San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
ART 46, Introduction to Ceramics, section 1  
Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Michal Niv  
Office Location: IS 124A  
Telephone: Email only please  
Email: Michal.niv@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Mon, 11–noon, or by appointment.  
Class Days/Time: Mon, Wed 8 pm – 10:50 pm  
Classroom: IS 165

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 studio practice in handbuilding, 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.

Three 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 (3–6 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:

CLO1 - Practice hand building, wheel throwing, and slip casting/press molding ceramic fabrication processes to complete a variety of studio assignments  
CLO2 - Select and apply appropriate surface treatments (glazing)  
CLO3 - Demonstrate an understanding of some physical characteristics of clay and the firing process  
CLO4 - Safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab policies  
CLO5 - Apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments (studio and written)  
CLO6 - Practice and develop critical skills (critiques, class discussions)
Tools and Materials:

Clay is available as needed through the Ceramics Guild. Check with me if you’re interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.

**Basic Tool Kit** (Available through the Ceramic Guild):
- Needle tool
- Small sponge
- Cutting wire
- Smooth metal rib
- Fettling knife or small old kitchen knife
- Small kidney shaped wooden rib
- 2 trimming tools

**Not included:**
- Apron/work shirt (don’t wear nice clothes to class, since you will be getting dirty)
- Sketchbook (bring this every class to take notes on lectures and glazes, and sketching ideas)
- Spray bottle
- Fork
- Paint brushes
- Towel
- Plastic for wrapping work (kitchen trash bags are ok, dry cleaner plastic is best)
- Plastic containers with lids (No food containers)

- Additional tools can be purchased online or at the local supplier, Clay Planet, located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are M-F 9-5 and Sat 10-3. 408-295-3352, clay-planet.com).

- In addition, you will need to **immediately** provide a lock for your locker.

**Required Texts/Readings/Material:** Articles will be posted on Canvas.

**Recommended Reading:** (available in the King library)

**Periodicals:** Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception

**Books:**

*Contemporary Ceramics* Peterson, Susan

*Craft and Art of Clay* Peterson, Susan

*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

*Contemporary Ceramic Techniques* Conrad, John

*The Potter’s Dictionary* Hamer, Frank

500 Animals In Clay, Lark

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.

Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):

1. “Two Makes One” - Pinching project (20%): Using reference materials, learn to use pinching technique along with other handbuilding techniques to build several separate forms and assemble them together to a singular sculpture. Learn to control form of at least 12” on one dimension, apply textures, observe and model high levels of detail. Develop a concept or narrative; observe transition areas and visual expression of a conceptual idea. Learn low fire surface treatments. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 3/14

2. “Four Out of More” - Wheel Throwing (10%): An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. High fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) Due 5/16

3. “Four Makes Two” - Slab Project (20%): Using mainly slab construction techniques, handbuild a pair of sculptural wall pieces. Iron oxide stains and low fire glazes as surface treatment. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 4/25

4. “Just One” – Coiling a Vessel (30%): Using coil construction, you will design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 15” which holds water. Applying a 2 dimensional image/s on the vessels’ surface, using Sgraffito technique, will follow the form building. High fire glazes introduced. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) Due 5/16

Written Assignment (5%): Write an art statement for assignment #4. explain your conceptual approach, your decision making process and the relations between the form and the applied image. (CLO 6) Due 5/9

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) 4/18

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 5/23. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 6).

**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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>76-73%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A= Excellent work  
B= Above average work  
C= Average work  
D= Below average work  
F= Unsatisfactory work

NOTE that University policy F69-24, “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.”

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.**
**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. Please wear appropriate clothing to class, do not wear headphones during lectures/demonstrations. Please mind the fragile nature of clay and be very careful in not handling other people’s work. 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 15 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 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, 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 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**

University Policy S12-7, 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.”
• “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.

