San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
Art 46-Introduction to Ceramics, Section 3  
Spring 2016

Instructor: Monica Van den Dool  
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Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-11:45  
Class Days/Time: TuTh 3:00-5:50  
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 handbuilding, 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:

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), 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. You will also need some plastic containers (yogurt cups, etc.) and some paintbrushes of various sizes (watercolor brushes work best). A spray bottle is very useful but optional.

In addition, you will need to immediately provide a lock for your locker, a metal fork, 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 should start the semester with two bags. Check with me if you’re interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio. So, unless you have outside supplies, most of you should bring in a total of $35 to our next class. Bring cash, or two separate checks ($15 for tool kit, $20 for two bags of clay).

Estimated cost: $75

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

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

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. “The Heart” (20%): Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed heart to scale of 10”. Introduction of various handbuilding 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) **Due 3/22**

2. “Slab/Abstraction” (20%): Combining slab construction techniques and experimental processes develop and create three abstracted texture studies in modular format. Iron oxide stains as surface. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) **Due 4/7**

3. “Sculptural Vessel” (30%): Using coil construction, you will design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 12-18” in which the form/imagery subverts its function (holding flowers). The mold library and slip casting/press molding will also be introduced for possible inclusion. High fire glazes introduced. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6) **Due 5/12**

4. “Wheel Throwing/Raku” (10%): An introduction to technique of wheel throwing, focus on control of form. Assignment option of continuing wheel throwing or handbuilding a set of functional cups. Raku firing process and/or high fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5) **Due 5/12**

Written Assignment (5%): response to readings on differences and similarities between craft/design/art (CLO 6) **Due 3/1**

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

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)

Extra Credit: (5% maximum)
Each student has the option to complete reviews on a museum exhibition for the following point/percentage value: The De Young Museum (2.5%), the Asian Art Museum (2.5%). Students will write a brief (200 word minimum) account of each. A writing outline will be made available. Reviews will be accepted all semester until 5/12.

**University policy F69-24** at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states, “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.”

**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):

- 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

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.**

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

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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 (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. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S90–5 at [link to policy] and SJSU current semester’s Policies and Procedures, at [link to policies]. 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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [link to calendars]. The Late Drop Policy is available at [link to 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 [link to hub].

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, [link to policy], 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 [link to policy] 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 [link to website].

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 [link to policy] requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at [link to website].

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the New Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website at [link to website].
## Art 46, Introduction to Ceramics, Spring 2016, Course Schedule

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

### 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>Th 1/28</td>
<td>Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T 2/2</td>
<td>- Bring in <strong>good references</strong> for heart assignment, sell tools and clay, Demonstration – working solid, pinch pots, combining parts. Start wet work on hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Th 2/4</td>
<td>- wet work on hearts, PPT lecture – historical ceramics, demonstration-extruder</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>T 2/9</td>
<td>- <strong>Introduce slab/abstraction project</strong> (PPT), Demonstration – detailing, wet work on hearts, introduce colored slips for hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Th 2/11</td>
<td>- demonstration – slab construction for boxes, start making boxes, wet work on hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>T 2/16</td>
<td>- work on slab boxes and hearts, Demonstrations – texture, slip dipping, <strong>introduce reading response/written assignment</strong>,</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Th 2/18</td>
<td>- finish making boxes for slab assignment and <strong>check sketches</strong> (for abstraction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>T 2/23</td>
<td>- <strong>last class day for wet work on hearts</strong>, wet work on slab/abstraction assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Th 2/25</td>
<td>- wet work on slab/abstraction, PPT lecture – ceramic sculpture</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>T 3/1</td>
<td>- wet work on slab/abstraction, <strong>reading response/written assignment due (5%)</strong> at beginning of class,</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Th 3/3</td>
<td>- <strong>introduce sculptural vessel assignment</strong> (PPT), bisque hearts, wet work on slab/abstraction</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T 3/8</td>
<td>- wet work slab/abstraction, Demonstration- underglaze washes and heart glazing, press molding, slip casting, mold library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Th 3/10</td>
<td>- <strong>check sketches for sculptural vessel assignment, last class day wet work on slab/abstraction assignment</strong>, start glazing hearts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>T 3/15</td>
<td>- Demonstration- coiling, start wet work on sculptural vessel assignment wet work on sculptural vessels, glaze hearts/fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Th 3/17</td>
<td>- lecture on kiln loading and firing, bisque slab/abstraction assignment, last chance to glaze hearts/fire, wet work sculptural vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>T 3/22</td>
<td><strong>CRITIQUE – Hearts (20%)</strong>, demonstration - oxide wash, apply to slab/abstraction assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Th 3/24</td>
<td>wet work on sculptural vessel, last day to apply oxide wash, fire slab/abstraction assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>T 3/29</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Th 3/31</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>T 4/5</td>
<td>- wet work on sculptural vessel, <strong>introduce last assignment – wheel throwing</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Th 4/7</td>
<td>- <strong>CRITIQUE – SLAB/TEXTURE ASSIGNMENT (20%)</strong>, wheel throwing demo</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>T 4/12</td>
<td>- start wheel throwing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Th 4/14</td>
<td>- wheel throwing, lecture on clays and clay bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>T 4/19</td>
<td>- throwing, <strong>last class day wet work on sculptural vessel assignment</strong>, discuss option for handbuilt cup set</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Th 4/21</td>
<td>- pass out ceramic terms and review, wheel throwing</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>T 4/26</td>
<td>- Demonstration – raku, throwing, review ceramic terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Th 4/28</td>
<td>- <strong>ABSOLUTE LAST DAY ALL WET WORK</strong>, bisque sculptural vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>T 5/3</td>
<td>- <strong>QUIZ: ceramic terms</strong>, bisque throwing assignment, Demonstration – high fire glazes and review raku glazes and firings, glaze sculptural vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Th 5/5</td>
<td>raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), glaze high-fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>T 5/10</td>
<td>Raku firings (all work must be glazed 24 hours in advance), last glaze high fire for throwing project and sculptural vessels</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Th 5/12</td>
<td>- <strong>last class day- FINAL CRITIQUES- Sculptural Vessels (30%) and throwing assignment (10%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Monday May 23rd</td>
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