

San José State University
Department of Art & Art History
Art 46, Intro to Ceramics, Section 4, Fall 2021

Instructor:	Monica Van den Dool, Lecturer
Office Location:	IS 124C
Telephone:	Email preferred
Email:	Monica.vandendool@sjsu.edu (best contact during non-office hours)
Office Hours:	TuTh 3:30-4 (in person), Wed 10-10:30 (Zoom)
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 12:30 – 3:20pm
Classroom:	IS 124
Department Office:	ART 116
Department Contact:	Website: www.sjsu.edu/art Email: art@sjsu.edu

Additional contacts:
Emergency: 911
Campus Escort: 42222

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 primarily 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. Cooperative kiln loading/unloading is normally considered part of the class, participation in those

activities this semester is TBD due this semester's hybrid format. At the end of the semester, there will be one mandatory, in-person studio cleanup, graded for participation.

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.**

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](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.

I will be making extensive use of the "announcements" feature on Canvas, so make sure you read!

Coronavirus Course Adaptations (Hybrid Format)

This semester, in order to provide maximum flexibility for students during the pandemic, this class will be conducted in a **hybrid format**. **That means that all assignments, technical demonstrations (lots of videos!), critiques, announcements, and evaluative processes will be posted on Canvas** to facilitate this option, ensuring that all students will receive the same technical instruction. At this time, there will be NO synchronous online instruction (**NO Zoom**), all of the Canvas content will be asynchronous in format. However, **the studio on campus will be completely open for your use during our class time, and I will be in class, in person, for the entirety of every class day to assist you.** (There will be significant additional hours outside of class time to access the studio, listed below, but during those hours I won't be available to assist). As your personal circumstances permit, I strongly encourage you to make as much of your work as possible in our studio on campus. Although I will **not** be repeating any of the demonstrations posted on Canvas in the classroom, I can provide feedback and help you much more easily hands-on with your individual works in progress, you will benefit greatly from working with your peers, you avoid the real risk of transporting fragile ceramics from home to the studio, and you can take advantage of our excellent facilities. **You will also have the opportunity to do your studio work either partially or completely from home, and many of my students from the past two semesters of hybrid instruction have done so successfully.** However, this class cannot function entirely online. **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 (probably by car) in order to get work fired, glazed, and finished, as well as to purchase/pick up tools and materials.** The frequency of these trips to the studio will vary during the semester, and I've tried to minimize them as much as possible, but all of my deadlines must be met, regardless of whether you're working from home or in the on-campus studio. For those students working primarily from home, I encourage you to take advantage of my Zoom office hours for assistance with your work, and I am open to making arrangements on an individual basis for additional help through Zoom.

Open studio hours: Currently, in addition to our scheduled class time, you will be allowed to access the studio only during those days/times when faculty are on the premises in the area. This semester, those hours are:

STUDIO HOURS

M: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

T: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
W: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
R: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
F: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Students are permitted to use the SJSU Ceramics facilities while classes are in session and instructors are present. If you arrive to work outside of your scheduled class meeting time and your classroom is in use, please use one of the other classrooms within the facility (IS 165, IS 166, IS 124). The studio will be closed on weekends and holidays (9/6/21, 11/11/21, 11/24/21) when the campus is closed. Please be respectful and clean up your workspace and leave the facility before the scheduled times above.

Access will be through the back gate into the courtyard. If another class is in session in our usual classroom, or it seems a little crowded, you can always use a different space within our large facility. You must be out of the studio, with all materials put away and your area totally cleaned, at the end of each day's access times. Although my focus will always be on our assignments, you are free to come in and make any independent outside projects you wish (within reason!)

Coronavirus Safety Protocols:

All safety protocols are subject to change as conditions, university and department policies might vary throughout the semester.

While indoors, all students on campus must wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth. As of now, with vaccination requirements, there are no additional social distancing regulations or classroom capacity limits. If outside, students should be masked unless they are maintaining six feet of social distancing. Students who are not compliant with PPE and/or social distancing expectations will be asked to leave campus.

Hand sanitizer and face masks are provided at the main building entrances.

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.

