

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
ART 46: Introduction to Ceramics, Section 02, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Brian Caponi
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Office Hours:	M/W: 5:30-6:00
Class Days/Time:	M/W: 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm
Classroom:	IS 165
Prerequisites:	None
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu
Course Format:	Studio

Emergency: 911

Campus Escort: 42222

Course Description

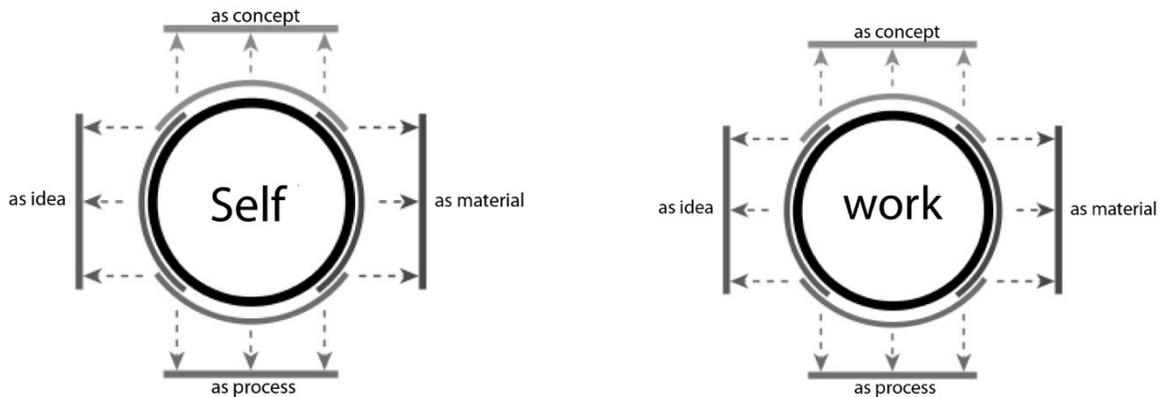
This course is designed for beginning students in ceramics. Through demonstrations, discussions, and lectures, you will be provided a general introduction to a wide range of ceramic techniques and concepts, including hand-building, introductory wheel-throwing, low and high-fire surfaces and glazes, and kiln firing procedures.

Visual 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 vocabulary quizzes throughout the semester on ceramics terminology, a short artists research paper, gathering of project and inspiration images, and short readings/responses.

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 week to week.)

Towards Articulation



This is an Introduction to Ceramics Course, but in understanding a deeper sense of how ceramics/art moves in our culture we must attempt to understand a personal relationship to the act of making, and as such the pedagogical and philosophical framework of this coursework is rooted in a set of revolving notions/questions around oneself and ones work as a means of understanding the inherent, subtle, and obvious relationships between personal history and ones ceramic work. Through the questioning of idea, material, process, and concept you will confront certainties and uncertainties on various levels. We will work together as a class and individually to unpack our relationship to this language and dissect where these components diverge, converge and intersect; cultivating an understanding of yourself as: artist/maker, individual, and member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students will gain understanding of:

1. the language of ceramic vessels and forms
2. the nature and experience of ceramic vessels and forms
3. objects in relation to the spaces they occupy
4. vessels in relation to the body and user
5. the relationship between technology and conceptualization in clay
6. the possibilities and limitations of materials in relation to form and concept
7. additive and subtractive processes for generating form and space
8. equipment, safety, and certain fabrication methods
9. Craft vs. craft, and its position in fine arts
10. highly refined craftsmanship

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

1. a rapport with certain materials, tools, and processes fundamental to the understanding of ceramic form and space
2. an understanding of the role of materiality and tactility in visual experience
3. a vocabulary based in the fundamental principles of the potter's wheel
4. an understanding of criticism as an essential component of artistic development
5. a strong sense of craft and the ability to execute well-crafted work
6. facility thinking and working with the elements and principles of art/design
7. strong work habits and safe studio practice

Textbook/Tools/Clay/Binder:

Textbook:

There is no single textbook required for this course. Handouts and readings will be given through the semester/accompany assignments. Below are useful websites to become familiar with, and utilize throughout the semester.

