

San José State University

Department of Art and Art History

ART 132-01: Intermediate Ceramics, Wheel-throwing **FALL 2020**

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Adam Shiverdecker
Office Location:	Industrial Studies 124C
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Email:	adam.shiverdecker@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW, 3:00 pm – 5:50 pm
Classroom:	IS 124
Prerequisites:	ART 46 or Instructor consent

Additional Contact Information

* E-mail is generally the best method of contact during non-office hours.

* Please allow up to 48-hours for an e-mail response.

* Emergency: 911

* Campus Escort: 42222

* 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.

Course Description

Investigation of ceramic form and surface design with emphasis on the vessel. Development of skills on the potter's wheel and in glazing, kiln loading and firing. Included are raku, salt, earthenware, stoneware and porcelain. Repeatable for up to 9 units of credit when course topic changes.

This course focuses on continuing, advancing, and furthering your wheel-throwing skills in regards to functional/utilitarian ceramic wares while also introducing wheel-thrown sculpture. Having gained a foundation in both of these arenas in the beginning ceramics course, students will be challenged to develop conceptually strong and provocative solutions that move beyond the object. Students will be introduced to various methods of realizing three-dimensional wheel-derived forms, including additive and reductive form, construction and deconstruction, positive and negative space.

Course Format: Hybrid

This course is a hybrid format, with weekly in-person instruction for half-class meetings. Half of the class will meet on Mondays (Group A), the other half will meet on Wednesdays (Group B).

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

Required Texts/Readings

Readings

Mastering the Potter's Wheel by Ben Carter

The Ceramics Process by Anton Reijnders

The Ceramic Glaze Handbook by Mark Burleson

Postmodern Ceramics by Mark Del Vecchio

The New Age of Ceramics by Hannah Stouffer

Lucie Rie & Hans Coper: Potters in Parallel edited by Margot Coatts

The Arts of Fire: Islamic Influences on Glass and Ceramics of the Italian Renaissance edited by Catherine Hess

Ceramics: Contemporary Artists Working in Clay by Kate Singleton

Required Materials

There is no textbook required for this course, but you are required to purchase your own tools and clay. You'll need an assortment of tools (water bucket, 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, the Student Union, or Clay Planet (Clay Planet is a local supplier located at 1774 Russell Ave., Santa Clara. Hours are available on their website, clay-planet.com, or by calling 408-295-3352.) Additional carving tools will be helpful and can be purchased at most craft stores or Clay Planet. You will also need to provide a lock for your locker, a water bucket (2.5-quart pale found in the painting section of your local hardware store/Home Depot/Lowe's/Target/Walmart), a metal fork (this will get gnarly, so don't bring in the good silver), lightweight trash bags (tall kitchen bags work well), small plastic containers (quart size yogurt or a little larger), cheap paint brushes of various sizes. You have the options of purchasing clay as needed through the SJSU Ceramics Guild (\$15 per bag). The standard issue clay for this course is B-Mix. 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. A sketchbook is a must (nothing smaller than 5"x7" and you will need approximately 10-20 pages for this class – stapled printer paper is fine).

Estimated Cost: \$70

Library Liaison

Gareth Scott

email: gareth.scott@sjsu.edu

phone: (408) 808-2094

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

Department Advising

For information about majors and minors in Art & Art History, for a 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](tel:4089244320), art@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students are expected to use the potter's wheel to derive the following coursework:

PROJECT	QUANTITY	SIZE/WEIGHT	POINTS
Cylinders	2-3	6" from 1# of clay	10
Cups	2-3	Functional size	10
Mugs	3-5	Functional size	10
Bowls, trimmed	3	5" – 8" diameter	10
Tall Forms	3	8" minimum height	15
Lidded Vessels	1-2	4" minimum diameter	15
Stacked Form	1	10" minimum height	10
Studio Responsibility	All semester	Clean studio space every day, maintain safety guidelines	10
Participation	All semester	Be alert and pay attention during demonstrations, be present at scheduled class meetings	10

***These projects are the baseline projects for grading in this course and are intended for students with little or no experience on the pottery wheel. You are encouraged to produce more than the required number of pieces and work on side projects should you have previous experience and skills.

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 practical. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Other Requirements: Ceramics is a medium that demands sustained attention outside of "regular" class hours, so expect to spend significant additional time outside of class working on your projects (3 hours per week is baseline, this will vary from week to week). **Regular "attendance" is crucial to your success in this class.**

Final Examination or Evaluation

Final Critique will occur on Zoom, Dec. 10, 12:15 pm – 2:45 pm. Students will be required to upload 1 image of one piece from each assignment to Canvas in advance of critique.

Grading Information

Assignment Format and Submission: Grading in this course will be determined by a point system. There are a total of 100 possible points that can be earned. At the end of the semester these points will be totaled, and your final grade will then be impacted by participation as outlined above. You will receive a grade upon completion of each project. At midterm I will let you know where you stand in terms of class participation.

Determination of Grades

Grades for each project will be determined by the following criteria:

- Willingness to explore, experiment and take risks
- Creative thought process and problem solving
- Understanding of materials and process and their relationship to your finished work
- Your ability to evaluate yourself and others
- Fulfillment and understanding of the assignment's criteria and objectives
- Deadline- please note missed deadlines will result in a loss of 2 points per day. You will have to work outside of class time to meet deadlines, be prepared.
- 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, not a right; this option may not be available to you.

