San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
ART 132, Topics in Intermediate Ceramics: Wheel Throwing  

Section 1, spring 2016

Instructor: Stan Welsh  
Office Location: IS 124  
Telephone: (408) 924-4683  
Email: stan.welsh@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Tues. 3:00-6:00 Mon. & Wed. 11:00-12:00  
(I will be reasonably available for appointments with students unable to attend regular office hours)

Class Days/Time: MW 3:00-6:00  
Classroom: IS 124  
Prerequisites: Art 46 or instructor consent

Course Description
This class will focus on the potter’s wheel as a primary tool for making vessels and traditional pottery forms. This class will explore a wide range of form and style with a concentration on wheel thrown cylinders, bowls and bottles as well as a variety of trimming and handle pulling techniques.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
This semester’s concentration will be on the practice and refinement of wheel-throwing techniques for producing functional vessels. We will explore a variety of forms and high-fire glaze surfaces and glaze application techniques. Studio assignments, demonstrations,
lectures, and discussions will expand your technical skills and increase your awareness of diverse approaches to the contemporary ceramics and the vessel form. Art 132 includes students with a broad range of experience in ceramics. I expect some students to work on a more independent and self-directed level, while other students might need to be assertive in seeking assistance with technical problems and discussions of works in progress. I expect all students to challenge themselves within the parameters of each assignment, as well as to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom. Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critiques. Active participation in critiques is mandatory and essential for your progress. Students will receive instruction in kiln-firing procedures and will be assigned various levels of participation in the firing process. A one page paper about a contemporary ceramic artist of your choice will be required. Ceramics is a medium that requires constant attention so expect to spend additional time outside of class working on your projects (six hours per week is baseline). Your regular attendance is crucial to the success of this class. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. Students will be asked to attend relevant lectures and on-campus galleries.

Three units.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

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

LO1 - Complete three series of functional vessels that demonstrate the practice and refinement of various wheel-throwing techniques. Including cylinders, bowls and bottles.
LO2 - Select and apply appropriate high-fire glaze surfaces
LO3 - Demonstrate an understanding of the physical characteristics of clay and the firing process
LO4 - Safely use ceramics lab equipment and understand general lab policies
LO5 - Properly load and fire gas and/or electric kilns
LO6 - Build on general knowledge of historical and contemporary trends in approaches to the ceramic vessel
LO7 - Practice and develop critical skills (critiques, 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

Recommended Reading: (available in the King library)
Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception
Books: Contemporary Ceramics Peterson, Susan
Contemporary Ceramic Techniques Conrad, John
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
The Potter’s Dictionary of Materials and Techniques Hamer, Frank

Websites of Interest: For images- artaxis.org, accessceramics.org, ayumiehorie.com (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities- criticalceramics.org and criticalceramics.org/oldsite, ceramicstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, sjsartidea.wordpress.com, artshiftsanjose.com

Tools and Materials: Don't wear good clothes to class, 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, the Student Union, or Clay Planet. (Clay Planet is a local supplier located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3, 408-295-3352, 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. In addition, you will need to immediately provide a lock for your locker, a metal fork, plastic to wrap your wet work (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags work well), some plastic containers (yogurt cups, etc.) and some paintbrushes of various sizes (watercolor brushes work best). A spray bottle is also very useful. You have the options of purchasing clay as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild ($10 per bag), mixing up free recycled clay, or mixing your own clay body (with instructor consent, you purchase the 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.

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 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 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 (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.
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 calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. 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/.

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 each studio assignment 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, 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. All assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

Assignments (and percentage of grade):

30% Wheel thrown cylinders with handles: This assignment requires you to make the same form many times. The cylinder is the most difficult and the most important basic form to learn how to throw correctly. For the next 4 weeks I want you to concentrate on wheel thrown cylinders in an attempt to learn how to control the shape and the size of each cylinder. You will be expected to trim and attach a handle to each cylinder so you end up with a functional and well-designed cup. Try to throw six 4”-6” cylinders during each scheduled class. Keep one or two of your best cylinders to trim and apply handles to. Try to end up with one or two successful finished cups each class. Don’t forget that toward the end of this four-week assignment you will get better at your craft and you will probably have better results both in terms of production and quality. You will need to pay careful attention to the design and scale relationships between the cup form and main body of the cup and the handle and the trimmed foot. You are welcome to introduce texture and drawing to the cup. For the final review please have six finished cups with handles and trimmed feet.

Due:

30% Bowl with trimmed foot: With this assignment I want you to concentrate on wheel thrown bowls in an attempt to learn how to control the shape and the size of each
bowl. You will be expected to throw six bowls during each class however I don’t expect you to keep all of this work, select only your best six cylinders for the final review. Try to throw six bowls during each scheduled class, keep one or two of your best bowls to trim. Try to end up with one or two successful finished bowls each class. As you become more proficient with this assignment you will have better results both in terms of production and quality. You will need to pay careful attention to the design and proportional relationship between the main body of the bowl form, the lip or rim and the trimmed foot. I will demonstrate two different styles of bowl. For the final review presentation, please have six finished bowls representing the two different styles demonstrated.

**Due:**

30% **Bottles with trimmed feet:** Make six bottles or vase forms. At least 3 of these bottles need to have a trimmed foot. Using the demonstrated carving techniques, texture the surface of at least one bottle. You could also choose to apply slip to the surface of your leather hard piece and then carve through the slip surface to create a texture, design or drawing. Apply at least 2 handles to one bottle. You can also alter the shape, apply slip or carve the surface of this form if you choose or just leave it as an unaltered form. Feel free to apply texture and/or handles to a more or all of your bottles if you want to.

**Due:**

5% **Written assignment:** Research a contemporary ceramic artist of your choice. Write a one-page type written paper that describes the life and the ceramic work of this artist currently working in clay. Research should include details about the artist career, studio facilities, style, methodology, process and professional history. This paper should also present your opinion about the artist.

5% **General class participation:** Your class participation grade includes your overall improvement and growth during the semester, field trip attendance, 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.

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

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, 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/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.
Art 132 / Topics in Ceramics-Wheel Throwing, Spring 2015, Course Schedule

(subject to change with fair notice, made available by e-mail notification and classroom announcement)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to class, orientation and facility tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mix clay, introduction of 1st assignment, Power Point Presentation “Contemporary American Ceramics”. Cylinder demonstration.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstrations: Centering and cylinder demonstration. Handle pulling demonstration. Continued discussion concerning the contemporary history of ceramics.</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Handle pulling demonstration, Open workday. Individual assistance and project discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Power point lecture “Contemporary Chinese Ceramics” Throwing demonstration. Trimming demonstration. Open workday, individual assistance.</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Critique cylinder assignment. Load kiln. Introduction to kiln facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce bowl assignment. Power point presentation on Japanese T Bowls. Bowl throwing demonstration. Open workday, individual assistance.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Present and discuss written assignment. Open workday, individual assistance.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open workday. Load kilns and glaze cylinders. Last week before bowl assignment is due. Individual meetings to discuss trimming and finish work on bowls.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Bowl project due. Presentations, group critique and discussion. Load kiln. Demonstration on surface decoration and design. Demonstrate techniques for application of texture.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Clean up kiln area. Written assignment due. Bottle project due. Presentations and critique discussion.</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final critique for all three assignments. Six finished and glazed examples from each assignment. #1 Cylinders #2 Bowls and #3 Bottles. 18 finished pieces total.</td>
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