

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Art 46- Introduction to Ceramics, Section 04, Spring 2018**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Abiam Alvarez
<b>Office Location:</b>	IS 124
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	abiam.alvarez@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MoWed 5:00-6:00 pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	TuTh 6:00-8:50 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Industrial Studies (IS) 166

**Server Information –Assignments, Readings, Handouts**

Assignments, readings, handouts and other information will be located on the Canvas site affiliated with this class, where you may download them and view or print them out anytime you wish. Due to our efforts to make the Department of Art and Art History “paperless,” hard copies will not be distributed much. Most of you have used Canvas before for other classes. To access the site, go to: <https://sjsu.instructure.com>

Please let me know if you have problems accessing materials. Download the greensheet and first assignments, so you have them available for future use. Make a practice of doing this regularly. Start a folder on your laptop and download and keep the materials there.

**Course Description**

This course is designed for beginning ceramic students who have developed an interest in learning about the medium. In order to learn the medium, lectures, demonstrations, and critiques will be provided in order to learn many ceramic techniques and concepts. Such studio practices will include handbuilding with the pinch, slab, coil, and wheel throwing, as well as low fire 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. Additionally, there will be a quiz on ceramic terms and a written assignment. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class.

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 and/or project).

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

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

1. CLO 1- Practice a variety of fundamental hand building skills such as pinching, slab building, coil building, and wheel throwing in order to complete a variety of studio assignments.

2. CLO 2- Select and apply appropriate surface treatments on your artwork (glazing)
3. CLO 3- Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of clay and the firing process
4. CLO 4- Safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general studio policies.
5. CLO 5- Apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments (studio and written)
6. CLO 6- Practice and develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)

### **Recommended Textbook/Periodicals** (Available in King Library)

- Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art & Perception
- Contemporary Ceramics, Susan Peterson
- Craft and Art of Clay, Susan Peterson
- Hands in Clay, Charlotte Speight
- Images in Clay Sculpture, Charlotte Speight
- History of American Ceramics, Elaine Levin
- The Potters' Dictionary, Frank Hamer

**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)

### **Library Liaison**

Our library Liaison is Aliza Elkin. She can be reached via email at [aliza.elkin@sjsu.edu](mailto:aliza.elkin@sjsu.edu) and by phone at (408) 808-2043. Her office is located on the 4th floor of the King Library and she welcomes students to contact her with research questions. Art and Art History Library Resources are available online at: [libguides.sjsu.edu/Art](http://libguides.sjsu.edu/Art). All of the University Library Resources can be accessed at: [libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php](http://libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php)

### **Department Advising**

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for change of major/minor forms and a list of advisors: <http://www.sjsu.edu/art/> or the Art & Art History department office in ART 116, 408-924-4320, [art@sjsu.edu](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

### **Tools/Material requirements**

-You will need water based clay (Clay Planet's "Orion"). In addition, you will need an assortment of modeling tools sold as a kit (includes small and large loop tools, rib, needle tool, wire, fettling knife). **These materials are available as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild (cash or check only, payable to SJSU Ceramics Guild).**

-Additional and necessary modeling tools are all available locally at Clay Planet, located at 1775 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3. For modeling tools purchased at Clay Planet I recommend a rubber-tipped modeling tool, JA22 wood modeling tool, K23 cleanup tool, JA37 wood modeling tool, and any other tool you feel will benefit you and your work. **You must have all your tools by the third day of class.**

-Additionally, there are a wide variety of other useful modeling tools available and many other potential sources to explore, including the SJSU bookstore and art supply stores. Everyone will develop their own preferences for favorite tools.

-You will also **immediately** need a lock for your locker, a metal fork, plastic to wrap your wet work (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags are best).

**Estimated cost: \$80**

## **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

### **Studio Project Assignments (80% of overall grade)**

- 1. Bionic Stuffed Animal (20%):** Using different sized balls of clay, each being a part of the stuffed animal you brought, pinch each of the balls in order to expand the clay, thin out, and hollow the forms to then put together to make the recreation of the stuffed animal. One of the limbs or a part of the clay stuffed animal must then be made to look bionic. Introduction of various handbuilding techniques and low fire surface treatments will be taught in order to control form and texture, and to observe and model high levels of detail. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)
- 2. Slab Construction (20%):** Combining slab construction techniques and experimental processes develop and create a slab built sculpture that represents an actual non ceramic object. We will stain the surfaces in order to highlight details using iron oxides and underglaze washes. Mid fired underglazes and washes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)
- 3. Sculptural Coil Vase (30%):** Using coil construction, you will design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 12-18" in height. The mold library and slip casting/press molding will also be introduced for possible inclusion into the vase. High fire glazes introduced. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)
- 4. Wheel Throwing (10%):** An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. Assignment option of continuing wheel throwing or handbuilding a set of 4 functional cups. Raku firing process and/or high fire glazes. 9 different decorating techniques. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5)