ART 46, Introduction to Ceramics, section 1
Spring 2016
Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be shared both in-class and via Canvas.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/1/16</td>
<td>Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/3/16</td>
<td>Bring in <strong>one or more</strong> options of stuffed animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>PPT lecture – Animals in art.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Demonstration – working solid, pinch pots. Start wet work on pinching project.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/8/16</td>
<td><strong>Wet work on Pinching.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Check sketches for Pinching.</strong></td>
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<td>Bring ‘mechanical parts’ images/ sketches/ examples.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Demonstration – connecting clay parts and creating clay stamps and molds.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tomorrow - Last Day to Drop Courses Without an Entry on Student's Permanent Record (D)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/10/16</td>
<td><strong>Wet work on pinching.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/15/16</td>
<td><strong>Wet work on pinching.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduce colored slips and underglazes.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/17/16</td>
<td><strong>Finish wet work on first assignment.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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</table>
| 4    | 2/22/16  | - Painting the projects in slip and start drying process.  
- **Demonstration – Using underglazes and low fire glazes.**  
- **Introduce Throwing project (PPT)**  
| 4    | 2/24/16  | - Throwing demo and practice.  
| 5    | 2/29/16  | - **Loading first assignment for bisque firing – Everything must be finished, painted with slip and dry.**  
- Throwing demo and practice.  
| 5    | 3/2/16   | - **Unloading bisque, applying underglazes and glazes.**  
- Throwing demo and practice.  
| 6    | 3/7/16   | - **Loading glaze firing.**  
- Throwing demo and practice.  
| 6    | 3/9/16   | - Throwing demo and practice.  
- **Introduce slab project (PPT)**  
| 7    | 3/14/16  | **CRITIQUE – Pinching project (20%).**  
| 7    | 3/16/16  | - Workday – Throwing.  
| 8    | 3/21/16  | - **Slab project - 2D + 3D sketches check.**  
- **Demonstration - rolling and constructing with slabs.**  
- **Start wet work on slab project (make the fruits and roll slabs)**  
| 8    | 3/23/16  | - Wet work on slab project.  
- **Demonstration – Extruder**  
| 9    | 3/28/16  | **Spring recess – No Class**  
| 9    | 3/30/16  | **Spring recess – No Class**  
| 10   | 4/4/16   | - **Introduce vessel assignment (PPT),**  
- **Bisque firing step 1 of Slab project**  
- Wet work on slab project.  
| 10   | 4/6/16   | - Wet work on slab project.  
- **Paint step 1 of Slab project.**  
- **Demo – Scaling up template.**  
- **Demonstration- coiling technique.**  
- Pass out ceramic terms and review.  
| 11   | 4/11/16  | **ATC week**  
- Last day of wet work on slab project.  
- Work on sketches for Vessel Project.  
- Scale up template  
| 11   | 4/13/16  | **ATC week**  
- **Loading Slab project step 2 to bisque firing**  
- **Check sketches for Pinching.**  
- Start wet work on Vessel Project.  

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/18/16</td>
<td><strong>QUIZ – Ceramic Terms (5%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Glaze Slab project.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Wet work on Vessel Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/20/16</td>
<td><strong>Load Slab project to glaze fire.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Wet work on Vessel Project.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- <strong>Demonstration – Sgraffito.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/25/16</td>
<td><strong>CRITIQUE – Slab Project (20%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/27/16</td>
<td><strong>Introduce reading response/written assignment.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5/2/16</td>
<td><strong>Wet work on Vessel Project.</strong></td>
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<td>- Start Sgraffito process.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>5/4/16</td>
<td><strong>Finish Curving Vessel Project.</strong></td>
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<td>- <strong>ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK</strong></td>
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<td>- <strong>Demonstration – High fire glazes</strong></td>
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<td>- <strong>Load Vessel Project and throwing project to Bisque fire.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/9/16</td>
<td><strong>Glazing vessels and Thrown pots.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Loading high fire glaze kiln</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Turn in written assignment (5%).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/11/16</td>
<td><strong>Glazing vessels and Thrown pots.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Final loading high fire glaze kiln</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5/16/16</td>
<td><strong>FINAL CRITIQUES- Vessels (30%) and throwing assignment (10%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>5/23/16</td>
<td>7:15 – 9:30 - MANDATORY STUDIO CLEANUP. PART OF 10% PARTICIPATION GRADE.</td>
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