GRADING SCALE (Numeric Grade Equivalents):

98-100 = A+

94-97 = A

90-93 = 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

Deadlines

You are required to meet deadlines for your work. Due to the timing of kiln firings involved in a robust facility such as ours here at SJSU, it is extremely important to meet deadlines. If your work is not ready at a deadline, show up for class with the work you have and speak to me.

Cylinders: 10%

Cups: 10%

Mugs: 10%
Bowls: 10%
Tall Forms: 15%
Lidded Vessels: 15%
Stacked Form: 10%
Studio Responsibility: 10%
Participation: 10%

Please note: Except in cases of documented medical 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.**

Classroom Protocol

Coronavirus Course Adaptations:

The university has allowed those areas within the Art Department that require specialized equipment and materials (in ceramics that means kilns, studio equipment, glazes, etc..) to offer limited in-class instruction to our students. In order to maintain this privilege and personal and community safety, it is crucial that all students on campus strictly observe all safety protocols. This semester, in order to provide maximum flexibility for students, you will also have the opportunity to do your studio work either partially or completely from home. All assignments, evaluative processes, and technical demonstrations will be posted on Canvas to facilitate this option. It is my expectation that even those students who are working primarily from home will transport their work back and forth from the studio (contactless drop-off and pickup will be available) in order to get work fired, glazed, and finished, as well as to pick up tools and/or materials.

Coronavirus Safety Protocols:

To allow for appropriate social distancing at our current enrollment within the facility, **we will split the class alphabetically into two groups (A and B) who will be able to use the studios on alternate days** to receive in-person instruction and use the facilities. This policy is subject to change as conditions, university policy, and in-person attendance change throughout the semester. There will be no access to the studio outside of these faculty supervised class times/days.

All students on campus must wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth. Students who are not compliant with PPE expectations will be asked to leave campus.

You must maintain at least 6-foot distances from other students and the instructor at all times. Refrain from coming to campus if you feel sick or have a fever.

Spaces will be cleaned between each use. Students will be issued their own personal cleaning sponge and should use this for cleaning their workspace. Students will be provided disinfectant and wipes to clean their own immediate areas and equipment. Indoor spaces will be maximally ventilated, opening all windows/outside doors when possible. Outdoor workspace in the ceramics courtyard will also be available.

Equipment and tools may not be shared before being sanitized. Additional minimum 60% ethyl alcohol-based or 70% isopropyl-alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available for use.

Studio Hours

Due to the current situation, students are only allowed in the facility while an instructor is present. Because of this policy, and to allow for students in the other courses space to work, you will be allowed to use the facility on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays are for students in the other sections. There may be an occasional Open Studio on Fridays (TBD).

Demonstrations

Demonstrations and presentations will occur at the beginning of class. Due to the nature of the material and flow of the class, most demonstrations cannot be repeated; rather, some demonstrations will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas.

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. Because 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.

Attendance/Lateness

You are expected to come to class awake 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.

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 the 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!***

Cell Phones/Music

Once the demonstrations and presentations portion of each class is finished, you will then be able to work on your own. We will listen to music during these work periods. At this time in the class meeting, you are permitted to listen to your own music on your headphones; however, you may (will) be asked to remove them when you need individual instruction from the professor or TA. You are welcome to

listen to whatever music/podcasts/books that keep you motivated and working. Please do not play music out loud using your phone's or computer's speakers.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances or in the case that changes will significantly enhance the quality of the course. Students will collectively have the opportunity to shape the ways in which the course unfolds.

ART 132-01: Wheel-throwing, Fall 2020

Course Schedule

***Schedule is subject to change. You will be notified by email and/or Canvas in advance.

Course Schedule

Week/Class Meeting	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
1	8/19	Introduction to Syllabus, Studio, Guidelines and Procedures
2	A: 8/24 B: 8/26	Clay and Tools distributed. Cylinders Demonstration. Cups Introduction and Demonstration.
3	A: 8/31 B: 9/2	Cups Process Day. Mugs/handles Demonstration.
4	B: 9/9 A: 9/14	Cups/Mugs Process Day.
5	B: 9/16 A: 9/21	Cups/Mugs DUE at beginning of class. Bowls Introduction and workday.
6	B: 9/23 A: 9/28	Glaze Demonstration. Trimming Demonstration.
7	B: 9/30 A: 10/5	Bowls DUE at beginning of class. Tall Forms/Vases/Pitchers Demonstration and Workday.
8	B: 10/7 A: 10/12	Tall Forms Process Day. Glaze bowls.
9	B: 10/14 A: 10/19	Tall Forms DUE at beginning of class. Kiln Use/Loading Lecture/Demonstration. Decals/Luster Demonstration.
10	B: 10/21 A: 10/26	Lidded Vessels Introduction and Demonstration. Glaze Tall Forms.
11	B: 10/28 A: 11/2	Lidded Vessels Process Day. Load Decals and Lusters in kiln.
12	B: 11/4 A: 11/9	Lidded Vessels Due. Stacked Form Demo and Workday.
13	A: 11/16 B: 11/18	Stacked Form Process Day.
14	A&B: 11/23	Stacked Form Process Day.
15	A: 11/30 B: 12/2	Final Day to Trim. All remaining work in bisque kilns.
16	A&B	Clean-Up Day, Final glaze Day.
Final Critique	12/10/20 12:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Zoom/ONLINE