

ART 250 Beginning Ceramics

Jacqueline(Jackie) Lau, RM. E 101, 735-4889, jacqueline.lau@adjunct.chaminade.edu

This course offers a basic studio experience in clay through hand-building technique. It is a college level fine arts research course and not a recreational activity.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will gain technical knowledge in ceramics (PLO 1)

Students will create ceramics art works as personal expression. (PLO 1, 2, 3)

Students will appreciate fine-arts ceramics as a medium of communication. (PLO 4)

Students will interpret life, culture and faith as sources of design. (PLO 3, 4)

Objectives:

To achieve basic skills and technical knowledge of clay, glaze and firing.

To develop a general understanding of ceramics esthetics.

To cultivate creative thinking by developing individual solutions.

To learn to perform effectively and responsibly in a shared classroom environment.

To develop project's concept out of personal concerns to life and cultural diversity.

To participate in the discussion at critique time and learn to understand self and others.

This course focuses on developing the skills to express personally meaningful ideas through a creative process. Students are encouraged to consider the following elements; faith & reason, logic & intuition, symbolism & realism, expression & expectation, material possibilities & varied effects, original vision & translation to form, completion & reflection, presentation & feedback.

Research requirements:

Individual research is a vital part of quality learning. This includes reading, viewing artwork (museums, periodicals, internet), pre-production design development and personal experimentation.

Suggested Reading:

Books on contemporary and historical developments in 3 dimensional art of any medium (not limited to ceramics) are good to study.

Writing requirements:

- #1 What is your experience with art? What is art? What do you plan to gain from class?
- #2 What changes do you see in yourself as a result of this class? How has it affected the value of art and creativity in your life now? (Check with "Reflection Guide")
- #3 Describe your best work of the semester. (concept, design, technical input, reflection on the result)
Turn it in with a photo of the work.

Oral requirements:

Be able to discuss project ideas, work experience and technical information during the critique and regular class. Plus/minus points may be applied.

Project requirements: 4 projects (about 13 works) must be completed. The following three design values must be considered in the development of your work ideas:

- A. Traditional values: Technical excellence, reference to historical or cultural subjects, practical efficiency, elegance of design, difficulty of challenge.
- B. Personal values: Creative originality, unique thinking, personal meaning.
- C. Cultural values: Human and global concerns expressed through symbolism and design to create content or a message to stimulate healthy values in self and society.

Project #1. Pinch and coil methods, 5 works due by Friday, September 21. (4th week)

Get used to the nature of the clay, working discipline, course objectives, open and closed form exercises, maquettes (small working models.) Experiment with larger size and complicated forms. Explore a variety of surface design techniques.

Project #2. Slab method, 3 works due by Friday, October 12. (7th week)

Experiment with flat sheets of clay in a variety of ways. Develop expressive concepts relating to our natural and built environment using design principles of balance, rhythm, contrast and harmony.

Project #3. Vessels and Containers, combined methods, 3 works due by Friday, November 2.

(10th week) Use previously learned pinch, coil and slab techniques to develop an ideal vessel form. It can be fantasy based or functional and will include research, exploratory drawings and written description of its qualities and capabilities

Project #4. Mosaics and mini murals, 2 works due by Friday, December 7. (Final week of semester)

Learn how to work in sculptural relief with an emphasis on composition, layout, color and assembly with multiple media.

Tools and material: Clay-

50 pounds of High Fire Stoneware clay (cone 10) \$20. Most students will use at least and possibly more than 100lb of clay during the semester, (\$80 or more for personal clay cost) work tool kit (about \$20), brush, ruler, towel, work clothes (apron),

Stores:

University of Hawaii Bookstore, or Kapiolani Community College Bookstore (\$10/bag)
Ceramics Hawaii, 501 Kokea street, Bldg. #6, 845-8100 (\$?)
Ceramic Hobbyist, 1204 Kona street, 593-4420 (\$?)

Clay purchase policy:

All students are encouraged to purchase their own clay from the sources listed above. Those who don't have transportation or have a very difficult situation in getting to the

store, (work after school, physical limitations), must arrange to purchase clay from the instructor well ahead of time, (\$12 per 25lb bag).

Technical lab experience:

All students in ceramics program are encouraged to learn about the lab operating work that goes into the completion of their work. This experience improves the understanding and appreciation of one's work. Those who participate in lab operations, (kiln loading, unloading, glaze mixing, lab cleaning, etc.), may be considered for extra points at the instructors discretion.

Other class-conduct policy: **(Respect for others is an absolute Rule.)**

No CD or radio playing including all personal music listening devices during class.

No friends or visitors allowed in the class without instructor's approval. Only those who registered for the course are allowed to work in the lab. This rule applies outside the class hours. Objects produced without approval will be discarded.

Turn off your cell-phone before coming into the lab.

Grading standards: See Grading System for detail.

POINT SYSTEM FOR GRADING PROJECTS

- A. (93-100) Outstanding achievement with an unusual strength of creativity and originality in concept and design, performed with a supreme control of technique. Highest level of understanding on all the subjects of the course. Perfect or near perfect attendance and participation throughout the semester.
 - B. (85-92) Superior work with a high degree of creativity, originality and technical mastery. Very good understanding on the subjects of the course. All the requirements for the course are completed in above average to excellence. Near perfect attendance and participation throughout the semester.
 - C. (77-84) Average work with a touch of originality and an adequate level of technique. Acceptable level of understanding on the subjects of the course. All the requirements for the course are completed adequately. Very good attendance with make-up work covering all the missed class hours.
 - D. (70-76) Below average work with a lack of originality and a low level of technical skill. Bottom basic understanding of the subjects of the course. Poor attendance, Poor interest in the subject and/or poor completion of requirements.
- (below 70) Failed to grasp even the minimum level of understanding for the course.
Excessive absence and/or lack of interest in the course deemed unacceptable.

