

ART490 SPECIAL STUDY IN CERAMICS

Room: Starkey B 107
Schedule: Tuesday, Thursday 6:30 - 8:50

Professor: Christina Corbin
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Art 490 Special Study in Ceramics is an introductory ceramics course with an emphasis on four hand-built pottery techniques: pinch, slab, coil, extruded methods and the exploration of the potter's wheel as a tool for making both functional and non-functional ceramics. Students will be exposed to contemporary and historic trends in ceramic making, as well as learn technical information such as the forming, surfacing, and glazing. The intention will be to provide a vocabulary of choices for the studio ceramicist, helping them to develop a personal artistic voice in their studio work.

The objective for students is to acquire skill and proficiency on the potter's wheel enabling them to produce well crafted and designed functional and non-functional ware. Learning to throw requires patience, practice and perseverance. Students will be required to put in additional practice time outside of class.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Demonstrate a level of competence with fundamental throwing skills and have an understanding of the different types of hand building techniques (pinching, coiling, modeling, slab construction).
- Produce a body of thrown ceramic work demonstrating a level of competence in throwing skills through several projects.
- Critique ceramic form based on the elements and principle of design, recognized levels of craftsmanship, and personal introspection
- Demonstrate a general understanding of the use and manipulation of clay as an art medium through assigned studio projects.
- Glazing appropriate to the forms created

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student will:

- Become proficient in basic wheel throwing
- Become familiar with throwing a variety of pottery forms, trimming and attaching handles to wheel thrown pottery.
- Learn various methods of making and demonstrate the ability to construct specific forms utilizing the basic hand building techniques: pinch, coil, extruding and slab.
- Throw and join separated wheel thrown forms into composite pots.
- Develop a wide vocabulary of ways to deal with the surface of the clay, covering a range of stages in the making process.
- Create interesting abstract sculptural wheel thrown and hand built structures.
- Synthesize various techniques researched in the course on a series of creative pots of the student's choosing.
- Demonstrate an understanding and use of terminology specific to the ceramic studio use.
- Demonstrate a general understanding of glazes and kiln-firing through the finishing of assigned studio projects.
- Introduction to studio, equipment and have a discussion on health and safety.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Method and activities for instruction will include:

- Lectures
- Demonstrations
- Personal examples
- Student Research and Presentations
- Critiques

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Five Projects

In the course of the semester we will complete five major projects. Each project is specifically structured to focus on a particular skill and enhance the students ability to think and create in three-dimensional space. They will proceed through the following five stages.

1. Each project will be introduced with a handout, slide lecture and discussion specifying parameters, expectations and due dates. Demonstrations will be given as necessary.
2. A preliminary review may be conducted one week into the project so that you can receive feedback from the class and instructor
3. You are expected to make good use of class work days. This is when you can take full advantage of the instructor if you need technical advice or help with equipment.

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4. A formal critique of each completed project will take place at a specified time. You are expected to keep a notebook/sketchbook for each project, which will be turned in at the critique. Keep notes from class demos, sketches of your ideas for pots, and sketches of glaze application in your sketchbook.
5. Each student will turn in an artist's statement and be expected to discuss their work with the class. Projects are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified critique date.
6. After projects are critiqued and graded it is your responsibility to remove them from the art department.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Work should be submitted complete, fired and glazed. It is important to allow time for drying, firing and glazing. There will be a hand built and thrown element to most projects. Practice is the only way to develop your skills, so do not stop after you make one piece. You only have to fire and glaze your final piece/s, but it is a good idea to use your other work to practice your glazing and surface techniques.

Each student will be required to keep a ceramic journal/sketchbook (to show their creative process) that should include lecture notes, sketches for ceramic projects, glazing notations, photos of thrown examples, etc. Sketches, research and notes should be handed in with each project.

PROJECT 1: CYLINDERS AND FUNDAMENTAL HAND BUILDING TECHNIQUES

In this project students will learn fundamental throwing and hand-building skills. Every form created on the wheel is a variant of the cylinder, so you can never make too many cylinders while learning how to throw. For the throwing element of this project, you will focus on centering and throwing cylinders – the two most important aspects of throwing competent forms.

