

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**ART #46, Introduction to Ceramics, section 3**  
**Spring 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Stan Welsh
<b>Office Location:</b>	IS 124A
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<b>Email:</b>	Stan.welsh@gmail.com
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tues. 3:00-6:00
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tues. Thurs. 12 pm – 2:50 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	IS 165
<b>Department Office</b>	Art 116
<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 Description**

This class will introduce a range of basic ceramic techniques and building methods including slab, coil and pinch construction. The class will introduce hand-building methods such as pinch, coil, and slab construction. Introduction of basic information concerning kiln operation including bisque firing and low temperature oxidation glaze firing. Introduction of application techniques for low temperature glazes and under glazes. The class will present a series of slide lectures that introduce a general historical overview of world ceramics as well as an in depth overview of contemporary American ceramics. This class will emphasis technical development in combination with imaginative and creative idea development in the execution of each assigned project. There will be 3 assigned projects in this class with a group discussion/critique at the conclusion of each project.

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).

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

CLO1 - Practice a range of fundamental hand building and fabrication techniques including slab, pinch and coil construction. Complete three primary 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. Check with me if you're interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.

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

- Needle tool
- Small sponge
- Cutting wire
- Smooth metal rib
- Fettling knife or small old kitchen 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
- 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, clay-planet.com).

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

**Estimated cost: \$75**

**Required Texts/Readings/Material:** Articles will be posted on Canvas.

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

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

### **Books:**

*Contemporary Ceramics* Peterson, Susan

*Craft and Art of Clay* Peterson, Susan

*Hands in Clay* Speight, Charlotte

*Images in Clay Sculpture* 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

500 Animals In Clay, Lark

**Websites of Interest:** For images- [artaxis.org](http://artaxis.org), [accessceramics.org](http://accessceramics.org), [ayumiehorie.com](http://ayumiehorie.com) (primarily her links page), <http://www.minnesotapotters.com/potters.html>. For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities: <https://cfileonline.org/> [criticalceramics.org](http://criticalceramics.org) and [critcalceramics.org/oldsite](http://critcalceramics.org/oldsite), [ceramicstoday.com](http://ceramicstoday.com), [ceramicartsdaily.org](http://ceramicartsdaily.org), [sjsartidea.wordpress.com](http://sjsartidea.wordpress.com), [artshiftsanjose.com](http://artshiftsanjose.com)

### **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>.

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

1. **“Human Heart project” 25%** Using the demonstrated pinch and slab construction techniques, render a 3/D representation of the human heart. This project is **open to interpretation** however I would like the finished sculpture to be as accurate as possible. The size should not exceed 8” X 8”. Emphasis on attention to detail, proportion, surface texture and accurate rendering. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

2. **“Narrative Vessel as Concept” (25%):** Using the demonstrated coil construction techniques, design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 15”-18”. Using *scritto* and various demonstrated carving techniques, develop a social, political or personal narrative. The low relief application of 2-D and 3-D text and imagery should not exceed a depth of 1” . (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

3. **“Amorphic Abstraction” (25%** Using the demonstrated techniques, build a minimum of three different sized amorphic forms. Using these forms, attach them together to create a singular form not to exceed 16”. When the form is leather hard, apply a singular texture of your choice, that covers the entire surface of the form. The goal of this project is to explore issues of composition such as proportion, design, balance, positive and negative space, texture and abstraction. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,

4. **“Wheel Throwing” (10%):** An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. High fire glazes and Raku. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) **Due 12/7**

**Written Assignment (5%):** Write an art statement for your sculptural vessel’s assignment. explain your conceptual approach, your decision making process and the relations between the form and the applied image.

(CLO 6) Due 12/2

**Quiz (5%):** basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) 11/18

**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 12/10. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 6).

### Grading Policy

Students are required to be in class for the full 3 1/2 hour duration of each class. I expect students to maintain a high degree of dedication to their assigned projects and to their participation in class throughout the semester. I will place a strong emphasis on attention to detail and good problem solving skills in the resolution of each assignment. Students are expected to be self-motivated and self-directed. My evaluations will be based on how good your work is and the progress you make throughout the semester, this will include your level of involvement and the commitment you demonstrate in class. I will expect students to meet their proposed work objectives and to finish projects on time. You will have 5 assigned projects and each primary project will be worth 25% of your final grade. An additional 10% of your grade will be based on your participation and your involvement in class. Since each assigned project will be concluded with a critique/discussion and evaluation it will be critical to have work finished and to be present for each critique. Failure to present finished work at a final scheduled critique without a prearranged agreement with the instructor will lower your project grade by one full letter.

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):

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

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.”

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.**

### **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. Please wear appropriate clothing to class, do not wear headphones during lectures / demonstrations. Please mind the fragile nature of clay and be very careful in not handling other people’s work. If you are ill or unable to attend class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) 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 15 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 (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.** An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the date scheduled for our final exam.

### **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/](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.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

## ART 46, Introduction to Ceramics, section 3 Spring 2017 Course Schedule

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

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26	Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour. Assign lockers
1	1/31	- Purchase clay, purchase tools. - Demonstration of pinch building techniques. Introduction of human heart assignment.
2	2/7	- Demonstration. Begin work on heart project. Individual meetings to review heart images selected for assignment. Bring at least 2 images of the human

		heart to class - Tomorrow - Last Day to Drop Courses Without an Entry on Student's Permanent Record (D)
2	2/9	- Continued work on heart project - Power-point lecture on the history of contemporary American ceramics. -
3	2/14	Slab construction demonstration. Individual progress meetings.
3	2/16	- Open work day. Individual meetings to discuss work in progress. Akio's reception.
4	2/21	- Texture demonstration. Power-point lecture on texture and detail. - - Introduce underglazes and low fire glazes.
4	2/23	- Last day to work on heart project. Introduction to critique process.
5	2/28	- Heart project due: Critique discussion. Kiln firing lecture, bisque firing. - Load bisque kiln.
5	3/2	- Introduce "Narrative Vessel" assignment. Coil construction demonstration Begin 2 <sup>nd</sup> project.
6	3/7	- - Power-point lecture Japanese ceramics and the history of narrative vessels. Continue work on narrative vessel project.
6	3/9	Open work day. Individual meetings.
7	3/14	- Texture demonstration. Individual meetings, work in progress.
7	3/16	- Open work day. NCECA conference begins.
8	3/21	- Glaze demonstration-Heart Project". Finish narrative vessel project. NCECA
8	3/23	- Wet work on Vessels. Painting Slab project. NCECA
9	3/28	- <b>Spring Break</b>
9	3/30	- <b>Spring Break.</b>
10	4/4	Critique "Narrative Vessel"
10	4/6	- Introduce "Amorphic Abstraction" Demonstration. Power point lecture "Amorphic Abstraction"
11	4/11	- Open work day. Individual meetings, work in progress.
11	4/13	Open work session. Individual student meetings.

12	4/18	- Finish “Amorphic Abstraction” Open work day.
12	4/20	Critique Discussion- introduce wheel throwing project.
13	4/25	- Wheel throwing demonstration. Begin work on wheel throwing
13	4/27	Power-point lecture. “World Pottery- the Culture of the Vessel”
14	5/2	<b>Last day for wet work</b>
14	5/4	- Glaze “Narrative Vessel” Load kilns
15	5/9	- Glaze wheel thrown pieces and Vessels. -
15	5/11	Glaze and fire final work. Finishing glazing wheel thrown work.
16	5/16	Mandatory clean up of classroom and facilities. Clean out lockers.
Final Exam		Final critique. Refer to university schedule of finals for this class