

Course Information:

Art 130 (33362R) – Ceramics • 4 units

Class Times: Tu/Th 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm

Office Hours: By appointment

Room: WAH 107

Instructor: Julie Schustack

Email: schustac@usc.edu

Facebook: USC Ceramics

LAB Technician: Farnaz Sabat

LOCKER COMBINATION: B I R D (for 24hr room access)

Course Description

Course syllabus, schedule, grades, and projects can be found on Blackboard.

This course is designed to give students an overview of many different ceramic processes and concepts. Ceramics is a huge field that incorporates many ways of being creative. Students will be introduced to different building techniques as well as alternative ways to use clay. Ceramics is unique in that it offers artists a wide range of different ways to be creative. This course is designed to introduce ceramic sculpture to a beginner and guide students to learn which ceramic processes, concepts and styles they are most excited by. The class focuses solely on sculptural aspects of ceramics and will not incorporate functional projects. Students do not need any previous experience with ceramics.

Projects *(90% of your grade)*

There will be 6-8 projects for this course. Each project will take 1-3 weeks to complete. Projects are quick paced and several projects will be completed in one week. Projects will include different approaches to hand-building and sculpture, slip casting, slip building and glaze making. Assignments are designed to get students familiar with each particular process/ceramic option, while learning how to use clay to be creative. Students are guided quickly through a range of projects throughout the semester and then will be able to focus on one process/concept for the final project.

The nature of ceramics is one that requires many steps and each step takes time. Firing alone takes 3 days and waiting for work to get leather

hard can take days as well. The process requires time to make the object, dry to leather hard, carve or add components, dry completely, fire, glaze and fire again. If a student falls behind, there are limitations within the ceramic process that could prevent catching up. **Do not fall behind.** Again, ceramics can be a demanding material, so it is important to understand its demands and adjust your practice accordingly. In addition, students will realistically spend an average of 1-3 hours outside of class working on their projects each week. You have 24hr access to the studio. You are encouraged to use the studio beyond that to make independent work.

There is a class schedule with all deadlines available on Blackboard. Projects will also be posted on Blackboard.

Vocabulary Test: *(4% of your grade)*

A vocabulary test will be given at the end of the semester. Terms as well as test dates will be discussed in class.

Participation in Critique and Making Clay: *(3% of your grade)*

The ceramic process involves making glazes, loading kilns, firing kilns, and making clay. Students may work in teams to make clay or fire kilns. If these activities are assigned they will contribute towards the Participation portion of the students grade

At the beginning and/or completion of some projects we may have an informal group critique. The purpose of these discussions is to be curious and critical but not judgmental or dismissive. We will share points of view about visual elements, artist concepts and how the visuals support the concept.

**You may remake any assignment if you wish to improve your grade on it as long as there is enough time left in the semester. Projects must be turned in by the FINAL day.

Clean up: *(3% of your grade)*

Students are responsible for cleaning their table every time they use it. In addition, there is an extensive end of the semester clean up session. Students will also be asked to participate in community clean up.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. I am very strict with attendance. I take roll at 2:00pm exactly. Students will be considered late if they are more than 5 min tardy.

I will begin demos at the beginning of class each day. I expect students to be on time. I will not go over materials missed due to being late or absent. Before you ask me what was missed, check the schedule, then ask classmates. 3 tardies count for one absence. Grades for attendance will be dropped as follows.

2 absences= no penalty

3 absences= drop half a letter grade

4 absences= drop full letter grade etc...

- You are allowed 2 free absences, no questions asked.
 - Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
 - For **each** subsequent absence the student's letter grade will be lowered by 0.5 letter grade.
 - 3 Tardies (or leaving early) become equivalent to an absence.
 - A student is considered tardy if they arrive to class 5 min after the beginning of class.
 - Being absent on the day a quiz, exam will lead to an "F" for that quiz.
- Projects would be considered late unless turned in by a fellow student.

The only valid excuse is a medical excuse or death in the family. Medical excuses will be accepted with a doctor's note stating that the student is unfit for attending school. Going out of town, car accidents, job interviews, family emergencies, or your work schedule will not be excused from this policy. That's what the 2 "no questions asked" absences should be saved for. Please do not ask me if it's ok if you miss class. It's your choice whether or not you attend the class, I am merely telling you the consequences of your choice to miss class.

