

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Section 5, Spring 2020

Instructor:	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
Office Location:	IS 124C
Telephone:	(408) 924-4683
Email:	Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu (best contact during non-office hours)
Office Hours:	TTH 11-11:45
Class Days/Time:	Friday 9:30-3:30
Classroom:	IS 165
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignments, etc., as well as access to your grades, can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Studio work in ceramics; a survey of methods used by contemporary artists. Includes use of the potter's wheel, handbuilding techniques, clay preparation, glazing and firing for utilitarian and sculptural work.

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, 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. 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. There will be one quiz to test your knowledge of basic concepts and ceramics terminology. 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 (3-6 hours per week is baseline, will vary from week to week). **Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class.**

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1 - Practice handbuilding and wheel throwing 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)

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

Websites of Interest: cfileonline.org (you should subscribe to this!) For images- artaxis.org, accessceramics.org, ceramicsnow.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

Recommended Reading: (available in the King library)

Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception

Books:

Contemporary Ceramics Peterson, Susan

Hands in Clay 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

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), some general art stores, or Clay Planet. (Clay Planet is a local supplier located in Santa Clara, 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 a metal fork 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, 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

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT): Many materials used in this course require special handling. A HAZMAT tutorial and training will be conducted by instructor and staff.

Emergency 911, Campus Escort 42222

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio assignments (totals 80% of grade):

1. **“The Heart” (25%):** Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed heart. 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 1-6) **Due 3/13**
2. **“Slab/Abstraction” (20%):** Explore experimental handbuilding process, slab construction, and the formal possibilities of abstraction to create three small abstract sculptures. Emphasis on presentation. Introduction of low fire studio glazes. (CLO 1-6) **Due 3/27**
3. **“Sculptural Vessel” (25%):** Using coil construction, you will design and construct a functional sculptural vase of approximately 12-18” in which the form/imagery subverts function. Written proposal will be required. High fire glazes introduced. (CLO 1-6) **Due 5/13**
4. **“Wheel Throwing/Raku” (15%):** 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 1-6) **Due 5/13**

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) **Due 3/8**

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 day of final. (CLO 1-6) **Due 5/13**

Extra Credit: (3% maximum): ceramics exhibition review from San Francisco’s DeYoung or Asian Art Museum, guidelines provided. **Due day of final: 5/13.**

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).

All work must be finished and turned in according to described deadlines and instructions. **I will accept late assignments until the last instructional day of the semester, but they will be downgraded by one full letter grade.** Assignments late due to medical/personal reasons may be exempt from penalty pending appropriate medical documentation and/or permission of instructor. **Please note:** Except in cases of documented emergencies, incomplete grades are not given in this course.

Access to your grades throughout the semester will be made available through the SJSU Canvas system. 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

Classroom Protocol

As a courtesy to all, **use of cell phones or any other electronic media is generally prohibited** during class meeting times. You are required to come to class prepared and on time and expected to stay and work for the duration of the class. Since we meet only once a week, missing just one day of class can seriously impede your progress. If you are ill or unable to attend more than one class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible. Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time. Because of the length of this Friday class, we will break to eat lunch/re-energize from 12-1:00 (**subject to change**). There will be no instruction during this break, but you are free to keep working in the studio.

Clean up begins 20 minutes before class ends. It is crucial that 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**. When needed, we will do additional collective cleanups during class time to maintain a safe and workable studio space. All finished and graded work must be removed from the studio promptly. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place at the end of the semester.

University Policies

Individuals with disabilities may contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Administrative Building 110, 408/ 924-6000, for a variety of formats such as Braille, large print, sign interpreters, assistive listening devices, audio tape and accommodations for physical accessibility.

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs **maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.**

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

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.

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 116, 408-924-4320, art@sjsu.edu

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: [\(408\) 808-2094](tel:(408)808-2094)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 4th Floor Administration Offices

Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/24	<p>-Introduction to class and first assignment, orientation and facility tour.</p> <p>- sell tools and clay, assign lockers.</p> <p><i>-Demonstration:</i> working solid/hollow, pinch pots, combining parts</p> <p>-start wet work on hearts</p> <p><i>-Demonstration:</i> fabricating additional parts (dowels, etc..)</p> <p><i>-Demonstration:</i> storing wet work, tips for managing the drying process, cleanup</p>
2	1/31	<p>-bring in printouts of visual references for hearts</p> <p>-wet work on hearts</p> <p><i>-PPT lecture</i> – contemporary ceramic sculpture</p> <p><i>-Demonstration</i> – detailing for hearts and colored slips</p>
3	2/7	<p>-Introduce slab/abstraction project (PPT)</p> <p><i>-Demonstrations:</i> slab construction and experimental processes, working solid.</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		-wet work on hearts -intro extra credit
4	2/14	- last class day for wet work on hearts -wet work on slab/abstraction
5	2/21	- last class day wet work on slab/abstraction - <i>Demonstration</i> : kiln loading and firing, bisque hearts - introduce sculptural vessel assignment (PPT)
6	2/28	- written proposals and sketches due for sculptural vessel assignment - <i>Demonstration</i> - <i>underglaze washes and heart glazing</i> -finish all underglazing on hearts, glaze fire - <i>Demonstration</i> : <i>coil construction</i> -pass out ceramic terms for quiz and review -bisque slab/abstraction assignment
7	3/6	- start wet work on sculptural vessel assignment - <i>Demonstration</i> - <i>overglazes</i> -finish all glazing for hearts, glaze fire - Quiz: ceramic terms
8	3/13	-wet work on sculptural vessels CRITIQUE – Hearts - <i>Demonstration</i> - <i>studio low fire glazes for slab/abstraction, glaze them!</i>
9	3/20	-wet work on sculptural vessels - last glaze fire for slab/abstraction
10	3/27 (4/3 is Spring Break)	CRITIQUE – SLAB/ABSTRACTION ASSIGNMENT -wet work on sculptural vessels - introduce last assignment: cups and wheel throwing - <i>Demonstration</i> : <i>wheel throwing, get started</i>
11	4/10	- A.M: wheel throwing (everybody) -P.M: wet work on sculptural vessel if needed
12	4/17	-A.M.: wheel throwing (everybody) - introduce option for handbuilt cup set , P.M. wet work on cups (throwing or handbuilding) - last class day wet work on sculptural vessel assignment
13	4/24	- ABSOLUTE LAST CLASS DAY ALL WET WORK (throwing or cups) - <i>Demonstration</i> : <i>trimming and handles</i> -bisque sculptural vessels

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	5/1	<i>-Demonstration: raku firings for cups</i> -bisque cups <i>-Demonstration: high fire glazes for sculptural vessels, start glazing</i>
15	5/8 Last class!	-Raku firings for cups (glaze in the AM, fire in the PM), last day for glazing cups and sculptural vessels, load high fire glaze kiln - Mandatory all studio cleanup
16 Final Exam	Monday 5/13 7:15-9:30	Potluck and FINAL CRITIQUES- Cups and Sculptural Vessels -last day to accept optional extra credit