San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 46, Introduction to Ceramics, Section 3
Fall 2014

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Elizabeth Torrance
Office Location: IS 208
Email: elizabeth.torrance@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00pm
Class Days/Time: TuThu 12:00-2:50 pm
Classroom: IS 165

Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course is designed for beginning students in ceramics. Through demonstrations, discussions, and lectures, you will be provided a general introduction to a wide range of ceramic techniques and concepts, including hand-building, introductory wheel throwing, slip casting/press molding, low 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 ceramics terminology and a short reading response/written assignment.

Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. In addition to studio work, students might occasionally be asked to visit on-campus galleries.

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 (three 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:
1. **CLO 1** Practice handbuilding, wheel throwing, and slip casting/press molding ceramic fabrication processes to complete a variety of studio assignments

2. **CLO 2** Select and apply appropriate surface treatments (glazing)

3. **CLO 3** Demonstrate an understanding of some physical characteristics of clay and the firing process

4. **CLO 4** Safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab 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)

**Required Texts/Readings**

There are no required texts for this course.

**Recommended Reading:**

**Books:**

- *The Figure in Clay* Lark Books
- *500 Animals in Clay* Lark Books
- *500 Figures in Clay* Lark Books
- *500 Ceramic Sculptures* Lark Books

**Tools and Materials:**

Although some of the funds you have paid to the Student Success, Excellence, and Technology (SSET) fee may help to provide materials or image/website support for this class, you are responsible for obtaining the supplies and/or materials needed to complete assignments and will not be able to pass this class without them.

**Required Tools/Supplies**

Basic Clay Tool Kits (available for $15) Kit includes a Needle Tool, Small Sponge, Cutting Wire, Smooth metal rib, Fettling knife and wooden rib.

- Notebook or Sketchbook
- Spray Bottle (ideally heavy duty spray bottle for spraying plants)
- Metal Fork
- Paint Brushes in a variety of sizes (1 bamboo brush helpful)
- Exacto Knife
- Plastic Bags (kitchen garbage bags best)
- Set of ceramic ribbon tools (acquire online, art supply store or ceramic supply store)
- Yogurt container, Tupperware, or cup for water
- LOCK for Locker

Clay is available from the instructor during class for $10.00 a bag. Check with me if you’re interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.
All of these tools must remain in your lockers for the duration of the semester. You will be expected to have them every day to work

OPTIONAL Tools
Apron (Highly Recommended)
Yellow Mudtool Rib Y5 or Y1 (Highly Recommended)
Red Mudtool Rib R5 or R1
Xiem Carving and Sculpting Set (Double-Ended)
Xiem Modeling and Carving Set (Double-Ended)
Xiem Sgraffito and Detailing Set (Double-Ended)
Xiem Wire Sculpting Tools (Double-Ended)


Estimated Cost: $60

Library Liaison
Rebecca Kohn. She can be reached via email at Rebecca.kohn@sjsu.edu or by telephone at (408) 808-2007. Her office is located on the 4th floor of the King Library and she welcomes students to contact her with research questions.

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.

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. Expect that ceramics will be a messy endeavor and do not wear or bring any items to class that you mind getting dirty. Respect the studio and all common workspaces and resources. Turn all cell phones to silent during class time. 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 will negatively affect your grade. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time. You are required to attend and actively participate in every critique.

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.

Emergency phone number: 911 Campus police escort: 42222
Assignments and 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).

Grading by percentage

Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):

1. “Shapes” (5%): Using pinch techniques sculpt a sphere and a cone and experiment with multiple textures and glazing techniques. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4)

1. “Wall Animals” (20%): Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed animal to 15” scale, that will both hang from and interact with the surface of the wall. Introduction of various hand-building techniques and low fire surface treatments, learn to control form and texture, and to observe and model high levels of detail. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

2. “Slab/hidden spaces” (30%): Utilizing slab construction techniques and other hand-building skills, create an architectural structure with an implied hidden narrative accessible to the viewer through windows/openings. Form will be decorated/ornamented using carving techniques. Iron oxide stains as surface. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

3. “Sculptural Vessel” (25%): Using coil construction, press molding and slip casting, and mold making methods combine research of historical vessel traditions with forms from the ceramic mold collection, as well as plaster molds created for project. Lowfire glaze surfaces (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3)

Written Assignment (5%): response to readings (CLO 6)

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 12/18. (CLO 1,2,3,4,6)

Grades will be assigned according to University policy from A to F as outlined in the SJSU catalog.

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 up until the following scheduled critique, but they will be downgraded by one full letter grade. Late assignments will not be accepted after that point. Critiques are equivalent to exams in other courses. If you fail to participate in a critique your grade will be downgraded an entire letter grade (i.e. A becomes a B, B- becomes C-). You must attend and participate
in every critique even if your project is not complete or you risk being downgraded 2 entire letter grades, one for lateness and one for missing the critique, i.e. A to C.

