

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Art 134-01, Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2018**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
<b>Office Location:</b>	IS 124
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-4683
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 11-11:45
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 3-5:50
<b>Classroom:</b>	IS 124
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Art 132, Art 133, or instructor consent
<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>

### **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 personal stylistic development, individual critiques and portfolio preparation. Includes gallery and studio visits.

Through studio assignments, lectures, presentations, demonstrations and directed research and proposals, ART 134 is designed to increase the technical, critical, and conceptual skills necessary for developing an accomplished and individualized body of work in the field of ceramics. As advanced students, your work this semester will be primarily in the form of self-directed independent study, based on your own (instructor approved) proposals. Detailed guidelines will be provided to help you develop intentional, clear, and thoughtful proposals that will evolve into meaningful artist statements by the end of the semester. To provide manageable structure, critiques for your independent study projects will align and mingle with the timeline for critiques in the concurrently taught section of 133 (Ceramic Sculpture). Constructive participation in critiques for both 133 and 134 is mandatory, and essential for your progress in articulating the formal and conceptual intentions of your work. You will also be expected to be involved and participate in any new technical instruction and PowerPoint/lectures regularly scheduled for ART 133. These events are listed in the syllabus.

I expect all students to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom. As students in the most advanced section of ceramics, I also expect a higher standard of mentorship towards other students in ceramics and a greater sense of responsibility and ownership of all studio areas. In general, you should expect this class to be both less structured and more challenging than either 132 or 133, and you should be comfortable with the fact that you are expected to be self-directed, self-motivated, and capable of solving technical and conceptual challenges with less direct supervision.

Students will be instructed in kiln-firing procedures (if necessary), and **will be expected to schedule and fire their own work**. This will require your advanced planning and collaboration. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. 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 a series of work demonstrating a synthesized approach to concept, material, process, and form*

*CLO2 - practice and refine relevant and appropriate fabrication techniques in ceramics*

*CLO3 - research, select, and apply appropriate surface treatments*

*CLO4 - safely use ceramics lab equipment and understand general lab policies*

*CLO5 - properly load and fire gas and/or electric kilns*

*CLO6 - apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments*

*CLO7 - practice and develop critical skills (individual and group critiques, readings/written response, 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](http://cfileonline.org) (you should subscribe to this!) For images- [artaxis.org](http://artaxis.org), [accessceramics.org](http://accessceramics.org), [ceramicsnow.org](http://ceramicsnow.org), [ayumihorie.com](http://ayumihorie.com) (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities- [ceramicstoday.com](http://ceramicstoday.com), [lindaarbuckle.com](http://lindaarbuckle.com), [ceramicartsdaily.org](http://ceramicartsdaily.org), [juliagalloway.com](http://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 (watercolor brushes work best).

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 used 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. *Independent Project 1 (25%):*** For your first project, you will propose and execute a body of work that pays explicit attention to the themes of concept, material, process, and form. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 1/29, Project Due: 3/14**
- 2. *Surface Research (10%):*** Identify and research techniques for a new fired surface of your choice, conceptualize and fabricate sculptural object appropriate to technique. (CLO 1-7) **Due: 4/16**
- 3. *Independent Project 2 (25%):*** The second project will build upon your exploration of the first project. After analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of your first project, propose the next distinct but related body of work. Emphasis is on presentation and display. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 2/26, Project Due: 5/9**

**4. Independent Project 3 (30%):** This culminating project will gather the self-identified cumulative strengths of your previous efforts, resulting in one last distinct body of work. This proposal will identify the transitions that have been undertaken over the course of the semester. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 3/21, Project Due: 5/17**

**General class participation (10%, ongoing):** 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 1-7)

## 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 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 classroom after critiques/end of semester.

### University Policies

**Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs** maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

### 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)

### Library Liaison: Aliza Elkin

email: [aliza.elkin@sjsu.edu](mailto:aliza.elkin@sjsu.edu)

phone: (408) 808-2043

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library  
4th Floor Administration Offices

## Art 134, Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	W 1/24	<i>Introduction to class, intro format for first independent proposal</i>
2	M 1/29	<b>SUBMIT 1<sup>ST</sup> PROPOSAL</b> , begin wet work, <i>demo: slab construction</i>
2	W 1/31	Individual meetings to discuss 1 <sup>st</sup> proposal
3	M 2/5	- <i>demo: image transfer, underglazes, slips, sgraffito, discuss ceramic decals. Wet work</i>
3	W 2/7	-wet work, <i>Intro Assignment: Surface Research</i>

4	M 2/12	- wet work
4	W 2/14	- <b>proposals due for Surface Research</b> (beginning of class), start wet work
5	M 2/19	- wet work Surface Research, <i>demo: printing and applying ceramic decals, <b>intro format for 2<sup>nd</sup> indeptendent proposal</b></i>
5	W 2/21	- <i>Art Historical (PPT), demo: kilns (studio rules and usage)</i>
6	M 2/26	- wet work on Surface Research, <b>SUBMIT 2<sup>ND</sup> PROPOSAL</b>
6	W 2/28	- <b>last day wet work Surface Research</b> , individual meetings to discuss 2 <sup>nd</sup> proposal
7	M 3/5	- Intro to studio glazes,
7	W 3/7	-wet work
8	M 3/12	- bisque surface research
8	W 3/14	- <b>CRITIQUE: 1<sup>st</sup> Project, introduce format for 3<sup>rd</sup> independent proposal</b>
9	M 3/19	- wet work
9	W 3/21	-last bisque for surface research, wet work , <b>SUBMIT 3<sup>RD</sup> PROPOSAL</b>
	M 3/26	<b><i>SPRING BREAK!</i></b>
	W 3/28	<b><i>SPRING BREAK!</i></b>
10	M 4/2	-wet work, start glazing surface research, individual meetings to discuss 3 <sup>rd</sup> proposal, last class day for wet work on 2 <sup>nd</sup> project
10	W 4/4	-wet work
11	M 4/9	-wet work
11	W 4/11	-wet work , bisque 2 <sup>nd</sup> project
12	M 4/16	<b>-CRITIQUE: Surface Research</b>
12	W 4/18	-Wet work
13	M 4/23	-wet work
13	W 4/25	- absolute last day for wet work
14	M 4/30	-glaze firings for 2 <sup>nd</sup> project
14	W 5/2	-last glaze firings for 2 <sup>nd</sup> project
15	M 5/7	- <b>CRITIQUE: 2nd project (if finished)</b>
15	W 5/9	<b>CRITIQUE: 2<sup>nd</sup> project</b>
16	M 5/14	Last class day, <b>MANDATORY ALL STUDIO CLEANUP</b>
-Final Exam	Thurs 5/17 12:15-2:30	<b>Claymation viewing party, CRITIQUE 3<sup>RD</sup> PROJECT, potluck</b>