The fundamental skills in hand-building are learning to work with slabs, coils, pinch and extruded methods. Once a basic understanding has been gained for these methods, a whole world of possibilities are available to the maker. Students will create a basic form with each of these methods for construction.

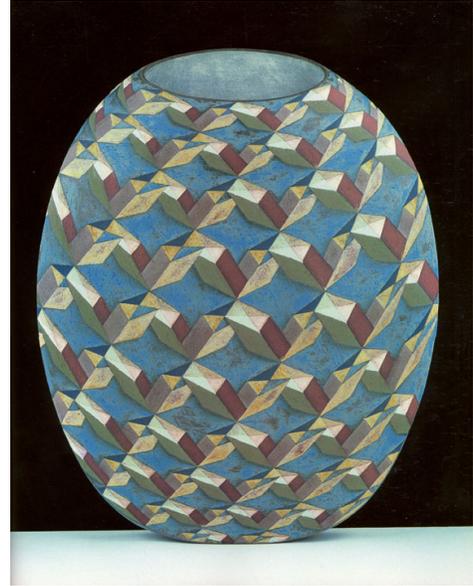
PROJECT 2: DRINKING VESSELS

For this project, you will focus on function, form and craftsmanship. Drinking vessels can have a lot of personality, so consider their overall



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appearance. The bottom of each piece should receive as much attention as the rim and aesthetics should be a concern. When making a drinking vessel you should consider multiple aspects, including the function, handle, lip, weight, and how it feels when you are using it. The thrown mug must have a pulled handle and a trimmed foot. The hand built mug can have a pulled or hand built handle. Students will design and construct 2 cups using pinch, coil, slab, extruded and thrown techniques.



PROJECT 3: SURFACE EXPLORATION

There are many ways to deal with the surface of clay, both at the pre firing and post firing stages. In this project the goal is to explore the possibilities in surface design and to continue to develop your throwing and hand-building skills; with the creation vessels and experiments with surface decoration. Vessels are containers, they may be functional or non functional and they offer a variety of outcomes with form.



PROJECT 4: UTILITARIAN SET

Design and construct objects exploring the idea of a specific function. Using one or more of the ceramic building methods, create a set of three functional pieces of table wear. Functional table wear has a defined practical purpose and its shape must be suited to its use. When potters carefully consider things like the thickness of the lip of a mug or the placement and size of a handle on a pitcher, it can make the difference between a pot that gets used often or one that gets avoided.

PROJECT 5: FINAL PROJECT

Slab, coil, pinch and extruded hand building techniques have been introduced during the first few weeks of this class along with throwing skills. For this final project students will create a unique form that utilizes one or more of these techniques.

PARTICIPATION

There will be an in class critique on the due date for each of the projects. These critiques provide an opportunity for a dialogue of constructive criticism that helps the artist/designer to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their work. Each student is expected to contribute to this discussion. Your participation grade is based in part on your willingness to join in during the critique. If you are absent from a critique your project is considered late, and the highest grade you can receive for that project is a "B-". There is no way of making up the points lost for missing a critique or for not participating in the discussion.

REQUIRED MATERIALS - *Mark all your tools with a permanent marker*

- Metal and wooden ribs 8 piece pottery tool kit
- Trimming tools (wire loop tools) 8 piece pottery tool kit
- Potter's needle 8 piece pottery tool kit
- Sponge 8 piece pottery tool kit
- Wire cutter 8 piece pottery tool kit
- Fettling knife
- Spray bottle
- Sketchbook/notebook
- Plastic bags to cover ceramic projects
- Clay - **All clay should be stoneware (cone 5)**
- Small bucket for water
- Closed toe sensible shoes + long hair must be tied back

OTHER RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Storage container for tools
- Canvas or fabric (to cover boards, or to spread out on the table)
- Calipers
- Towel
- Rolling Pin
- Metal ruler

Tool Kit Items Due On Tuesday, September 5th. All other materials can be purchased prior to each project. An 8 piece pottery tool starter kit is from Freeform Clay Supply.