Online Resources for Ceramics:

artaxis.org, accessceramics.com, cfileonline.org, thinktank04.eu/home.php, slipcast.blogspot.com, journalofmoderncraft.com, ceramicreview.com, ceramicart.com.au, alfredceramics.com, objectiveclay.com, www.aic-iac.org, www.paulmathieu.ca, ayumihorie.com (links section), clumsyelegance.tumblr.com

Museums/Galleries:

Ceramicmuseum.org, metmuseum.org, themuseumofceramics.org, moma.org, ceramicsmuseum.alfred.edu, akardesign.com, ferringallery.com, franklloyd.com, sherriegallerie.com, schallergallery.com, garthclark.com, traxgallery.com

Periodicals:

Ceramics Art and Perception, Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics Technical, The Studio Potter, Clay Times, Ceramic Review, Sculpture Magazine, Art Now, Art Forum, Juxtapoz Magazine, Art News, New American Paintings, Clay Times

Online Resources for tools/materials:

Shop.clay-planet.com, amaco.com, axner.com, bigceramicsstore.com, claypeople.net, claymaker.com, columbusclay.com, highwatersclay.com, kempertools.com, lagunaclay.com, milehiceramics.com, minnesotaclayusa.com, thepottershop.blogspot.com

Tools:

You'll need a basic ceramic tool kit (needle tool, trimming tools, ribs, 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.)

Pottery Tool Kit - PTK

[<< Previous in Kemper Clay Tools](#)

[Next in Kemper Clay Tools >>](#)



Price: **\$23.29**

Manufacturer: Kemper Tools
Part No: PTK

Quantity:

[Add to a new shopping list](#)

Be the first of your friends to like this.



Kemper PTK Pottery Tool Kit

Used by schools and universities around the world, this 8-piece kit is packaged in a reusable, clear vinyl bag with pockets to keep your tools together for travel or storage.

Kit contains one each:

- Loop Tool (TKLT5)
- 8" Ribbon Tool (TK8R2)
- Wood Potter's Rib (TKRB2)
- Pro Needle Tool (TKPRO)
- 8" Wood Modeling Tool (TKWT6)
- Throwing Sponge (TKSPR)
- Steel Scraper (TKS4)
- Wire Clay Cutter (TKK35)

*You will also need to provide a lock for your locker, a surform (yellow handled rasp from Home Depot/Clay store), an apron, towel, a metal fork, lightweight trash bags (tall kitchen bags work well), small plastic containers (quart size yogurt or a little larger), cheap paint brushes of various sizes. We will discuss other optional tools during the semester, but a basic kit is necessary.

Clay:

You have the option of purchasing clay through the SJSU Ceramics Guild (\$10 per bag), or purchasing directly from Clay Planet. We will be using a variety of clays that have different characteristics/qualities for each particular project, and so you can experience different working properties/surface. Please consult me before bringing in other types of clay as it may or may not be suitable for the project and/or the studio and/or the firing technique for the project.

*Estimated Cost of tools/clay for the semester: around \$100

Binder (the sketchbook):

Please purchase a ½” or 1”, 3 ring binder for this class.

All documents for the class will be three-hole punched, so you can keep them organized in your binder.

Each project will also require image gathering, research, writing, and drawing/planning. Your binder is where all of this information will be kept, and you will be graded on how developed your research/sketchbook is for each project.

Please be sure to seek out access to a printer so you can have hardcopies that get printed for your binder. I ask you print these so we can discuss them together/as a class, and write and draw in the binder, and digital formats are not conducive to this type of exchange.

Student Responsibilities

Participation and attitude: A positive attitude in class, participation in class discussions and critiques is required. Demonstrations will be given during class and will not always be repeated. Students are responsible for all information presented through demonstrations conducted during class and should make every effort to be present, courteous, and considerate of the instructor and fellow students.

Please do not handle others’ work: Working with clay is a tactile experience, and our instincts are to want to touch the work. However, when clay becomes dry (green ware stage-before bisque firing) it is extremely fragile and can be easily broken, chipped or fractured. Admire the work; learn from the construction by looking but not touching. It is important to be courteous of others’ work and not disturb or destroy work in any way. Accidents will be avoided by following this principle. This should never happen, but if any student purposefully destroys another’s student’s work or have taken it and claimed it as their own, they will be asked to leave the class and will fail the course.

**Cell phone use and texting is not permitted during class time –turn off your phone or place it on vibrate during class. If it is an emergency please excuse yourself and take the phone call in the hallway/outside.*

**Even if in for open studio, no cell phone conversations are allowed, please step outside!*

**No food or open drinks will be allowed in the studio at any time!*

**No Open toed shoes are allowed in the Studio! This is a ceramics studio with various tools and materials, please wear appropriate attire,*

**No children are to be brought to the studio/or left unattended in the building*

The instructor has the right and responsibility to maintain a classroom free of distractions. Students who persist in such behavior may be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent for the session. Persistent disruptive behavior will result in disciplinary action.

