

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 133, Section 01, Ceramic Sculpture, Spring 2021

Instructor:	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
Office Location:	IS 124C
Telephone:	Email preferred
Email:	Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu (best contact)
Office Hours:	Friday 11:00-12:00 (Zoom only)
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 3-5:50
Classroom:	IS 124
Prerequisites:	Art 13, 46, or instructor consent
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

Focus on handbuilding and nontraditional techniques in clay and related media. Includes gallery and studio visits.

Through studio assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and discussion, this course is designed to increase both the technical and conceptual skills necessary for developing your own personal aesthetic and body of work in the field of ceramic sculpture. Studio assignments vary thematically and are structured openly enough to allow you to pursue and challenge your own individual interests and directions, while providing clear parameters for

focused inquiry into various aspects of ceramic sculpture. Relevant videos and “slide” presentations linked to assignments in Canvas will provide an overview of both historical and contemporary ceramics. Because of the unique nature of this semester, assignments will tend to be smaller, faster, and less technical than in an average 133 class, allowing for maximum flexibility.

Because of the wide range of student experience in the class, I expect some students to work on a more independent and self-directed level, while other students need to be assertive in seeking my assistance with technical problems and discussions of works in progress. I expect all students to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom.

Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critiques/peer feedback. Active participation in critiques/peer feedback is mandatory and essential for your progress. 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 for most assignments. Students will be instructed in kiln-firing procedures and will learn to schedule and complete their own firings. 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. In addition to your studio work, I will require written proposals with a research component for some studio assignments. **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 and to maximize your time in the classroom. 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 according to described deadlines, 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:

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.** 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 - conceptualize and complete sculptures that demonstrate mastery of various fabrication/handbuilding techniques

CLO2 – successfully research and respond to non-traditional approaches to clay

CLO3 – properly schedule, load, fire, and complete gas/electric kiln firings

CLO4 – demonstrate an understanding of the physical characteristics and potentials of clay/ceramics

CLO5 - research, select, and apply appropriate surface treatments

CLO6 – safely use ceramics lab equipment and observe general lab policies

CLO7 – apply a general knowledge of historical and contemporary ceramic art to class assignments (studio and written)

CLO8 – 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, ayumihorie.com (primarily her links page). For criticism, technical

information, current events, exhibition opportunities- ceramicstoday.com, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, 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). A few additional tools (such as small inexpensive carving tools, I recommend Kemper brand A22 wood modeling tool and K23 cleanup tool) 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. A spray bottle is 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 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.

So, unless you have outside supplies, most of you should bring in a total of \$25 to the day designated to purchase materials. Clay is \$10 per bag (preferably purchase 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 for use 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. *Lucky Charms (15%)*:** Using bisque press mold, and "lucky" imagery of your choosing, create multiple versions of a lucky charm to be distributed among your classmates. (CLO 1-8) **Due: 5/13**
- 2. *Replicate and Transform (35%)*:** This assignment has 2 distinct sections. In part 1, you will replicate an object of your choosing as exactly as possible to a scale of 18". In part 2, you will take your original object and

transform it with additions or modifications into a complete sculpture. Surfaces TBD. (CLO 1-8) **Due: Part 1-3/5, Part 2-4/23**

3. Sculpture/Painting Mashup (25%): Explore the relationship between painting and sculpture by conceptualizing and executing sculptural form inspired by a specific painting. (CLO 1-8) **Due: 4/30**

4. Commemorative (20%): Informed by historical traditions in ceramics, using decal printer or image transfer method, create a commemorative object for a person/event/place of your choice. (CLO 1-8) **Due: 5/21**

General class participation (5%, 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/peer feedback. Includes participation in all ceramics area studio cleanups. (CLO 1-8)

Grading Policy

Your persistence, commitment, 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 (for example, an “A” to a “B”).** The exception to this policy is “checks for work in progress” and attendance survey, 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 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 generally be allowed to use the facility on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Mondays and Wednesdays are reserved for students in other sections of ceramics. (Because of extensive water damage to the building over the winter break, this 12-6 attendance might be delayed until our regular classroom IS 124 reopens. TBD, stay tuned...)

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

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 133, Section 01/Ceramic Sculpture, Spring 2021, Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule

Week / Meetings	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28	Online introduction to syllabus, studio, guidelines and safety procedures, complete attendance survey
2	2/2, 2/4	Purchase materials (details TBD), intro assignment #1: Lucky Charms, intro assignment #2: Replicate and Transform
3	2/9, 2/11	Complete model for Lucky Charms press mold, <i>Replicate and Transform</i> object, with proportional drawings posted on Canvas by end of week
4	2/16, 2/18	Bring in Lucky Charms model for press mold into studio by end of week, start wet work on part 1 of replicate and transform
5	2/23, 2/25	wet work, replicate and transform Lucky Charms press molds ready to use, wet work ongoing throughout semester on Lucky Charms project!
6	3/2, 3/4	-wet work, replicate and transform, Part 1 due for grading as wet greenware by end of week -sketches due for part 2 of replicate and transform (transformation!) due by end of week
7	3/9, 3/11	Wet work, replicate and transform Intro assignment #3: Sculpture/Painting mashup
8	3/16, 3/18	Sketches due by end of week for Sculpture/Painting mashup Last week for all wet work on replicate and transform

9	3/23, 3/25	Begin wet work on sculpture painting mashup, bisque replicate and transform Spring Break next week! No class on 3/30 or 4/1
10	4/6, 4/8	Glaze firings replicate and transform, wet work Sculpture/painting mashup intro assignment #4: Commemorative
11	4/13, 4/15	Last Glaze firings for replicate and transform, last week wet work sculpture/painting mashup
12	4/20, 4/22	CRITIQUE: Replicate and Transform , wet work on commemorative Glaze firings sculpture/painting mashup, don't forget lucky charms!
13	4/27, 4/29	Glaze firings, sculpture/painting mashup, last week wet work on commemorative, CRITIQUE: sculpture/painting mashup
14	5/4, 5/6	glaze firings lucky charms, and commemorative, print out decals if using
15	5/11, 5/13	Last glaze firings, lucky charms giveaway!
16 Final Critique	5/21	CRITIQUE: Commemorative 2:45-5:00 PM