

**Ceramics Art 18A**

**Course 48235**

**Units 4 Credit Degree Applicable**

**Friday 9:30-12:20, 12:30-3:20**

**Fall Quarter 2023**

**De Anza College Room A-51**

**Instructor:** Crystal Kamoroff **Office Hour:** Fri 8:30-9:30 am

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**Advisory:** English Writing 200 and Reading 200 (or Language Arts 200), or English as a Second Language 261, 262 and 263.

**Course Description:** This is an introductory ceramics class and will cover materials, methods and strategies for the successful creation of ceramic vessels and sculpture. A survey of ceramic construction techniques including basic design principles and creative development. Through demonstration, discussions and lectures you will be provided with a general introduction to a wide range of ceramic techniques and concepts, including studio practice in various hand building techniques, introductory wheel throwing, surface decoration including colored slip, mid fire oxidation glazing techniques and raku firing processes. Students will build a working knowledge of ceramic processes as a means to communication and self-expression within the ceramic medium and creative process. Studio assignments will vary in length and involvement and will be followed by group critique. Engaged participation in critiques is mandatory and essential for your progress. Students are expected 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 considered part of the class. At the end of the semester, there will be one mandatory, in-person studio cleanup, final critique and potluck.

#### **Student Learning Outcome (SLO)**

- Demonstrate competency in basic construction techniques
- Demonstrate competency in glaze application
- Demonstrate understanding of basic ceramic terminology

#### **Course Objectives**

- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the ceramic lab operation
- Develop skills in various methods of forming, firing, and decorating clay
- Analyze the process of art making
- Investigate the role of ceramics as an artistic medium
- Develop a portfolio of finished ceramic pieces
- Implement ceramic terminology

**This Course will be offered in person with face-to-face instruction:** This means all lectures, demonstrations and critiques will take place in person in the classroom. The studio on campus will be open for your use during our class time, and I will be in class to assist you.

**There will be NO synchronous online instruction or zoom or use of Canvas.** Email will be used to communicate course announcements and materials.

**Coronavirus Safety Protocols:** All safety protocols are subject to change as conditions, college and department policies may vary throughout the quarter. While indoors, although not mandatory all students on campus are highly encouraged to wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth. There are no additional social distancing regulations or classroom capacity limits.

**Please 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 [deanza.studenthealthportal.com](http://deanza.studenthealthportal.com) Using this link to report will connect you to case managers who will offer support resources.

**Criteria for Evaluation:** A high degree of commitment to this class is expected. Your persistence, imagination, and level of involvement in solving visual problems determine the quality of your work. Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Grading criteria for studio assignments 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 and presentation). Highest grades will be reserved for work that goes beyond minimal compliance with an assignment and show superior creativity, insight, and craftsmanship.

**Please note:** Incomplete grades are not given in this course.

**It is your responsibility to drop the class through the Admissions and Records office if you are unable to complete this course**

**Grading system is as follows for this course:**

A+ = 100-98%	A = 97-94%	A- = 93-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	D+ = 69-67%
D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%	F = below 59%

### **Grading**

CLASS PROJECTS (5)	150 Points
MIDTERM QUIZ	25 Points
SKETCHBOOK	25 Points
TOTAL	200 Points

### **Participation**

Regular attendance is critical for progress in the class. If you are absent, please make arrangements with another student to take notes for you so that you understand the information presented and can make up the day's assignment. Students are responsible for learning any course information missed due to absence. I will not repeat lectures or demonstrations for students who have been absent. Please do not expect me to email you individually with the day's topic or assignment if you are absent.

**Projects will be graded according to the following criteria**

- 1/3 on time and effort
- 1/3 on creativity and originality
- 1/3 technique and craftsmanship

**Ceramic Project Grading Rubric: Individual assignment grading criteria**

Grading Criteria	Exemplary *	Target	Developing
Time & Effort	Excellent use of class time for project. Student was ready with several ideas in sketchbook. Great attention and care to details and finishing touches.	Satisfactory work, but student not fully attentive to project. Does not come prepared with sketchbook. Piece is rushed and some details are overlooked.	Poor use of class time with little focus on project. Work is not completed as assigned.
Creativity & Originality	Several choices explored before one was selected; student tried new combinations or made new changes to several ideas, made connections to previous knowledge, and demonstrated problem-solving skills.	The student fulfilled the assignment and gave some evidence of adding a personal thought to the idea. Student went with the first idea rather than exploring multiple possibilities.	The student did not show evidence of original thought or creativity in the work. Direct copying of other artwork and no time spent exploring and brainstorming ideas to fulfill project criteria.
Craftsmanship & Technique	Demonstrates excellent skills with ceramic materials. Great use of form color, texture, patterns and surface choices. Shows proper joining and compression techniques. No evidence of cracking, slumping, warping. Work is finished and well made, showing passion, care and attention to detail	Student fulfilled assignment on an average or basic level. Adequate use of form color, texture, imagery and surface design. Work demonstrates ordinary building techniques with some evidence of flaws. Care and attention to detail are minimal. More time and care with the execution needed.	No demonstrated understanding of proper building, joining, compression, or scoring and slipping techniques. Lacks development of form color, texture and patterns. Work feels sloppy, unfinished and demonstrates technical flaws. Little to no attention or care to detail.