Free Form Clay Supply

1912 Cleveland Ave, National City CA 91950

Phone: (619) 477-1004

Hours: 8:00am-4:00pm Monday thru Friday

freeformclay.com

clay@freeformclay.com

ATTENDANCE

Per PLNU policy, your attendance is required at every class session. If you are absent it is your responsibility to find out, and make up, whatever you have missed. The following attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

1-2 unexcused absences	No effect
3-4 unexcused absences	1/2 grade deduction each
5-6 unexcused absences	Whole grade deduction each
6+ unexcused absences	Fail
1-15 minutes late	Tardy
4 Tardy	Absent

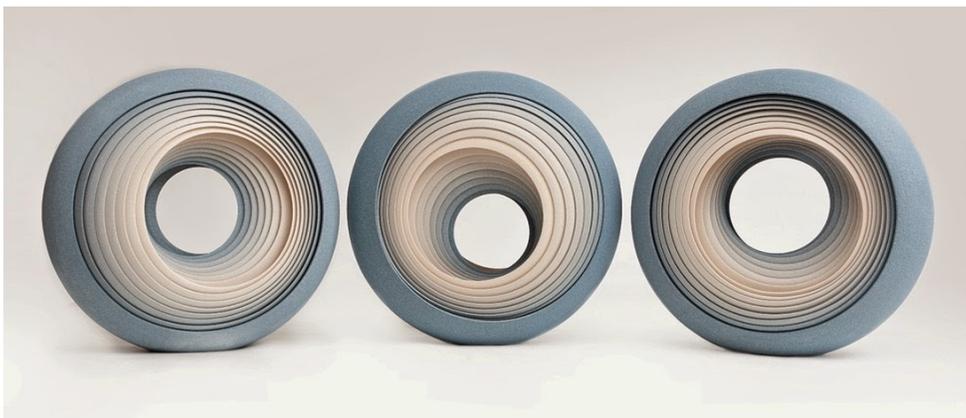
GRADING POLICY

While the grading of art is necessarily subjective, I try to approach each student's work as fairly and objectively as possible, taking in to account each of the student's circumstances & abilities. Individual work will be graded on the following components

- Meets Project Requirements
- Composition/Visual
- Craftsmanship/Technical
- Concept/Creativity
- Effort

A more specific breakdown of how individual projects are to be evaluated will be provided in a handout upon the introduction of each project. Individual projects will receive a formal evaluation upon completion.

Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic one letter grade deduction. For each additional day the assignment is late an additional letter grade will be deducted.



FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Grades will be based on a total number of points accumulated during the semester, with a possible total of 800 points.

5 Major Projects - 800 points.

A	93 - 100% of possible points
A-	90 - 92% of possible points
B+	87 - 89% of possible points
B	83 - 86% of possible points
B-	80 - 82% of possible points
C+	77 - 79% of possible points
C	73 - 76% of possible points
C-	70 - 72% of possible points
D+	67 - 69% of possible points
D	63 - 66% of possible points
D-	60 - 62% of possible points
F	0 - 59% of possible points

CELL PHONES

Turn off all ringers. Do not take/make calls or text in class. If you have an emergency or special circumstance, please explain it to me in advance. Do not listen to personal music devices in class, no earbuds or headphones. When you are in class, work to be sure that your full attention is here as well. You may use a laptop in class only if you are engaged in research that is specifically related to the course related task at hand.

The following will be enforced for each infraction:

1st offense	warning
2nd offense	tardy
3 or more	an absence for each offense

CLEAN UP

Ceramics, by its nature is a messy process. It is important that you clean up after yourself. This includes the classroom and anywhere else that you might work. These are areas that we all share and use, so be courteous and leave your work area as clean as or cleaner than you found it. If you habitually neglect to clean up after yourself your final grade can be lowered by a full letter grade. The Throwing Studio is for the use of students enrolled in the class. Students are not allowed to have their friends use the equipment, or to use the equipment in a manner that is inappropriate as it may cause damage.



STORAGE

When possible, the art department tries to provide students with storage areas for materials and works in progress. For smaller items you can claim a locker by putting a Master Lock on an empty locker and registering the combination with Allyson in the art department. office. Be sure to mark all materials that belong to you.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated in the university catalog, "Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course." See Academic Policies in the undergrad student catalog.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See Academic Policies in the undergrad student catalog.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See Policy Statements in the undergrad student catalog.