

**San Jose State University**  
**Department of Art and Art History**  
**ART 46, Section 3**  
**Introduction to Ceramics**  
**Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 12pm-1pm or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	T/TR 9am-11:50am
<b>Classroom:</b>	IS 124
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**Course Description:**

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

**Course Content and Objectives:**

The class will introduce hand-building methods such as pinch, coil, and slab construction. Introduction of basic information concerning kiln operation including bisque firing and low temperature oxidation glaze firing. Introduction of application techniques for low temperature glazes and underglazes. The class will be presented with a series of slide lectures that introduce a general historical overview of world ceramics as well as an in depth overview of contemporary American ceramics. This class will emphasize technical and conceptual development in the execution of each assigned project. There will be three assigned projects in this class with group discussions throughout the development of the artworks and a critique at the conclusion of each project.

**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). You are also responsible for maintaining the drying process of your projects and doing everything in your power to ensure successful firings of your work. Pieces should be hollow and, if fully enclosed, need to have a small air hole in them. Taking projects home to work on them is also highly discouraged.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO):**

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

CLO1 -Practice a range of fundamental hand building techniques including: slab, pinch and coil construction. Complete three primary 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-** available as needed through the Ceramics Guild for \$10 a bag. Start with two bags. Check with me if you would like to bring in other types of clay to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.

#### **Basic Tool Kit-**

(Available for \$15 through the Ceramics Guild)

Needle tool

Small sponge

Cutting wire

Smooth metal rib

Fettling knife

Small Wooden Rib

2 Trimming tools

#### **Not Included-**

Apron/Work shirt and or pants

Sketchbook

Spray Bottle

Fork

Paint brushes and mixing palette

Towel

**Plastic Bags (trash or dry cleaner)**

Plastic lidded container (No food labels)

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).

**You will also need to provide a lock for your locker immediately.**

Estimated total costs: \$75

### **Recommended Reading: (Available in 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

### **Websites of Interest:**

For images- [artaxis.org](http://artaxis.org), [accessceramics.org](http://accessceramics.org), [ayumiehorie.com](http://ayumiehorie.com) (primarily her links page),  
<http://www.minnesotapotters.com/potters.html>.

For criticism, technical information, current events, and exhibition opportunities:  
<https://cfileonline.org/> [criticalceramics.org](http://criticalceramics.org) and [critcalceramics.org/oldsite](http://critcalceramics.org/oldsite), [ceramicstoday.com](http://ceramicstoday.com),  
[ceramicartsdaily.org](http://ceramicartsdaily.org), [sjsartidea.wordpress.com](http://sjsartidea.wordpress.com), [artshiftsanjose.com](http://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**). This includes: 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 Projects:**

#### **“The Egg Project” (100 points)**

Using the demonstrated pinch construction technique, create 2 large eggs. One egg will be perfectly symmetrical and smooth, and one egg will have compelling surface decoration. The size of each should not exceed 12” X 12”. Emphasis on attention to detail, shape, surface texture and creative concept. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

#### **“A Narrative Amphora” (100 points)**

Using the demonstrated coil construction techniques, design and construct a functional amphora that is at least 12” tall with walls that are no thicker than ¾”. Using sgraffito and various demonstrated carving techniques, you will create an amphora with or without handles. Develop a contemporary social, political or personal narrative to display on the vessel. The low relief application of 2-D and 3-D text and imagery should not exceed a depth of 1”. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

#### **“A Still Life” (100 points)**

Using the demonstrated slab construction technique and other methods learned this semester, design and create a still life composed of four objects (1 slab-built, 1 wheel-thrown, 1 trompe l’oeil, and one found object). The objects should relate conceptually and/or aesthetically. This project will include techniques learned throughout the semester including but not limited to: texture, surface design, and underglaze/glaze application. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5,6)

### **Wheel Throwing (20 points)**

An introduction to technique of wheel throwing. Focus on control of form, high fire glazes. (CLO 1,2,3,4,5)

### **Sketchbook (45 points)**

Taking notes during demonstrations and presentations is imperative. Sketchbooks will be collected at the end of the semester and ideation points will be taken for every project. You will receive points for note taking on every demonstration. (CLO 6)

### **Terminology Quiz (20 points)**

A quiz covering ceramic terminology and definitions. (CLO 3,4)

### **Critique and Class participation (20 points)**

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. This includes coming to class on time to hear announcements. (CLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 6).

### **Grading Policy**

Students are required to be present for the full 3 hour duration of each class. Students are to maintain a high degree of dedication to their assigned projects and to their participation in class throughout the semester. A strong emphasis on attention to detail and good problem solving skills is crucial in the resolution of each assignment. Students are expected to be self-motivated.

Student evaluations will be based on the quality of the work and the progress made throughout the semester. This will include individual's level of involvement and the commitment demonstrated in class and keeping track of deadlines. Students are expected to meet their proposed work objectives and finish projects on time. Each assigned project will be concluded with a critique/discussion so it is crucial to have work finished and to be present for each critique. Failure to present finished work at a final scheduled critique will lower your project grade.

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):

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

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.” This is a University level studio art class and work will be graded accordingly.

All work must be finished and turned in according to described deadlines and instructions. **I will only accept late assignments if discussed before the due date. Late work will be docked at least 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 visual electronic media is generally prohibited during class meeting times. Music and research use is acceptable. Please wear appropriate clothing to class, do not wear headphones during lectures/demonstrations. Please mind the fragile nature of clay and be very careful when near other people’s work. If you are ill or unable to attend class, contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible. Do not schedule work time or other obligations (dentist appointments, etc.) during class time.

