

FACE 112 BEGINNING CERAMICS

USC FALL SEMESTER 2015

Professor: Phyllis Green (www.phyllisgreen.net)
USC Email: pgreen@usc.edu
Phone: 213.740.2787
Office Hours: Thursday 5pm-6pm, or by appointment
Office location: Watt Hall 108

Lab Assistant: Farnaz Sabet
Class meetings: TTH, 2 pm to 4:50 pm Watt Hall 108
BLACKBOARD: [20153_face_112_33252](#)

Course Description:

This class is an introduction to ceramic materials and processes, focusing on the transformation of clay from a fragile, impermanent substance to a rigid, permanent material by drying and firing. Basic hand building skills (pinch, coil, slab) and techniques of glazing and finishing will be introduced by lectures, demonstrations and visual aids. This is not a throwing class, nor is it exclusively a pottery class. Personal and cultural expression in clay will be encouraged. The use of ceramics in contemporary artistic practice and the social history of ceramics will be discussed.

Workload and Activities:

Students are expected to remain in class for the duration of every class meeting. Announcements, instructions and demonstrations will be provided at the beginning of each class, unless otherwise noted. Students are expected to work on studio assignments during class time. Expect to work outside of class time as necessary. Workload outside of class tends to be greater toward the end of the semester.

Lab hours:

Students enrolled in classes have unlimited access to the studio. Lab access during scheduled classes, other than the one you are enrolled in, is at the consent of the instructor. A key to the studio will be available in Locker 1. The combination is 1000. (1-0-0-0) Please do not provide this number to students not enrolled in this class. Individuals not enrolled in ceramics classes currently, even if they are USC students, are not permitted to work in the studio.

Students working in the studio outside of class time, particularly at night, are expected to maintain a safe and clean work environment. **Do not work in the studio alone at night!** Please clean up your workspace and store your work properly when you leave the studio.

Evaluation and Grading

Technique exercises	15%
Project 1: COIL (Midterm)	25%
Project 2: SLAB	20%
Project 3: FINAL	30%
Written Report	<u>10%</u>
	100%

To be eligible for an A, all assigned projects must be completed and presented on the specified "due date". Students may work on projects of their own choice as long as assigned projects are completed and USC studio procedures are observed

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Evaluation and Grading (continued)

Projects will generally be assessed according to concept and technique. (Criteria for different assignments vary, and will be included in the directions for the particular assignment.)

Students are required to present work at group critiques, and to participate in the discussion.

Late projects and assignments are penalized. Grade penalty increases every class date after the due date that projects are submitted for critique.

With the prior consent of the instructor, students may re-do assignments to improve the grade. The revised version must be presented in a time frame agreed upon by the instructor.

Students who are enrolled as "Pass/No Pass" must complete all assignments to pass.

Extra credit assignments are only available under extraordinary circumstances.

Attendance

The head of the Ceramics Area has developed the following policy for all ceramics classes:

Class attendance is required. Attendance in all class meetings is a basic responsibility of every USC student. Although students are evaluated on their demonstrated knowledge through project development, papers/assignments, quizzes, critiques, and exams, the Roski School of Fine Arts believes important skills such as verbal presentation, discussion, and articulation of critical issues are equal measures of demonstrated knowledge. Central to the learning experience is the direct contact between the student and the faculty, which advances students' understanding of Fine Arts concepts through shared exploration. There is valuable contact time within each studio class period and students must be present as this cannot be covered through readings, out-of-class projects and other supplemental learning methods.

Attendance policies are as follows:

- After missing 3 classes the student's grade and ability to complete the course will be negatively impacted.
- For each subsequent absence, the student's letter grade will be lowered by 0.5 grade.
- Being absent on the day a project, quiz, paper, exam, or critique occurs or is due **can** lead to an "F" for that project, quiz, paper, exam, or critique.
- It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.
- It should be understood that 100% attendance does not positively affect a final grade.
- Any falsification of attendance may be considered grounds for a violation of ethics before the University Office of Student Judicial Affairs.
- Tardies can accumulate and become equivalent to an absence.

