

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Section 1, Spring 2021

Instructor:	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
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Email:	Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu (best contact during non-office hours)
Office Hours:	Friday 10:00-12:00 (Zoom)
Class Days/Time:	MoWe 12-2:50
Classroom:	IS 165
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Additional contacts:
Emergency: 911
Campus Escort: 42222

MYSJSU Messaging

Announcements and all 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 various handbuilding techniques, introductory wheel throwing, low and high-fire surfaces and glazes, and firing procedures. Other relevant videos and “slide” presentations linked to assignments in Canvas 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/peer feedback. Engaged participation in critiques/peer feedback is mandatory and essential for your progress. This semester, those critiques will take place through Canvas, with required peer feedback as a graded assignment. 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 normally considered part of the class, participation in those activities this semester is TBD due to Coronavirus restrictions.

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.**

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, ensuring that all students will receive the same technical instruction. However, even those students who are working primarily from home will need to make arrangements to transport their work periodically 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. For those students working in the studio, I will be able to provide (socially distanced) help and advice with your work in progress, students working entirely from home should take advantage of my Zoom office hours for assistance with their work.

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. If you are picking up/dropping off work or materials to the classroom, you can come either/both days. **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. If you test positive or think you have been exposed to the coronavirus, inform me ASAP and use this link to report

https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SanJoseStateUniv&layout_id=15

Using the link to report will connect you to case managers who will offer support resources as well as engage in contact tracing to ensure our community is kept safe.

Students using the studio will be provided sponges for use in cleaning their workspace. Students will be provided hand sanitizer in the classroom 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, weather permitting. Equipment and tools may not be shared before being sanitized.

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)

Websites of Interest: cfonline.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 critcalceramics.org/oldsite, ceramicstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org,

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, I recommend Kemper brand A22 wood modeling tool and K23 cleanup tool) would be helpful but are not necessary, 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, if you plan on working from our studio this semester, you will need to **immediately provide a lock for your provided locker, and plastic to wrap your wet work** (dry cleaning plastic or lightweight garbage bags work well). Clay is available, through the Ceramics Guild for \$10 a bag; most students will use two bags of clay in a semester, but you can start with one bag and purchase more as needed if you prefer. 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 \$25 to the day designated to purchase materials. Bring cash (EXACT CHANGE ONLY), or checks, made out to SJSU Ceramics Guild. (\$15 for tool kit, \$10 for one bag of clay).**

If you plan on working from home, I would still suggest purchasing materials through us our studio on the designated day to purchase materials. If that's not feasible, purchase your clay directly through Clay Planet (info above). The clay we use 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: \$60

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

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio assignments (totals 90% of grade):

1. "Neighborhood Clay" (10%): Using wet clay, students will capture impressions of objects from their immediate environment, collected in a pinch formed bowl. Low fire underglaze and glaze surfaces. (CLO 1-6)
Due 3/26

2. The Heart (30%): Using reference material, sculpt a realistic, highly detailed heart. Introduction of various handbuilding techniques, learn to control form and texture, and to observe and model high levels of detail. High fire stain surfaces. (CLO 1-6) **Due 4/9**

3. Pick ONE option for assignment #3, either wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls (both are functional)

Option 1 - "Wheel Throwing" (20%) Students will explore wheel throwing processes, with a focus on cylinders/cups. This option is only available to those students working daily in on-campus studio or with alternate access to a potter's wheel. High fire glazes. **Due 4/30**

OR

Option 2 - "Japanese Tea Bowls" (20%): Construct a set of three functional tea bowls using traditional Japanese handbuilding forming techniques. High Fire Glazes. (CLO 1-6) **Due 4/30**

4. "Rhyton" (30%): Construct an animal-shaped drinking vessel in the Rhyton format, using the coil and pinch construction methods. Emphasis on realistic, accurate sculpture of an animal and development of personal imagery. Low fire underglaze and glaze surfaces. (CLO 1-6) **Due 5/20**

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) **Due 4/23**

Class participation (5%): 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/peer feedback, responses to online surveys. (CLO 1-6) **Due 5/20**

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 described within each assignment, but generally include 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.** The exception to this policy is “checks for work in progress”, attendance survey, and the quiz, which will not receive any credit if submitted late. 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. No attendance will be taken this semester, you are free to come and go within your designated class times. 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 Mondays and/or Wednesday, 12:00 pm – 2:50 pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for students in other sections. **As conditions permit, you will be allowed to work from 12-5:50 on Mondays and/or Wednesdays, possibly both days depending on in-class attendance (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 the specialized cleaning supplies provided this semester.** 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

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

Art 46,Section 1/ Intro to Ceramics, Spring 2021, Course Schedule

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

Week / Meetings	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
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1	1/27	Online introduction to syllabus, studio, guidelines and safety procedures, complete attendance survey
2	2/1, 2/3	Purchase materials (details TBD) Intro Assignment #1: Neighborhood Clay
3	2/8, 2/10	finish wet work by end on Neighborhood Clay by end of week 3. Intro Assignment #2: The Heart , watch linked demo videos #1 and #2, print out reference materials
4	2/15, 2/17	First days of in-person instruction/studio access. Begin wet work on hearts
5	2/22, 2/24	Wet work on hearts, bring in completed Neighborhood Clay by end of week 5 for first (bisque) firing
6	3/1, 3/3	Wet work on hearts, Introduce assignment #3: Wheel throwing OR Japanese tea bowls
7	3/8, 3/10	Complete all wet work on heart , transport greenware into studio by end of week 7. Begin wet work on assignment #3: wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls. Apply underglazes/glazes to Neighborhood Clay.
8	3/15, 3/17	Bisque firing for the heart. Wet work on assignment #3: wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls
9	3/22, 3/24	Last week for wet work on assignment #3: wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls, transport to studio for bisque by end of week. Apply high fire stains to heart by end of week CRITIQUE: Neighborhood Clay Introduce assignment #4: The Rhyton Spring Break next week! No class on 3/29 or 3/31
10	4/5, 4/7	Due: sketches and research for rhyton , start wet work. Intro: ceramics vocabulary terms for quiz <i>Introduce high fire glazes for tea bowls or wheel throwing</i> Glaze assignment #3. CRITIQUE: The Heart, peer feedback required

11	4/12, 4/14	Continue wet work on Rhyton assignment, last chance to glaze assignment #3 by end of week 11
12	4/19, 4/21	Quiz: vocabulary terms Continue wet work on Rhyton assignment
13	4/26, 4/28	Last week for wet work on rhyton and ALL wet work, transport rhyton into studio by end of week. Bisque rhytons CRITIQUE: <i>Wheel throwing OR Japanese tea bowls</i>
14	5/3, 5/5	Last day to bisque rhytons, underglaze rhytons
15	5/10, 5/12	Recommended last day to underglaze/glaze rhytons
16	5/17	Last instructional day, absolute last day to glaze/underglaze rhytons
Final Critique	5/20	Critique: Rhyton (3 images of each piece posted on Canvas, peer feedback required) 9:45 AM-12:00 PM