

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 133-01, Ceramic Sculpture, Fall 2017

Instructor:	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
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Office Hours:	MW 11-11:45
Class Days/Time:	MW 3-5:50
Classroom:	IS 124
Prerequisites:	Art 13, 46, or instructor consent
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

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

Focus on handbuilding and nontraditional techniques in clay and related media. Includes gallery and studio visits.

Through studio assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and discussion, this course is designed to increase both the technical and conceptual skills necessary for developing your own personal aesthetic and body of work in the field of ceramic sculpture. This semester's theme of "Mixed Media and Multiples" focuses on the introduction of press and slip-casting molds as a means of fabricating multiple elements in ceramics. Students will also explore the relationship and integration of mixed media and handbuilt ceramic elements in sculptural composition. Studio assignments are structured openly enough to allow you to pursue and challenge your own individual interests and directions, while providing clear parameters for focused inquiry into various aspects of ceramic sculpture.

Because of the wide range of student experience in the class, I expect some students to work on a more independent and self-directed level, while other students need to be assertive in seeking my assistance with

technical problems and discussions of works in progress. I expect all students 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. Students will be instructed in kiln-firing procedures and will learn to schedule and complete their own firings. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. In addition to your studio work, I will require written proposals with a research component for two of your studio assignments. Students might occasionally be required to visit on-campus galleries or attend relevant lectures. **3 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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1 - conceptualize and complete sculptures that demonstrate mastery of various fabrication/handbuilding techniques, including the fabrication of multiple elements from press/slip-casting molds

CLO2 – conceptualize and compete sculptures that demonstrate the integration of mixed-media and handbuilt ceramic elements.

CLO3 – properly schedule, load, fire, and complete gas/electric kiln firings

CLO4 – demonstrate an understanding of the physical characteristics and potentials of clay/ceramics

CLO5 - research, select, and apply appropriate surface treatments

CLO6 – safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab policies

CLO7 – apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments (studio and written)

CLO8 – 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, ayumihorie.com (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities- ceramicstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, juliagalloway.com (her field guide)

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
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 spray bottle, a metal fork, and some paintbrushes of various sizes.

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 will also have the opportunity to mix recycled clay this semester (at cost), or to mix your own clay bodies (you purchase 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.

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

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio Assignments (totals 90% of final grade)

- 1. Glaze Tests (5%):** Create glaze test tiles in preparation for surfacing studio assignments. (CLO 5) **Due 10/2**
- 2. 3 Sculptures in 3 Weeks (25%):** Quick conceptualization and production of 3 sculptures in 3 weeks, responding to and integrating 3 mixed media objects of my choice. (CLO 2-8) **Due: 10/11**
- 3. More than the Sum of its Parts (30%):** Create a sculpture comprised of multiple ceramic elements - an exploration of fabrication techniques, concept, and composition to create a cohesive whole. Written proposal required. Emphasis on presentation. (CLO 1, 3-8) **Due: 11/29**
- 4. Frankensteiner (30%):** Create a ceramic sculpture integrating a mixed media element of your choice. Written proposal required. (CLO 2-8) **Due: 12/13**

General class participation (10%, ongoing): Hazmat quiz, 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 all ceramics area studio cleanups. (CLO 1-8)

Grading Policy

Your persistence, commitment, 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 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 group cleanups during class time. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the last day of class. All finished work must be promptly removed from studio after critiques/end of 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 133, Ceramic Sculpture, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W 8/23	Introduction to class and first assignment: “3 sculptures in 3 weeks” , orientation and facility tour, lockers
2	M 8/28	sell tools and clay as necessary, wet work on object #1
2	W 8/30	- wet work on object #1, intro object #2
3	M 9/4	No class, Labor Day
3	W 9/6	-wet work on object #2
4	M 9/11 T 9/12	Wet work on object #2, intro object #3 Visiting Artist lecture: Lauren Gallaspy 5-6 in Art Building
4	W 9/13	- wet work on object #3
5	M 9/18	- Intro Assignment #2 :”More than the Sum of its Parts”, PPT, Intro/Demo: Test tiles for glazes. demonstration: kilns (studio rules and usage), make test tiles
5	W 9/20	- last class day wet work on object #3/3 sculptures in 3 weeks
6	M 9/25	- load bisque kilns for 3/3 and test tiles, Demo: slip casting and press molding, working solid. Demo: glazes

6	W 9/27	- Last bisque for 3/3, glaze test tiles, Proposals due and check sketches for “More than the Sum of its Parts”
7	M 10/2	- glaze tests due , class review of results. Wet work.
7	W 10/4	- wet work, glaze firings for 3/3
8	M 10/9	- wet work, glaze firings for 3/3
8	W 10/11	-CRITIQUE: 3 sculptures in 3 weeks
9	M 10/16	-Wet work, intro assignment #3: Frankensteiner , PPT
9	W 10/18	-Wet work
10	M 10/23	- wet work
10	W 10/25	- last day wet work on “More than the Sum of its Parts” , Proposals due and check sketches for Frankensteiner
11	M 10/30	- wet work Frankensteiner
11	W 11/1	- wet work Frankensteiner
12	M 11/6	- wet work
12	W 11/8	- bisque firings for “More than...”, wet work
13	M 11/13	- last bisque firing for “More than...”
13	W 11/15	- glaze firings for “More than...”
14	M 11/20	- last glaze firings for “More than...”, last class day for wet work Frankensteiner
14	W 11/22	No class, Thanksgiving (classroom open)
15	M 11/27	- bisque Frankensteiner, PPT
15	W 11/29	- CRITIQUE : more than the sum of its parts
16	M 12/4	- glaze firings
16	W 12/6	- ABSOLUTE Last glaze firings for Frankensteiner
17	M 12/11	- Last class day, Mandatory all studio cleanup
Final Exam*	Wednesday 12/13 12:15-2:30	Potluck and CRITIQUE: Frankensteiner