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Attendance (continued)

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
 - A student is considered tardy if they arrive to class 6 min after the beginning of class; they are considered absent if they arrive 30 min or later after 2 pm.
 - After a first warning, students who persist in the following disruptive activities: sleeping, texting, emailing or online browsing for purposes other than class research, will result in a tardy for that class session.
 - Students will be considered absent if they leave without the instructor's approval before the class has ended or if they take un-approved breaks that last longer than 30 min. If a student leaves class without the instructor's permission for more than 15 min during or at the end of class, this break will be noted. Any combination of three of the above (being tardy, taking over a 15 min break or leaving early) will equal one absence.
 - Once a student accrues seven absences, they will not be able to obtain credit for the course.

Studio Performance

In order to keep the work environment safe, students are responsible for clean up and general studio maintenance. These activities include cleaning and maintaining equipment, proper storing of supplies and tools, and observing studio procedures re kiln loading and firing. A general studio clean up will be held at the end of the semester. Participation is mandatory.

No calling AND no texting, please. Please turn off cell phones during class. Do not lay phones on worktables. If you must make a call, please leave the classroom. (See Attendance Policy, above) Online research should be accomplished before the class meets, not during the class. If you require printed images for reference, please print these outside of class. Ipod listening is permitted after the lecture. You may be asked to limit your iPod use if your attention is not focused on classroom activity.

Lockers: Lockers are available on a "first come first served" basis. Two students must share one locker. Provide your own lock and make sure that both students are able to open it. Label your locker with your names and "FALL 15".

Supplies:

The lab fee covers many of the materials you will use, including 6 bags of clay, glazes and stains, the firing of your clay pieces, and the cost of maintaining the kilns and other studio equipment.

Students are responsible for providing clay and tools for personal use. Tools should be brought to every class. While you may borrow tools from our supply, do not rely on these for the semester. Students are required to provide their own brushes. (See below)

A tool kit and various other tools are available for sale in the USC Student Bookstore. The Ceramics Tool Kit is available in the Art Supply Section, Third Floor for \$29.95. Do not purchase the kit for wheel throwing. Tools may also be purchased at local art supply stores or online from retailers of ceramic products. (E.g. Aardvark, Laguna Clay Company, or even Blinks)

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Please acquire the following tools and supplies by the second week. Not having appropriate tools will limit your progress in completing the assignments and the technical assistance I can provide.

Sketchpad or note pad, pencil
Elephant ear or hydra (synthetic) sponge
Metal ruler
Cutting wire
Fettling knife (hard steel)
Serrated metal rib, or metal or plastic fork for "scoring"
Various wooden or metal ribs
Wire pin or needle tool

Clear plastic sheeting, e.g. dry cleaner bags, for covering work
Inexpensive natural bristle paint brushes, e.g. ½", 1" or brushes purchased from Bookstore
Container for tools
Optional: Apron or smock, skin cream, particle mask, and gloves

It is recommended that you label your tools and supplies with a Sharpie.

Clay Purchases:

Your lab fee includes the cost of six bags of clay. Additional bags may be purchased as necessary. Karen Chu will give you another bag of clay when a bag is depleted and keep a record of your clay use. Please be responsible with your clay supply. Retain the clay in closed, sealed bags until you are ready to work. Do not dispose of clay that can be stored and used on another date, or re-hydrated for use.

The particular clay body selected for use by the instructor for a project must be used. The clay that we will use for most assignments is an earthenware body known as EM234. Additional types of clay are available for purchase from FARNAZ at the cost of \$6.00 to \$9.00, depending on the type of clay. NOTE: Additional clay is available for purchase by cash ONLY. No checks. No credit. **No exceptions.** Kindly make your clay requests to FARZAZ at the beginning of a class meeting, by 2:30 pm.

Please write your name plus the name of the clay body on each bag you purchase. Do not use any other clay body without permission of the instructor.

Firing Procedures

Work will not be fired, bisque nor glaze, if it not properly prepared for firing. This means greenware must NOT be a solid chunk of clay, but that it should be no more than ½" thick in any area. Forms with enclosed air spaces must have an opening inserted (perforation) for the air to escape.

