

**San José State University  
Department of Art & Art History  
Art 134-01, Advanced Ceramics, Fall 2020**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
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<b>Telephone:</b>	Email preferred
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday 11:00-12:00 (Zoom only)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	TTH 3-5:50
<b>Classroom:</b>	IS 124
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Art 132, Art 133, or instructor consent
<b>Department Office:</b>	ART 116
<b>Department Contact:</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.sjsu.edu/art">www.sjsu.edu/art</a> Email: <a href="mailto:art@sjsu.edu">art@sjsu.edu</a>

### **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](http://sjsu.instructure.com) 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**

Focus on personal stylistic development, individual critiques and portfolio preparation.

Through studio assignments, lectures, presentations, demonstrations and directed research and proposals, Art 134 is designed to increase the technical, critical, and conceptual skills necessary for developing an accomplished and individualized body of work in the field of ceramics. As advanced students, your work this semester will be primarily in the form of self-directed independent study, based on your own (instructor approved) proposals. Detailed guidelines will be provided to help you develop intentional, clear, and thoughtful proposals that will evolve into meaningful artist statements by the end of the semester. Constructive participation in critiques is mandatory, and essential for your progress in articulating the formal and conceptual intentions of your work. This semester, in order to preserve time in the classroom and social distancing

guidelines, those critiques will take place through Canvas, with required peer feedback as well as group and/or one-on-one Zoom sessions.

I expect all students to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom. As students in the most advanced section of ceramics, I also expect a higher standard of mentorship towards other students in ceramics and a greater sense of responsibility and ownership of all studio areas. In general, you should expect this class to be both less structured and more challenging than either 132 or 133, **and you should be comfortable with the fact that you are expected to be self-directed, self-motivated, and capable of solving technical and conceptual challenges with less direct supervision.** If you're not comfortable with those parameters, please discuss with me.

Students will be instructed in kiln-firing procedures and **will be expected to schedule and fire their own work.** This will require your advanced planning and collaboration. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. **3 units.**

**Other Requirements:** Ceramics is a medium that requires sustained attention outside of “regular” class hours, so expect to spend significant additional time outside of class working on your projects (3-6 hours per week is baseline). **Regular “attendance” is crucial to your success in this class.**

## 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 according to described deadlines, as well as to pick up tools and/or materials.

## Coronavirus Safety Protocols:

At our current level of enrollment, our primary classroom (124) allows for appropriate social distancing within the classroom, so students will be allowed to attend class as normally scheduled if they are comfortable doing so. Should enrollment increase beyond the allowable limit in Rm. 124, 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 and department policies, and in-person attendance change throughout the semester.** Safety will always be prioritized. At present, there will be no access to the studio outside of these faculty supervised class times/days (see more details under “studio hours”).

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 (pending delivery of appropriate equipment) 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.

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

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

*CLO1 - conceptualize and complete a series of work demonstrating a synthesized approach to concept, material, process, and form*

*CLO2 - practice and refine relevant and appropriate fabrication techniques in ceramics*

*CLO3 - research, select, and apply appropriate surface treatments*

*CLO4 - safely use ceramics lab equipment and understand general lab policies*

*CLO5 - properly load and fire gas and/or electric kilns*

*CLO6 - apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments*

*CLO7 - practice and develop critical skills (individual and group critiques, readings/written response, 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](http://cfileonline.org) (you should subscribe to this!) For images- [artaxis.org](http://artaxis.org), [accessceramics.org](http://accessceramics.org), [ceramicsnow.org](http://ceramicsnow.org), [ayumihorie.com](http://ayumihorie.com) (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical information, current events, exhibition opportunities- [ceramicstoday.com](http://ceramicstoday.com), [lindaarbuckle.com](http://lindaarbuckle.com), [ceramicartsdaily.org](http://ceramicartsdaily.org), [juliagalloway.com](http://juliagalloway.com) (her field guide)

### **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](http://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 spray bottle, a metal fork, and some paintbrushes of various sizes.

In addition, if you plan on working from our studio this semester, 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 will also have the opportunity to mix recycled clay this semester (at cost), or to mix your own clay bodies (you purchase materials at Clay Planet). Check with me if you're interested in bringing in any other type of clay, to ensure that it is compatible with our studio.

**Unless you have immediate plans for a different clay body, you should bring in funds to purchase clay on the first day of class (preferably 2 bags) and \$15 for a tool kit if you need it. Bring cash (EXACT CHANGE ONLY), or check made out to SJSU Ceramics Guild.**

**If you plan on working from home**, I would still suggest purchasing materials through us on your first designated class day and time. If that's not feasible, purchase your clay directly through Clay Planet (info above). The clay we use most frequently in this class is called "Orion Stout", and you could also purchase their "Kemper Pottery Tool Kit". (You can also purchase similar tool kits on Amazon or most art supply stores, the 8- or 9-piece Kemper kit is best quality).