**Midterm Vocab Test** Friday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30pm (No late Attendance) Mandatory

**Final** Friday Dec 15<sup>th</sup> (No Late Attendance) Mandatory

Studio Clean up 9:30 – 11:30pm

Final Critique 12:00-3:20

**Tools:** You may borrow all tools from the studio. More tools can be purchased from Clay Planet

**To bring**

- Apron or Smock (Oversized shirt you don't mind getting dirty)
- Sketchbook (minimum width 8")
- Small spray bottle

**Clay**

First bag of clay (non-porcelain) is free for all students. After that clay is \$20 per bag and \$26 for porcelain. Cash and checks made out to De Anza College are acceptable. Recycled clay will be also be available for free or one can purchase high fire clay at Clay Planet.

THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT FOR CLASS

**Some useful reference books include:**

*Craft and Art of Clay* Peterson, Susan or *Working in Clay* Peterson, Susan & Jan  
*Mold Making and Slip Casting* Martin, Andrew  
*The Ceramic Glaze Handbook* Burleson, Mark  
*Make It in Clay: A Beginner's Guide to Ceramics*, Speight & J. Toki  
*Art & Fear*, Bayles David & Ted Orland  
*Contemporary Ceramics* Peterson, Susan  
*Hands in Clay* Speight, Charlotte & Jon Toki  
*History of American Ceramics* Levin, Elaine  
*Postmodern Ceramics* Del Vecchio, Mark  
*Sculptural Ceramics* Gregory, Ian  
*Contemporary Ceramic Techniques* Conrad, John  
*The Potter's Dictionary* Hamer, Frank

**Periodicals:** Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception, Clay Times

**Websites of Interest:** cfileonline.org, artaxis.org, accessceramics.org, ceramicsnow.org, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, ceramicartsnetwork.org, talesofaredclayrambler.com, ceramicsfieldguide.org

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR: Important Dates**

College-wide listing available at <http://www.deanza.edu/calendar/>

- **First day of instruction** Sept 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Finalize drops, drop no-shows** Sept 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Last day to add classes** Oct 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Last day to drop without a W** April Oct 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Veterans Day** Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – no classes campus closed
- **Last day to drop with a W** Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Thanksgiving Holiday** Nov 23-26<sup>th</sup> no classes offices closed
- **Last day of instruction** Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam

**Student Support Services**

The student support service messaging is available at <https://www.deanza.edu/quarter-guide/>.

## Classroom Etiquette

- Please arrive on time and stay for the duration of the scheduled class period
- If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so with as little disruption of the class as possible
- Do not schedule work time or other obligations during our class time
- Come to class prepared, with any needed supplies and books, and with homework completed. I will do my best to notify you in advance of supplies you will need.
- During class work time, please keep personal conversation to a minimum, and use a quiet voice. You may listen to music devices with earphones, but be prepared to remove them to communicate with the instructor or to resume class discussions.
- Clean up after yourself. This includes the worktables, floor, and shared counters and sink. Each class may also have an assigned weekly cleanup task for the classroom.
- Please turn cell phones off during class. If you must stay in contact with work or family, turn off the cell phone ringer. Use your phone outside the classroom during break or after class.
- When anyone is addressing the class as a whole, please listen attentively. All in the room appreciate others not having personal conversations during lectures and discussions.
- During critiques, please keep all comments respectful. Honest and constructive criticism, without voicing negative judgments, can be the very useful to the artist.
- It is not appropriate to bring children or pets to class.
- Please consider that there are people with sensitivities to strong odors, such as fragrant colognes or oils. All would appreciate minimizing your use of strongly odorous substances.
- No flip-flops, sandals, or open shoes, only close-toed shoes. There is loose glass in the studio.
- No food or sugar drinks in the classroom.
- Do not wear your backpack during class time. Please put them under the table.
- If you are ill or unable to attend more than one class, I expect you to contact me (e-mail preferable) as soon as possible

**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 cleanup of dry materials will be done with a wet sponge. 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.