**Get classmate(s) contact information in case of missed demonstrations/lectures. You are responsible for information missed during 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**

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/>”

### **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/](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/>.

**Art 46- Introduction to Ceramics  
Spring 2020  
Course Schedule**

<b>Week Date</b>	
1 1/23	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to class and syllabus, orientation and facility tour  <b>For Next Class: Bring \$35 cash or check for clay and tools  Bring lock for locker and tools not included with kit (pg.2). (3pts)</b></p>
2 1/28	<p style="text-align: center;">-Purchase clay and tools  -Demonstration of pinch building technique <b>(2 pts Sketchbook notes)</b>  -Introduction to The Egg Project  -Begin Project with first egg  <b>For Next Class: List of interests due (10 pts)  Study guide for terminology quiz will be given</b></p>
2 1/30	<p style="text-align: center;">-Continue working on project  -Check for tools <b>(3 pts)</b>  -First completed egg due at the end of class  <b>For Next Class: 5 sketchbook ideations for second egg (5 pts)</b></p>
3 2/4	<p style="text-align: center;">-Demonstration on Sgraffito and texture  -Begin working on second egg  <b>Last Day to Drop Classes</b></p>
3 2/6	<p style="text-align: center;">-Work day  -Load first round of eggs into bisque kiln</p>
4 2/11	<p style="text-align: center;">-Final work day for The Egg Project  -Introduction to the critique process <b>(2 pts sketchbook notes)</b>  <b>For Next Class: The Egg Project completed (greenware)  Come prepared with questions and discussion points for critique</b></p>
4 2/13	<p style="text-align: center;">-<b>The Egg Project Due (greenware)</b>  -<b>The Egg Project Critique (mandatory) (5 pts)</b>  -Introduction to “A Narrative Amphora” project  -Grade for first eggs posted  <b>For Next Class: Bring in sketchbook with 10 ideations for next project (10 pts)  For Next Class: Quiz on ceramic terms</b></p>

5 2/18	<p align="center"><b>-Quiz on Ceramic Terms (20 pts)</b></p> <p align="center">-Class meetings about Amphora ideas</p> <p align="center"><b>-Coil construction demonstration (2 points sketchbook notes)</b></p> <p align="center">-Begin working on amphoras</p>
5 2/20	<p align="center">-Demonstration on handles <b>(2 pts sketchbook notes)</b></p> <p align="center">-Work day</p> <p align="center">-Load second eggs into bisque kiln and demonstrate how to fire electric kiln</p>
6 2/25	-Work day
6 2/27	-Work day
7 3/3	<p align="center">-Work day</p> <p align="center">-Special project day</p>
7 3/5	<p align="center">-Final Work day for Narrative Amphora Project</p> <p align="center"><b>For Next Class: Narrative Amphora Due</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Come prepared for critique with questions and conversation points</b></p>
8 3/10	<p align="center"><b>-Critique Narrative Amphora Projects (Mandatory) (5 pts)</b></p> <p align="center">-Underglaze and glaze explanation and demonstrations <b>(3 pts sketchbook notes)</b></p> <p align="center">-Underglaze Egg Project</p> <p align="center">-Introduction to "A Still Life" project</p> <p align="center"><b>For Next Class: Bring in sketchbook ideations for "Still Life" project (10 pts)</b></p>
8 3/12	<p align="center">-Individual meetings about still life project</p> <p align="center">-Continue underglazing/glazing egg project</p> <p align="center">-Introduction to Sprig molds</p> <p align="center"><b>For Next Class: Bring in 3 objects to make sprig molds from (3 pts).</b></p> <p align="center">(Loading first low-fire kiln for eggs)</p>
9 3/17	<p align="center">-Demonstration of slab construction <b>(2 pts sketchbook notes)</b></p> <p align="center">-Make sprig molds from objects</p> <p align="center">-Final glaze day for Egg Project</p> <p align="center">-Work day</p> <p align="center">(final low-fire kiln for egg project)</p> <p align="center">(bisque kiln for amphoras)</p>
9 3/19	Work Day
10 3/24	Work Day
10 3/26	<p align="center">Work Day</p> <p align="center">-Glaze Amphoras</p>

11 3/31	<b>Spring Break- No Class</b>
11 4/2	<b>Spring Break- No Class</b>
12 4/7	-Work day -Group B on wheel <b>For Next Class: Mandatory Amphora Critique (10 pts)</b>
12 4/9	<b>Amphora Critique (10 pts)</b> -Work Day -Group A wheel -Final grades posted for amphora project
13 4/14	-Work day
13 4/16	-Work day
14 4/21	-Work day
14 4/23	-Work day
15 4/28	<b>LAST DAY FOR WET CLAY WORK!</b> <b>Everything must be bone dry or drying out by today</b> <b>Remove all bags from projects.</b>
15 4/30	-Glaze final pieces
16 5/5	-Glaze and fire final pieces including wheel thrown ones
16 5/7	<b>For Next Class: Mandatory Final Critique</b>
5/19 <b>Final Exam Day 7:15am-9:30</b>	<b>-Mandatory clean-up of classroom and facilities. (5 pts)</b> <b>-Critique of wheel throwing work</b> <b>-Potluck</b>