**Estimated cost of class: \$75.**

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

## **Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)**

### **Studio Assignments (totals 90% of final grade)**

- 1. *Independent Project 1 (20%)*:** For your first project, you will propose and execute a body of work that pays explicit attention to the themes of concept, material, process, and form. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 8/25, Project Due: 10/8**
- 2. *Surface Research (15%)*:** Identify and research techniques for a new fired surface of your choice, conceptualize and fabricate sculptural object appropriate to technique. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 9/10, Project Due: 10/22**
- 3. *Independent Project 2 (25%)*:** The second project will build upon your exploration of the first project. After analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of your first project, propose the next distinct but related body of work. Emphasis is on presentation and display. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 10/15, Project Due: 12/3**
- 4. *Independent Project 3 (30%)*:** This culminating project will gather the self-identified cumulative strengths of your previous efforts, resulting in one last distinct body of work. This proposal will identify the transitions that have been undertaken over the course of the semester. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 11/5, Project Due: 12/11**

**General class participation (10%, ongoing):** Ongoing overall improvement and growth during the semester, basic studio maintenance and etiquette, preparedness for assignments, the quantity and quality of your effort during studio work time and outside of class, and your engaged and constructive participation in class critiques. Includes cheerful participation in all ceramics area studio cleanups. (CLO 1-7) **Due 12/11**

## 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 at any time until the end 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 have considerable flexibility this semester on either working from home or in the studio, but when you are in the studio, I expect you to be prepared and focused on your work. Strict adherence to outlined safety protocols is absolutely required, if you fail to meet these requirements you will be asked to leave the studio and campus.

## 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm. The non-classroom hours of 12-3 are not guaranteed, and are subject to department rules and changing conditions (TBD). Mondays and Wednesdays are reserved for students in the other sections. There may be an occasional Open Studio on Fridays (TBD).

**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 and any specialized cleaning supplies provided this semester**. As needed, we will do additional group cleanups during class time to maintain a safe and workable studio space. An additional and mandatory department wide cleanup will take place on the last day of class. All graded work must be promptly removed from studio after critiques/end of semester.

**University Policies**

**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/>**

**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](mailto:art@sjsu.edu)

**Library Liaison**

**Gareth Scott**  
email: [gareth.scott@sjsu.edu](mailto:gareth.scott@sjsu.edu)  
phone: (408) 808-2094  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

**4th Floor Administration Offices**

**Art 134, Advanced Ceramics, Fall 2020, Course Schedule**

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Online Introduction to class: syllabus, safety, logistics <b>Intro 1<sup>st</sup> Assignment: Independent Project #1</b>
2	8/25	1 <sup>st</sup> in person class meeting: sell tools and clay as necessary <b>Submit proposal for 1<sup>st</sup> independent project to Canvas, peer feedback</b>

		<b>required.</b>
2	8/27	Begin wet work, 1 <sup>st</sup> independent project
3	9/1	Wet work, 1 <sup>st</sup> independent project
3	9/3	-wet work, <b>Intro Assignment: Surface Research</b>
4	9/8	- wet work, 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
4	9/10	- <b>proposals due for Surface Research</b> (submit to Canvas, peer feedback required), wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
5	9/15	- wet work surface research and 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
5	9/17	Last day wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
6	9/22	- wet work on Surface Research
6	9/24	- <b>last day wet work Surface Research</b> , bisque 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
7	9/29	- surfaces for 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
7	10/1	-surfaces for 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, bisque surface research
8	10/6	- last bisque surface research
8	10/8	- <b>CRITIQUE: 1<sup>st</sup> Project</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback), <i>introduce format for 2<sup>nd</sup> independent proposal</i>
9	10/13	- glaze firings surface research
9	10/15	-glaze firings surface research, <b>proposals due for 2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Project</b> (submit to Canvas, peer feedback required), wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent
10	10/20	-glaze firings surface research wet work, wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent
10	10/22	- <b>CRITIQUE: Surface Research</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback)
11	10/27	-wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent
11	10/29	-wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent), <i>introduce format for 3<sup>rd</sup> independent proposal</i>
12	11/3	-wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent
12	11/5	- <b>last class day for wet work on 2<sup>nd</sup> independent project, proposals due for 3<sup>rd</sup> independent project</b> (submit to Canvas, peer feedback required)
13	11/10	-wet work 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent
13	11/12	- wet work 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent
14	11/17	- wet work 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent
14	11/19	- wet work 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent, last bisque 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent project
15	11/24	-last class day wet work 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent
15	11/26	<b>Thanksgiving, no class</b>
16	12/1	Last glaze firings 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent project, bisque 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent project
	12/3	<b>CRITIQUE: 2nd independent project</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback), last scheduled glaze firing 3 <sup>rd</sup> independent project

Final Exam	Friday 12/11 2:45-5:00	<b>Mandatory class cleanup</b> <b>CRITIQUE: Independent Project #3</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback required)
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