

**San José State University**  
**Department of Art & Art History**  
**Art 134-01, Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2021**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
<b>Office Location:</b>	IS 124C
<b>Telephone:</b>	Email preferred
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Friday 10:00-12:00 (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 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/online peer feedback is mandatory, and essential for your progress in articulating the formal and conceptual intentions of your work. This semester, in order to accommodate all students, preserve

time in the classroom, and social distancing guidelines, those critiques will take place through Canvas with required peer feedback built into most studio assignments.

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. There will be a short graded assignment related to your completion of the kiln loading/firing requirement. If you are working from home, rather than our studio, this requirement will be negotiated. 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.** There will be a few (graded) Canvas "check-ins" on studio assignments, so I can better track your work in progress.

## 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](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 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 (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 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 (30%)*:** 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: 2/9, Project Due: 4/13**

**2. *Lucky Charms (10%)*:** 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**

**3. *Surface Research (20%)*:** 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: 3/9, Project Due: 5/4**

**4. Independent Project 2 (30%):** This culminating project will gather the self-identified cumulative strengths of your previous efforts, resulting in one last distinct but related body of work. This proposal will identify the transitions that have been undertaken over the course of the semester. (CLO 1-7) **Proposal Due: 3/25, Project Due: 5/24**

**Kiln Operations (5%):** Identify a kiln/firing process of interest and execute from start to finish, including scheduling, coordination, loading, unloading, cleanup. (CLO 4,5) **Due: 5/13**

**General class participation (5%, 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/peer feedback/Canvas requirements. Includes cheerful participation in all ceramics area studio cleanups. (CLO 1-7) **Due 5/24**

## 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 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 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](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

## Art 134, Section 1/Advanced Ceramics, Spring 2021, Course Schedule

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28	Online Introduction to class: syllabus, safety, logistics, complete attendance survey, <i>intro assignment: independent project 1</i>
2	2/2	Purchase materials this week (week 2), <i>intro assignment: Lucky Charms</i> wet work model for Lucky Charms press mold
2	2/4	wet work model for Lucky Charms press mold
3	2/9	<b>Submit proposal for 1<sup>st</sup> independent project to Canvas, peer feedback required.</b>
3	2/11	-wet work, Complete model for Lucky Charms press mold
4	2/16	- wet work, 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, bring in Lucky Charms model for press mold into studio by end of week for bisque
4	2/18	wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, <i>Intro Assignment: Kiln Operations</i>
5	2/23	- wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
5	2/25	-wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent , make lucky charms press mold
6	3/2	- wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, <i>Intro Assignment: Surface Research</i>
6	3/4	<b>-Lucky Charms press mold ready: wet work ongoing throughout semester on Lucky Charms project! (don't procrastinate! Take it home!)</b>
7	3/9	- wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, <b>proposals due for Surface Research</b>
7	3/11	-last day wet work 1 <sup>st</sup> independent, start wet work surface research
8	3/16	- wet work surface research, <i>Intro assignment: Independent Project 2</i>
8	3/18	- wet work surface research, bisque 1 <sup>st</sup> independent,
9	3/23	- wet work surface research , glaze firings 1 <sup>st</sup> independent
9	3/25	-last day wet work surface research, <b>proposals due for Independent Project 2</b> <b>Spring Break next week! No class on 3/30 or 4/1</b>
10	4/6	-wet work independent project 2
10	4/8	-wet work independent project 2, last glaze firings independent project 1
11	4/13	-- <b>CRITIQUE: Independent Project 1</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback) wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent

11	4/15	-wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, bisque surface research
12	4/20	-wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, glaze firings surface research
12	4/22	wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, glaze firings surface research
13	4/27	- wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent
13	4/29	- last day wet work 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, last glaze firings surface research
14	5/4	-bisque 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, <b>CRITIQUE: Surface Research</b>
14	5/6	- bisque 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent project
15	5/11	-glaze firings 2 <sup>nd</sup> independent, <b>lucky charms due/giveaway</b>
15	5/13	-last instructional class day, <b>Kiln Operations worksheet due, last glaze firings</b>
16 Final Exam	5/24 2:45-5	<b>CRITIQUE: 2nd independent project</b> (images posted on Canvas, peer feedback)