ATTENDANCE POINT SYSTEM

You must attend all classes for satisfactory participation, understanding of information and achievement of high quality work in all projects. 30 points are calculated into the earning of points for your grade. Missing 1 hour is a loss of 1 and ½ point. Missing 20 hours (10 days)

results in failing the course even with the highest quality projects and other requirement completed. You must be on time for the class and must put in full class hours of work. Being late for class and leaving early are counted in loss of points accordingly. A half of the loss of points for one-day absence caused by an inevitable situation can be recovered by the same hours of work outside the regular class time immediately following the missed day. This must be done through the instructor's approval, and the progress of your work must be checked for its quality. Up to 5 times of make-up work may be credited but no more. Trying to recover the lost points much later is not accepted, although you are expected to put in the work sometime to satisfy project requirements. Working on your own outside the class hours is not credited for participation.

Participation in class is the most important requirement.

Ceramics and Sculpture courses are college level, fine arts research courses. They are offered as an academic elective requirement in the liberal arts program of Chaminade University. They are not offered as recreational activities.

Distribution of points

	Regular	Advanced
Attendance	30	10
Project #1	15	20
Project #2	15	20
Project #3	15	20
Project #4	20	20
Self-conduct	-5 each offense	-10
<u>(Respect for everyone's right to learn without disturbance is absolutely sacred.)</u>		
Essays	5 for all three (-2 for lack of each)	10 for all projects
Quiz	0 to -10	0 to -10
Service learning credit	Individual arrangement needs approval.	

Project Evaluation Criteria (% value for each criteria is up to the instructor's discretion)

- Technical achievement
- Creativity and originality of concept
- Design excellence
- Quality of completion and presentation

No incomplete grade is given for the lack of time to finish projects or other requirements. All the requirements must be completed by the last day of instruction. Final grade is determined by the accumulation of points and the degree of progress in learning throughout the semester. Repeat offenders or serious violators of class conduct standards whether immature or inconsiderate, shall be expelled from class and taken off the class roster

ACADEMIC GOALS

While academic goals are measurable in points, there are many intangible goals fine arts courses aim for students to achieve. They are all part of the important values for developing a wholesome person through working in a shared learning environment with a highly responsible attitude.

1. Promote confidence in decision making and potential capabilities.
2. Develop mature organizational skills and patience.
3. Learn to appreciate differences in point of view and interpretation, valuing diversity.
4. Learn to connect academic values to the development of healthy personal values.
5. Broaden the spectrum of appreciation for art and culture.
6. Learn to accept the responsibility for one's own accomplishment.
7. Achieve personal goals relating to the course.

Lectures on basic information, technical, historical and cultural development relating to the course subject will be given in the early stages of the semester. Continuing personal research on art and subjects relating to a personal concept development is highly encouraged. Also, a brief lecture on Marianist's philosophy will be given to further a better understanding of Chaminade University's mission.

Dates	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
August 27, 29, 31	Orientation, Procedures and work habits. Logo stamp, design & create	Handbuilding Techniques: Intro & Rev. Pinch demo, open and closed forms	Begin P1 - Research forms for coil project. Pinch small models, sketch all
September 3, 5, 7	LABOR DAY - no class	Coil demo, Create "shrink slab," plan & build base, tools. Proper wrap & storage	Controlling your form, building w/ coils, up, in & out. Firm joins & surface work
10, 12, 14	Continue coils: joining sections, closing forms, venting	Texture and finishing touches for P1. Prep for drying & firing	AV presentation: Ceramic History pt. 1 quiz material, written assignment
17, 19, 21	Glazing demo. Glaze P 1	Start P2. Wheel demo, wedging, centering, throwing cylinders	P1 Critique
24, 26, 28	Slab demo: cylinders, cones, boxes, paper patterns & timing. Practice wheel	AV presentation: Clay as Architecture create maquettes. Sketch ideas	Choose model. Use slab and wheel skills to make series of elements needed
October 1, 3, 5	Combine elements to construct balanced composition. Symmetry?	Complete construction, work surface design and texture. Emph. mass/void	Start P3: Vessels and Containers. AV presentation. Demo altered cylinders
8, 10, 12	DISCOVERER'S DAY - no class	Glaze P 2. Quiz notice & info + essay: "Ideal Vessel, Qualities & Capabilities"	P2 Critique
15, 17, 19	Bowl demo on wheel. Practice & experiment w/ many stretched forms.	Quiz & turn in essays. Work on creating a set of 5 pieces. Make extras	Quiz review. Complete vessels.
22, 24, 26	Glaze P3	Begin P4: Wall Art, mini murals and mosaics. AV presentation	Choose Theme: Land/seascape, abstract, symbolic. Sketch lay-out small & full size
November 29, 31, 2	Demo Sketching in clay, creating relief & elements w/ multiple techniques	Continue mural/ mosaic components. Consider shadows, light & dark	P3 Critique
5, 7, 9	Add pre-bisque color	Arrange pieces on kiln shelves for firing	Last day to withdraw. Make pot sale work
12, 14, 16	VETERAN'S DAY - no class	Glaze P4.	Practice favorite techniques
19, 21, 23	Last week, wet clay. Assemble murals...	Finish P4 & wet work	THANKSGIVING RECESS - no class
26, 28, 30	Glazing	Glazing, Pot sale prep. no work after 3	POT SALE - Glazing until 11:30
December 3, 5, 7	Final day for glazing	Final Essay Due, Last Firing	P4 Critique
10, 12, 14	CLEAN LOCKERS & PICK-UP WORK		