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: cfileonline.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, online, or through 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 still recommend suggest purchasing materials through us our studio on the designated day to purchase materials. If that's not feasible, purchase your clay directly and in-person through Clay Planet (info above). The clay we use in this class is called "Orion Stout", do NOT use any other type of clay without my approval. 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: \$25-\$50

Course Requirements and Assignments (and percentage of grade)

Studio assignments (totals 90% of grade):

1. The Heart (25%): 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: 10/1**

2. Small Abstractions (15%): Explore experimental handbuilding process, slab construction, and the formal possibilities of abstraction to create three small abstract sculptures. Emphasis on presentation. Introduction of low fire studio glazes. (CLO 1-6) **Due: 10/15**

3. Pick ONE option for assignment #3, either wheel throwing or carved 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: 11/5**

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: 11/5**

4. Coil Constructed Form (30%): Using primarily coil construction hand-building techniques, within framework provided, you will create a sculptural form of your own design. Details TBD. Sketches will be required as part of this assignment.(CLO 1-6) **Due: 12/13**

Quiz (5%): basic ceramic vocabulary (CLO 3) **Due: 11/5**

Class participation (5%): includes mandatory end of semester cleanup and studio maintenance and engaged and constructive participation in class critiques/peer feedback. (CLO 1-6) **Due: 12/13**

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 if required) 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", 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.

Clean up in our studios begins 20 minutes before the end of your access period. 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**. (If working from home, you should follow same processes to minimize dust, and avoid getting excessive clay into your sink, it can clog up pipes...) 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

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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 4, Intro to Ceramics, Fall 2021, Course Schedule

(subject to change with fair notice by Canvas announcement)

Week / Meetings	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/19	View “welcome” video, review syllabus.
2	8/24 8/26	- On campus attendance today highly recommended today for all, starting promptly at 12:30 PM for purchase of materials and tools, followed by facility tour, before next class continue for online intro to 1 st assignment “The Heart” Start wet work on “The Heart”
3	8/31, 9/2	-continue wet work on “The Heart”, <i>introduction of 2nd assignment, “Small Abstractions”</i>
4	9/7, 9/9	-Complete all wet work on “The Heart” and place in designated area for first (bisque) firing, start wet work on “Small Abstractions”
5	9/14, 9/16	-Complete all wet work on “Small Abstractions” , <i>introduce 3rd assignment: either wheel throwing or Japanese Tea bowls (your choice! Pick one of those assignments, not both)</i>
6	9/21, 9/23	-apply stains to bisqued hearts for final firing, place finished “Small Abstraction” pieces in designated area for first (bisque) firing, Start wet work on 3 rd assignment.
7	9/28, 9/30	“Heart” assignment due , pick up finished hearts, photograph and post on Canvas for grading. Start applying low fire glazes to “Small Abstractions”, continue wet work on 3 rd assignment.
8	10/2, 10/7	Wet work on assignment #3: wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls Finish low fire glaze application for “Small Abstractions”
9	10/12, 10/14	“Small Abstractions” assignment due , pick up finished work, photograph and post on Canvas for grading Last week for wet work on assignment #3: wheel throwing or Japanese tea bowls, transport to studio for bisque by end of week.

		<i>Introduce 4th assignment: "Coil Constructed Form"</i>
10	10/19, 10/21	Sketches for "Coil Constructed Form" due , start wet work. Intro: ceramics vocabulary terms for quiz Introduce high fire glazes for tea bowls or wheel throwing, start glazing
11	10/26, 10/28	Finish glazing tea bowls/wheel throwing assignment Continue wet work on "Coil Constructed Form"
12	11/2, 11/4	"Tea Bowls/Wheel Throwing" assignment due , pick up finished work, photograph and post on Canvas for grading Quiz: vocabulary terms Continue wet work on "Coil Constructed Form"
13	11/9	Continue wet work on "Coil Constructed Form" No class 11/11 for Veteran's Day
14	11/16, 11/18	Continue wet work on "Coil Constructed Form", leave for bisque if finished.
15	11/23	Last day for wet work on "Coil Constructed Form", leave in designated area for bisque firing, glaze if already bisqued.... No class 11/25, Thanksgiving
16	11/30	Last instructional day, mandatory cleanup day, absolute last day to glaze/underglaze coil constructed project (you can pick up finished work next week on designated days)
" Final" (Critique)	Wed 12/8 12:15-2:30	Deadline for last project posted and peer feedback completed (3 images of each piece) posted on Canvas