Grading

Points for the course are listed below:

Attendance/Class Participation*:	300pts (each class is worth 10 pts)
Project #1: Historical Form Personal Narrative	100 pts
Project #2 On the Wall Off the Wall	100 pts
Project #3: Towards a Still Life/Raku TB	100 pts
Project #4: Wheel Throwing Project 1	100 pts
Project #5: Wheel Throwing Project 2	100 pts
Research Paper/Presentation	100 pts
<u>Vocabulary/Methods Quizzes</u>	<u>100 pts (4: 25 pts each)</u>
	1000 points total

GRADING SCALE

- 971-1000 = A+
- 941-970 = A
- 911-940 = A-
- 881-910 = B+
- 851-880 = B
- 821-850 = B-
- 791-820 = C+
- 761-790 = C
- 731-760 = C-
- 691-730 = D+
- 641-690 = D
- 601-640 = D-
- 600 and below = F

- *Class participation includes: arriving to class on time, being prepared/ready with homework, participating in conversations/discussions, cleaning up your space/studio.
- *Each project will be based on a 100 point rubric that will be included in your project packet. Upon completing the project/after critiques the instructor will meet with the student and award points in the rubric to determine project grades.
- *Extra Credit Opportunities: visiting artist workshops/presentations/lectures, museum and gallery visits will be offered throughout the semester. Opportunities will be announced throughout the semester.

Deadlines

You are required to meet deadlines for the projects throughout the semester. Due to the timing of kiln firings involved in a robust facility such as SJSU, it is extremely important to meet deadlines. Late work will receive deduction in points of 10 points per day. If your work is not ready at a deadline, show up for class with the work you have and speak to me.

Determination of Grades

Grades for each project will be determined by the rubrics attached in the project handouts, and will be graded with the instructor. Projects may be reworked for a higher grade at my sole discretion and will be determined on a case by case basis. Please be aware this is a privilege and not a right; this option may not be available to you.

Attendance/Lateness

You are expected to come to class awake, fed, and ready to make, think and talk. Your timely and engaged presence is expected at every class meeting. Several topics will receive only one day of attention and by missing class you run the risk of coming out of the class with an incomplete set of skills.

Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the flow of class and undermines your own success. Please make every effort to arrive on time and prepared for class. Please let me know before class if you will need to leave early. If you arrive after I have already taken roll, please let me know of your presence so you will be marked as late and not absent.

If you know you will not be able to attend class or something has come up please notify me via email.

Classroom Protocol

It is very important to me that everyone can come to class and participate to their fullest level of comfort and ability. Making ceramic wares and ceramic art requires a degree of questioning what you know, taking risks and embracing challenges. I will do my utmost to promote an environment where mutual respect, constructive criticism, and creative exploration are valued, and I expect the same from everyone who comes in the door. Since active critique of work is a vital part of this class, disrespect towards peers (or yourself) is not acceptable. I ask that you have the courage to speak your ideas and respect the ideas of others.

Critiques:

Critical inquiry is vital in the studio arts process, which is why we hold group and individual critiques for each finished project. Occasionally we will hold impromptu mid-project critiques. The purpose of the critique is to engage in constructive evaluation and is not synonymous with “judgment day.” That is to say that we are all responsible for removing ourselves from our work and look at it critically from the outside. We will address formal and craftsmanship concerns while investigating concept, content, context, meaning and interpretation. Everyone’s opinion is valuable in this process so it is essential for your participation in group critiques.

Room Care

Please be courteous. If we establish a common courtesy in the studio, everything else will take care of itself. At the end of each day, the studio should be in as good, if not better, condition than when we started. Everyone has responsibility for cleaning up their workspace and putting away or removing their work at the end of each day. At the end of the semester, all work must be removed from the room. Work that remains into the next semester will be thrown away. This is a messy business; failure to clean your workspace is not acceptable and will

negatively affect your grade. **CLEAN UP** begins 20 minutes before the end of class. All areas you have used must be cleaned before you leave the studio. *Per a healthy studio, cleaning up clay is best done with a wet sponge (it helps keep dust from dispersing throughout the studio). A clean studio is a happy studio.*

University Policies

Please note:

Except in cases of documented emergencies, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

“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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <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/> or the Art & Art History Department Office in ART (H)/(PHOT) 116, 408-924-4329, art@sjsu.edu

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)

Many materials for use in this course require special handling. A HAZMAT tutorial and training will be conducted by instructor and staff. More information, including recognition and procedure for following a healthy and clean lab (studio) can be found at the following link:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/fdo/docs/hazmatandlabsafetyguidance.pdf>

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott, email: gareth.scot@sjsu.edu

King Library 4th Floor

Phone: 408.808.2094

Art and Art History Resources: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/ART>

ART 46, Section 2 / Introduction to Ceramics, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