**Written Assignment (5%)** Research essay on a ceramic artist of interest (A list will be provided) (CLO6)

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

**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 **5/17**. (CLO 1,2,3,4,6)

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "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."

## 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).

Access to your grades as well as copies of 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 MySJSU.

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

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.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

## 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, but you may use for research and reference material to help you with your work. You may listen to your own music using headphones. 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.

**Clean up:** Clean up begins 20 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <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.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **Student Technology Resources (Optional)**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center

on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

### **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

# Art 46 Introduction to Ceramics, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

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

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Thu 1/25	Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour
2	Tue 1/30	- Bring in a stuffed animal to use as reference for bionic stuffed animal, sell tools and clay, Demonstration working solid, combining parts, pinching. Start wet work on forms
2	Thu 2/1	- wet work on bionic stuffed animals, PPT lecture – historical ceramics.
3	Tu 2/6	-Introduce slab/trompe l'oeil project (PPT), Demonstration – detailing, wet work on bionic stuffed animals, introduce colored slips
3	Thu 2/8	Wet work day on stuffed animals
4	Tue 2/13	-demonstration – slab construction for sculpture, start making structures, wet work on stuffed animals.
4	Thu 2/15	- work on slab and forms, Demonstrations – texture, slip dipping, introduce ceramic artist research assignment
5	Tue 2/20	-finish making main structure for slab assignment and check sketches for detailed project.
5	Thu 2/22	- last class day for wet work on stuffed animals, wet work on slab/abstraction assignment
6	Tue 2/27	-wet work on slab project, PPT lecture – ceramic sculpture
6	Thu 3/1	-wet work on slab project, ceramic artist research assignment due (5%) at beginning of class,
7	Tue 3/6	- introduce sculptural vessel assignment (PPT), bisque stuffed animals, wet work on slab project
7	Thu 3/8	-wet work slab project, Demonstration- underglaze washes and suffed bionic animals glazing, press molding, slip casting, mold library
8	Tue 3/13 NCECA	- check sketches for sculptural vessel assignment, last class day wet work on slab/abstraction assignment, start glazing organic forms
8	Thu 3/15 NCECA	- Start wet work on sculptural vessel assignment wet work on sculptural vessels, glaze stuffed animals/fire
9	Tue 3/20	-lecture on kiln loading and firing, bisque slab project assignment, last chance to glaze forms/fire, wet work sculptural vessels
9	Thu 3/22	CRITIQUE – stuffed animals (20%), demonstration - oxide wash, apply to slab project assignment
10	Tue 3/27	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
10	Thu 3/29	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>



11	Tue 4/3	-CRITIQUE – SLAB/TEXTURE ASSIGNMENT (20%), wheel throwing demo
11	Thu 4/5	- start wheel throwing
12	Tue 4/10	-wheel throwing
12	Thu 4/12	- throwing, last class day wet work on sculptural vessel assignment, discuss option for handbuilt cup set
13	Tue 4/17	- Wheel throwing/Hand building cups
13	Thu 4/19	- pass out ceramic terms and review, wheel throwing
14	Tue 4/24	-Demonstration – raku, throwing, review ceramic terms, Decorating techniques
14	Thu 4/26 CCACA	-ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK, bisque sculptural vessels
15	Tue 5/1	-Demonstrating artist and lecture by Kevin Snipes. Demo from 10:00am to 4:00pm in room 124 and Lecture from 5:00pm to 6:00pm in Art 135 QUIZ: ceramic terms, bisque throwing assignment, Demonstration – high fire glazes and review raku glazes and firings, glaze sculptural vessels
15	Thu 5/3	raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), glaze high-fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels
16	Tue 5/8	Raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), last glaze high fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels
16	Thu 5/10	-last class day- FINAL CRITIQUES- Sculptural Vessels (30%) and throwing assignment (10%)
17	Tue 5/15	Dead week.
17	Thu 5/17	Class Final 5:15-7:30pm (Cleanup)