GRADING- *students are encouraged to think about whether taking this class for P/NP or a grade is best for them.*

Grading System: Failure to attend the final class meeting, complete your projects, or consistently turn in late projects may result in a failing grade.

A. Distribution of Grades:

PROJECTS	90%
QUIZ/PARTICIPATION (clean-up, critique-discussions)	10%

Minus Attendance Points (if applicable)

Final grade for Class	100%
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Each project will be given a grade. Projects are graded **proportionally**, not equally. In other words, if you worked on a project for 6 class periods it is worth twice as much as a project that you worked on for 3 class periods.

**Project point breakdown can be found on the schedule.

Project Grade is based on:

- **Quality** (60%): Design and Craftsmanship. Craftsmanship includes making work that is about ¼" thick and is the same thickness throughout the piece, proper drying of clay, attachments that don't crack or fall apart, glazing amount used was correct and don't show drips etc...
- **Creative** implementation (30%): Originality--Creative use of materials and approach. Concept, idea etc...
- **Ambition of Project** (10%): Level of detail and/or scale.

*****LATE PROJECTS: LATE PROJECTS ARE PENALIZED BY ONE LETTER GRADE.**

There will be multiple deadlines for each project such as bisque or glazing deadline, however the project is considered late if it is not turned in the on the day of the critique/grading day. If you will be absent on that day, have a friend turn in your project. Otherwise, it will be penalized one letter grade. Missing a critique will result in a Zero for critique participation, however the project grade will not be penalized if turned in early or by a friend. All deadlines are listed in the schedule, which is posted on Blackboard. I highly recommend printing it out.

Class Final: We will be meeting during finals week. The final critique will take place on Thursday 5/3 from 2p-4p. We will be conducting the final critique and you will be turning in your FINAL project. No projects will be accepted after this time under any circumstances. In order to get credit for your projects you must turn them in by presenting them to me. Completing them and leaving them on a shelf does not constitute turning them in. Putting them on the Glaze cart does not constitute turning them in.

Studio Policies/Safety-See Safety handout

Shoes must be worn at all times in the studio.

No eating in the studio.

No phone calls or texting during class. Take a break and go outside if needed.

Headphones can be worn in one ear only.

Firing Policies

Work will be fired ONLY if it is prepared properly!

Work cannot be thicker than the girth of your pinkie.

Work cannot have any trapped air anywhere.

YOU MUST CARVE WHICH TEMPERATURE YOUR CLAY IS ON THE BOTTOM OF ALL LOW FIRE WORK

Studio Supplies

Store your clay and supplies in shared lockers. Do not store clay and tools on your shelf. Do not share tools. You must purchase your own. If cost is an issue, let me know, but you must have your own tools.

You will need the **required (in bold)** following supplies by the second class:

- **CLAY** (Take the voucher to the Bookstore and pay \$50 which will give you credit for 5 bags of clay. Bring the receipt to Ceramics. Pick up clay from the ceramics department. If you drop the class, you must see Farnaz to initiate the refund process. Only unopened bags can be refunded)
- **USC **ART 130** TOOL KIT** (from bookstore): Make sure your kit says. This kit includes small sponge, a large sponge, wire tool, large ribbon tool, small ribbon, needle tool, wood rib, metal rib, serrated rib, wooden knife. This is a custom kit. Do not buy kits from Amazon or other supply stores.
- **3 Cheap Paint Brushes** (from bookstore) for slip and oxide and glaze application. Get a variety; 2 **thin** brushes for detail work, **thick** (1.5" wide) for surface coverage. Can be found in the bookstore.
- **Exacto Knife #1** (from bookstore)
- padlock for storage locker (shared)
- "clear" plastic sheeting to keep work in progress damp- dry cleaning plastic works best- recommended
- Cloth towel/Apron/Clay clothes

*WEAR OLD CLOTHES OR USE AN APRON, YOU WILL GET DIRTY!
LABEL YOUR TOOLS WITH YOUR INITIALS OR AN IDENTIFYING
MARK WITH A SHARPIE. You **will** lose some of them and it is your only
chance at getting them back.

All work left at the end of the semester will be discarded

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.