San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 134-01, Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2019

Instructor: Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
Office Location: IS 124
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Email: Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TTH 11-11:45
Class Days/Time: TTH 3-5:50
Classroom: IS 124
Prerequisites: Art 132, Art 133, 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 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: cfleonline.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- ceramicsstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, juliaigalloway.com (her field guide)

Recommended Reading: (available in the King library)
Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception
Books:
Contemporary Ceramics  Peterson, Susan
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 80% of final grade)**

1. **Surfaces and Collaborations (20%):** Using two forms of your choice, you will work with a collaborator to develop and explore new surface treatments. (CLO 1-7) **Due 3/7**

2. **Independent Project 1 (30%):** 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: 2/14, Project Due: 4/18**

3. **Independent Project 2 (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: 3/19, Project Due: 5/9**

**Other Requirements (totals 20% of final grade)**
1. **Kiln Operations (5%)**: Students will identify a kiln/firing process of interest and execute that kiln firing from start to finish, including scheduling, coordination of other student work, loading, unloading, cleanup. Training and supervision will be provided. (CLO 5) **Proposal Due: 2/21, Project Due: 5/21**

2. **End of Semester Exhibition (5%)**: Students will collaborate in various roles to organize and execute 134 class exhibition in SJSU student gallery. Grading through peer evaluation. **Due 5/9**

3. **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) **Due 5/21**

**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/](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/](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

Gareth Scott  
email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu  
phone: (408) 808-2094  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

### 4th Floor Administration Offices

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**Art 134, Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2019, Course Schedule**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Th 1/24</td>
<td>Introduction to class and 1st Assignment: Surfaces and Collaborations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T 1/29</td>
<td>demo (as needed): slab construction, start wet work on Surfaces and Collaborations, <strong>5:00 lecture (Art Building) “Planned Obsolescence”</strong> – Rm. 133 gallery reception to follow</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Th 1/31</td>
<td>Wet work on Surfaces and Collaborations</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>T 2/5</td>
<td>- <strong>Lecture/Demonstration: Alumni Artist Patrick Kingshill</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Th 2/7</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work, <em>Intro Independent Project #1</em>: demo sgraffito and mishima (as needed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 T 2/12</td>
<td></td>
<td>last class day for wet work on <em>Surfaces and Collaborations</em>, introduce decal printer and demo decal application, <em>introduce Kiln Operations</em> project</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Th 2/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>proposals due for Independent Project #1 (beginning of class), start wet work</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 T 2/19</td>
<td></td>
<td>independent meetings to review proposals for Independent Project #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Th 2/21</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>demo: kilns (studio rules and usage)</em>, load bisque for <em>Surfaces and Collaborations</em>, wet work S/P Mashup, proposals due for Kiln Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 T 2/26</td>
<td></td>
<td>surfaces on <em>Surfaces and Collaborations</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Th 2/28</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work Project #1, glaze firings</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 T 3/5</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work Project #1, glaze firings, <em>Figurines PPT (133)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Th 3/7</td>
<td></td>
<td>CRITIQUE: <em>Surfaces and Collaborations</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 T 3/12</td>
<td></td>
<td>introduce 2nd Independent Project Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Th 3/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work Project #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 T 3/19</td>
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<td>all 134 group meeting to introduce proposals for 2nd Independent Project (proposals due), last day wet work Project #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Th 3/21</td>
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<td>wet work Project #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 T 3/26</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work Project #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Th 3/28</td>
<td></td>
<td>last bisque project #1, wet work Project #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 T 4/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK!</td>
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<td>11 Th 4/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPRING BREAK!</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 T 4/9</td>
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<td>wet work, <em>Time Line PPT (133)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Th 4/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work Independent Project #2</td>
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<td>13 T 4/16</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work project #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Th 4/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>CRITIQUE: Independent Project #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 T 4/23</td>
<td></td>
<td>wet work, planning meeting for student exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Th 4/25</td>
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<td>absolute last day for wet work</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 T 4/30</td>
<td></td>
<td>glaze firings for 2nd project</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Th 5/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>last glaze firings for 2nd project</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 T 5/7</td>
<td></td>
<td>class show</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Th 5/9</td>
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<td>Last class day, FINAL CRITIQUE: 2nd Independent Project</td>
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**Final Exam**

5/21 2:45-5  
MANDATORY STUDIO CLEANUP, potluck, 133 critiques