University Policies

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/. 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

- “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 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 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 at 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 (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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center 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 Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center.
SJSU Counseling Service

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
## 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>8/26</td>
<td>Tues Aug 26 - Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | 8/28     | Thurs Aug 28 - Sell tools and clay, assign lockers  
BRING IN $35 CASH OR 2 CHECKS AND LOCK  
Demonstration – working solid, pinch pots, combining parts, texture  
Start wet work on “Shapes.”                                          |
| 2    | 9/2      | Tues Sept 2 - Last day wet work on Shapes  
Introduce “Wall Animals” project                                      |
|      | 9/4      | Thurs Sept 4 - Bring in references and sketches for “Wall Animals”  
Start wet work on “Wall Animals”  
Bisque “Shapes”                                                        |
| 3    | 9/9      | Tues Sept 9 - Wet work on “Wall Animals”                                                               |
|      | 9/11     | Thurs Sept 11 - Wet work on “Wall Animals”  
Demonstration - underglazes and washes, low fire glazes and application techniques  
Glaze “Shapes”  
Introduce Ceramic terms                                              |
| 4    | 9/16     | Tues Sept 16 - Wet work on “Wall Animals”  
Introduce “Hidden Spaces” assignment  
QUIZ on Ceramic Terms (5% final grade)                                |
|      | 9/18     | Thurs Sept 18 - Wet work on “Wall Animals”  
Glaze “Shapes”                                                        |
| 5    | 9/23     | Tues Sept 23 - Sketches due for “Hidden Spaces” assignment  
Demonstration - slab construction, carving techniques  
Begin wet work on “Hidden Spaces”  
Fire “Shapes”                                                          |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      |          | **Thurs Sept 25** - Last day wet work on “Wall Animals”  
|      |          | Wet work on “Hidden Spaces”               |
| 6    | 9/30     | Tues Sept 30 - Wet work “Hidden Spaces”   |
|      | 10/2     | Thurs Oct 2 - Wet work “Hidden Spaces”    
|      |          | Bisque “Wall Animals”                     |
| 7    | 10/7     | Tues Oct 7 - Wet work “Hidden Spaces”     
|      | 10/9     | Glaze “Wall Animals”                      |
|      |          | Thurs Oct 9 - Wet work “Hidden Spaces”    
|      |          | Glaze “Wall Animals”                      |
| 8    | 10/14    | Tues Oct 14 – Wet work on “Hidden Spaces” 
|      | 10/16    | Glaze “Wall Animals”                      |
|      |          | Thurs Oct 16 - Wet work on Hidden Spaces” 
|      |          | Fire “Wall Animals”                        |
| 9    | 10/21    | Tues Oct 21 - CRITIQUE - “Wall Animals” 25% |
|      | 10/23    | Thurs Oct 23 - Last day wet work on “Hidden Spaces”  
|      |          | Demonstration - oxide wash, apply to “Hidden Spaces”  
|      |          | Demonstration - coil-building for sculptural vessels 
|      |          | Introduce “Sculptural Vessel” assignment    |
| 10   | 10/28    | Tues Oct 28 - Sketches and reference material due for “Sculptural Vessel” assignment  
|      |          | Demonstration - slip casting and press molds 
|      | 10/30    | Begin wet work “Sculptural Vessels”        
|      |          | Bisque “Hidden Spaces.”                    |
|      |          | Thurs Oct 30 - Wet work “Sculptural Vessels,”  
|      |          | apply oxides to “Hidden Spaces”            
|      |          | Demonstration - mold making                |
| 11   | 11/4     | Tues Nov 4 – wet work on “Sculptural Vessels”  
|      | 11/6     | apply oxides to “Hidden Spaces”            
<p>|      |          | Thurs Nov 6 – Wet work on “Sculptural Vessels” |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      |        | Last class to apply Oxides to “Hidden Spaces”  
|      |        | Fire “Hidden Spaces”                      |
| 12   | 11/11  | *Tues Nov 11 - Happy Veteran’s Day – Campus Closed*  
|      | 11/13  | *Thurs Nov 13 - CRITIQUE – “Hidden Spaces” (30%)* |
| 13   | 11/18  | *Tues Nov 18 – wet work on “Sculptural Vessels”*  
|      |        | Introduce reading response/written assignment |
|      | 11/20  | *Thurs Nov 20 – Writing Assignment due (5%)*  
|      |        | **ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK** |
| 14   | 11/25  | *Tues Nov 25, glaze “Sculptural Vessels,”*  
|      | 11/27  | *Demonstration - wheel throwing*  
|      |        | *Thurs Nov 27 - Happy Thanksgiving – Campus Closed* |
| 15   | 12/2   | *Tues Dec 2 - glaze “Sculptural Vessels,” and wheel throwing* |
|      | 12/4   | *Thurs Dec 4 - glaze “Sculptural Vessels,” and wheel throwing,* |
| 16   | 12/9   | *Tues Dec 9 - FINAL CRITIQUE – “Sculptural Vessels” (25%)* |
| Final Exam | 12/18 | *9:45AM-12:00PM MANDATORY STUDIO CLEANUP* |