Work that is bisqued and to which glaze has been applied for the final firing will not be fired if the glaze application is too thick and if glaze has not been cleaned off of the bottom. Low fire work glazed for firing must have the glaze cleaned off 1/8" from the bottom edge, and high fire work ½" from the bottom. Works that do not conform will not be fired.

All work must be labeled with the cone firing temperature on the bottom or it will not be glaze fired. THIS NOTE CAN BE WRITTEN WITH A PENCIL.

There will be a shelf for works that do not conform to the above procedures. Students are responsible for retrieve their work from this shelf and for correcting the problem so their work will go through the firing cycle.

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Visiting Artists

Lectures by visiting ceramic artists will be scheduled on various days during this semester, on Mondays and Wednesdays as well as on the days we meet. These are open to all Roski students and you are encouraged to attend. Watch for the poster that details the Undergraduate Lecture Series and Graduate Lecture Series, which offer presentations by local and international artists.

Jianhua Liu, Shanghai China, Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 2 p.m.

Bui Cong Khanh, Vietnam, Monday, November 23, 2015. 2 pm

There are many opportunities to see exhibitions of work in clay and other media in Southern California. (see below) Watch the bulleting board for announcements of current shows. These will be updated during the semester.

Exhibitions

AUGUST 24 TO SEPTEMBER 10 – Ceramics Area show (work from Fall 2014 and Spring 2015), Lindhurst Gallery.

Ralph Bacerra – Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art & Design

Students of Ralph Bacerra – Vincent Price Art Museum, East Los Angeles College

Kathy Butterly – Shoshanna Wayne Gallery

USC Pacific Asia Museum – Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition, September 11, 2015 – January 31, 2016.

American Museum of Ceramic Art – Pomona, CA

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Statement for Students with Disabilities -Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the professor as early in the term as possible. DSP is open Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00.

The office is located in Grace Ford Salvatori Hall, 210, 3601 Watt Way.

Phone: 213- 740-0776 / Video Phone: 213-814-4618 / FAX: 213- 740-8216 E-mail: ability@usc.edu

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.

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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/academicssupport/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.

Roski admissions information

For information and an application to become a Fine Arts minor; please visit <http://roski.usc.edu/minors/> Please contact Christina Aumann <aumann@usc.edu> or 213-740-6260 with any questions about a minor in the Fine Arts. To become a Fine Arts major, please visit: http://roski.usc.edu/undergraduate_programs/ Please contact Penny Jones at Penelope@usc.edu or 213-740-9153 with any questions about majoring in Fine Arts. Applications are due October 1st and March 1st every year.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of a campus emergency, call DPS at 213-740-4321. (from campus phones 04321)
Every building on campus has a designated assembly area in the event that the building must be evacuated. The area for Watt Hall is the South Lawn, near Exposition Blvd. To reach this location, exit the studio, turn right, exit the main door of the building, turn right and proceed to the lawn area.

IMPORTANT DATES: FALL SEMESTER 2015

August 24 (Monday) – Fall semester begins
September 7 (Monday) – Labor Day Holiday
September 11 (Friday) – Last Day to register or add classes. Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W” and to change enrollment to Pass/No Pass
November 13 (Friday) – Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W.”
November 25 – 28 (Wed./Thurs./Friday) Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4 (Friday) – Fall semester classes end
December 5 – 8 (Saturday through Tuesday) – Study days
December 9 – 16 – Final Exams/Critiques

FACE 112 – Beginning Ceramics – Green – December 10 (Thursday) 2 - 4 pm
ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

Elaine Levin Papers – Elaine Levin, a noted local scholar in ceramics, has donated her research, writings, interviews, images, catalogues, etc. to USC. They were delivered over the summer. The library has just begun to sort through them. This fall students will have access only to her files with research.
To view the paper files, follow the procedure below:

Contact: Stacy Williams, Head, Architecture and Fine Arts Library, via phone (213) 740-8646 or email stacyw@usc.edu with name of ceramicist they want to look at-be available to view the file(s) M-F 9-5.