**This calendar is subject to change. You will be notified prior to any changes in class/via email.*

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Course introduction (syllabus/schedule/etc) -Introductions (full name/preferred, major/interest, why take the class?, any previous clay experience, favorite food) -Tour Facility -Warm Up Pinch Pots HW: -Reading/Questions: <i>If the Taj Mahal Was Made of Glass</i> -Get tools/Binder/purchase clay
1	1/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Questions from Reading/class discussion Clay/Stages of Clay Vocab Decorate Pinch Pots (put on green ware shelf to dry/be bisque fired) Coil Demonstration: practice vase Introduce Project 1 HW: -Project 1: Binder Work: Images/Questions from Project Sheet -Reading/Questions: <i>The Indivisible, Inescapable Essence of Pottery</i> -Finish practice vase
2	2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glaze Pinch Pots Class/Group Conversations about Homework Demo: Cut Templates Work Day: Review Coil Building/Start Vase HW: -Work on Vase Construction
2	2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1: Clay and Stages of Clay (first page of vocab front and back) Work Day Project 1 HW: -Project 1 Construction -Elements and Principles of Art and Design Image Search

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	2/10	Work Day Project 1 Decoration Tile Demo (make tiles before next class) HW: -Project 1 Construction -Make Surface Test Tiles (cover so leather hard) -Color Theory Reading/Worksheet
3	2/12	Work Day Project 1: Finish up construction of vase Conversation/Lecture Elements and Principles of Design Slip Decoration Techniques Demo/Test Tile Practice Start Decorating Vase w/slip HW: -Work on Decorating Vase
4	2/17	Quiz 2: Clay/Stages of Clay and Building Methods/Decoration Techniques Finish Decorating Vase/Dry Introduce Project 2 HW: Project 2: Binder Work: Images/Questions from Project Sheet
4	2/19	Class/Group Conversations about Project Homework Demo: Slab Construction Work Day/Meet with Brian individually to discuss projects HW: Project 2 Construction
5	2/24	Work Day Project 2 Load Bisque Kilns with Project 1 Review Vocab: Lecture on Kiln Room HW: Project 2 Construction Glaze and Glazing Handout and Questions
5	2/26	Unload Bisque Kiln Review Glazing Handout/Questions Demo: Glazing/Spray Booth Glaze Project 1/load kilns Work on Project 2 HW: Project 2 Construction

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	3/2	Quiz 3: Clay/Stages of Clay, Building Techniques/Dec. Techniques /Kiln Room Unload Kiln Project 2 Work Day HW: Critique Handout/Questions
6	3/4	Project 1 DUE: Group Critique/Grading Last class to work on Project 2 Introduce Project 3 HW: Finish Project 2/Dry Project 3 Binder Work: Images/Questions
7	3/9	Quiz 3: Clay/Stages of Clay/Building Methods Kiln Room Demo Project 3/Meet with Brian Individually Work day Project 3 HW: Project 3 Construction
7	3/11	Work Day Project 3 Glaze Project 2 Introduce Artist Paper/Presentation HW: Raku History Readings/Questions-Image Collecting
8	3/16	Work Day Project 3 Raku History/Philosophy Presentation/Conversation Raku Tea-Bowl Carving Demo/Work Day HW: Work on Project 3/Finish Tea bowl if needed
8	3/18	Project 2 DUE: Group Critique/Grading Project 3 last work day Introduce Project 4/5 HW: Project 4/5: Binder Work: Images Reading/Questions
9	3/23	Class/Group Conversations about Project Homework Wheel Throwing Demo/Centering and Cylinders HW:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Centering/Cylinders
9	3/25	Work Day Wheel Throwing Demos/one on one help HW: Centering/Cylinders
****	3/30-4/3	****SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS****
10	4/6	Wheel Work Day Demos/one on one instruction HW: Cylinders/Mug forms
10	4/8	Artists Research/Presentations Group 1 Wheel Work Day Demo: Mugs/Handles HW: Mug forms
11	4/13	Artists Research/Presentations Group 2 Wheel Work Day Glaze Project 3 HW: Finish glazing project 3 Wheel Work
11	4/15	Artists Research/Presentations Group 3 Wheel Work Day HW: Wheel work
12	4/20	Artists Research/Presentations Group 4 Wheel Work Day Demo: Bowls/Trimming HW: Bowls
12	4/22	Project 3 DUE: Group Critique/Grading Work Day Wheel
13	4/27	FINAL DAY OF WET CLAY – ALL WORK UNCOVERED Work Day: Wheel Work HW: FINISH PROJECTS!

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	4/29	Work Day: Last day to Finish up any wet clay work/trimming in class All work must be on Shelving for Bisque Firing!
14	5/4	Quiz 4: All Vocabulary Work Day on Glazing
14	5/6	Last Class to Glaze! (note* no work can be glazed the following week unless permission is given by the instructor)
15	5/11	Studio Clean Up Final Critiques/Potluck
Final Exam	5/13	Final Critique IS 165, 5:15pm – 7:30pm