ: ceramic terms 5%,</b> - Demonstrate making handles - Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
14	11/23	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday– Campus Closed (T)</b>
15	11/28	- <b>Last day for wet work</b> - <b>Finish “Morphed Abstraction”</b> - <b>Finish wheel thrown pieces</b>
15	11/30	- Glaze wheel thrown pieces, load kiln
16	12/5	- Glaze “ <b>Morphed Abstract</b> ” pieces, load kiln
16	12/07	<b>Last class day, ABSOLUTE Last glaze firings, Mandatory all studio cleanup, CRITIQUE: throwing/cup assignment (10%) Clean out lockers.</b> Glaze and fire final work. Finishing glazing wheel thrown work.
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>12/15 7:15 - 9:30</b>	<b>Potluck and FINAL CRITIQUES– “Morphed Abstraction” Assignment (25%).</b>