

Course Syllabus for ART 330/430

Intermediate and Advanced Ceramics
Spring 2018

Instructor Thomas Müller

Class Mon/Wed 2:00-4:50, Watt Hall 107

Office Mon/Wed 10:00am-11am, or by appointment, Watt Hall 108A

Studio Tech Farnaz Sabet

Course Description

This course will build upon the skills students have acquired in previous courses. While the focus will be on handbuilding and glazing skills, this course will offer a broader, more conceptual understanding of what ceramics is and what it can be. Students will be expected to challenge themselves and really stretch their imagination as to what the material can do for them.

Each project will have both a technical component as well as a conceptual component. It is essential to fully explore both aspects in order to come to a successful resolution.

330 students will work through a suite of projects for the semester.

430 students have the option to, either work through the same projects with 330, or present me with a body of work that they would like to pursue for the semester.

Both sections will participate in all critiques, discussions, visiting artists, field trips, etc.

Projects

This course will consist of 3-4 major projects (variable for 430), a reading/research assignment, a presentation on an artist, and in-class exercises. Each project will take approximately 2-4 weeks. As the semester progresses students will be working on two projects at once. As one is finishing the next one will be beginning. Students should not attempt to “cram” for the course; the medium simply won’t allow it. If students use their time wisely there should be ample time to complete the projects.

While most class periods will be spent working on projects, you are expected to spend at least 5-7 hours a week outside of class time on your projects.

We expect to have at least 1 visiting artist this semester (to be determined). Attendance and participation is expected. Visiting artists are a unique opportunity to ask practicing artists directly about their work and practice, whether technical, conceptual or simply how they live their lives as artists.

Grades

All projects will be presented for the whole class to discuss and critique. All students are expected to participate in critiques. *Your participation is considered part of your grade.* Students learn as much from their peers as they do from any other aspect of the class. Projects will be graded based on craftsmanship (as it relates to both building and glazing), thoughtfulness to form, creative solutions, originality and effort. 430 students are expected to be continually pushing and challenging themselves and pushing their own work forward. In order for grades to be calculated fairly, all projects must be turned in on time. No exceptions. Critiques will begin promptly at the beginning of class. Late projects will be penalized 1 full grade. Projects more than 1 class period late will not be accepted. Again, artists learn from one another, it is imperative that everyone sees everyone else's work. Each project will, most likely, have several due dates. i.e.: finished building, bisque firing, glazing, etc. I will make all the due dates and times clear and you will be responsible for them. If a project should blow up in the kiln or fall apart due to poor craftsmanship or lack of attention, it is the student's own responsibility. The student can "re-make" the piece, if there is room in the kilns and time. The project will be considered late.

430 students will be working with Farnaz and I to come up with a building and kiln firing schedule. Schedule will be based on scale, amount, need and overall studio firing schedule. Once you have your firing schedule, you will be responsible for those dates and times. 430 students must help load their own work into the kilns.

DISTRIBUTION FOR FINAL GRADE	
Projects/Research Assignment	80%
Participation	10%
Studio Etiquette	10%
Attendance	(-)%
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Final Grade	100%

Attendance is mandatory.

- You are allowed **2** free absences, no questions asked.
- For **each** subsequent absence (excused or otherwise), the student's letter grade will be lowered by 1 grade.
- Being absent on the day a project, quiz, paper, exam, or critique 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.
- **4** Tardies become equivalent to an absence.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
- A student is considered tardy if they arrive to class 1-5 min after the beginning of class; they are considered absent if they arrive 6 min or later.

- 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.

Attendance for the Final is mandatory. Missing the Final will result in loss of **2** full grade levels. *Our Final is scheduled for Monday, May 7th, 2pm-4pm.*

Shelves, lockers and all work must be removed from the classroom by *5 pm on Thursday, May 10th at 5 pm*. Students who do not clean out their own work or lockers by this deadline, will be penalized a half a letter grade.

Sketchbooks You are expected to keep a sketchbook in this class. It can take any form you like. You should keep any handouts I give or notes you take from class in your sketchbook. You should also use it to work out ideas for projects, whether it be through sketches, drawings, notes, or found images. A sketchbook is an invaluable tool for any artist. I will be checking them at midterm and at the end of the semester.

Studio Etiquette

A dirty studio is unhealthy and not conducive to work. Each Student is required to *wet sponge* the work area and any studio tools he or she has used. This includes the floor. Poor clean-up will negatively impact your grade. Unless you have specific permission from Farnaz or myself you must put your work away at the end of each day. Work left out on the communal tables will be moved at the students own risk.

The class will do a general studio clean-up at least once during the semester.

Never handle someone else's work unless absolutely necessary.

Please turn off cell phones during class. Students using devices while the professor is speaking will be asked to leave the class and will be considered absent.

Tools

You are expected to have your own ceramic tool kit by the 2nd class meeting.

- clay

Clay may be purchased through the USC ceramics department. You will have the opportunity to purchase a clay starter kit for \$50 that will include **5** 25lb bags of clay that will be delivered to the studio. (details to follow). Additional clay may be purchased as the semester progresses.

Students do have the option to purchase clay off campus, they must receive, not only permission, but technical specifications from faculty. This is, however, discouraged.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate conceptual and technical knowledge of ceramics.
- Students will have the skill and confidence to build most any clay sculptures they can conceive of.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of vocabulary and terminology.
- Students will be able to form an opinion and critique finished art works.

The instructor reserves the right to orally make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course of the session.

Contact Info

- Office Phone: X12891
- Public Safety: 213-740-6000
- Emergency: 213-740-4321
- tmuller@usc.edu (I will respond within 24 hours)

**“Being an artist is like jumping off a plane and making a parachute on the way down.”
-jean-pierre laroque**

Suppliers

AARDVARK CLAY & SUPPLIES
1400 E. Pomona St., Santa Ana, CA 92705
714-541-4157

*LAGUNA CLAY CO. **
14400 Lomitas Ave., City of Industry, CA 91746
626.330.0631

*orders from Laguna must be pre-ordered, there is no shop and they won't let you order on site

NOTES on Grading

C is considered an average grade. A **C** is given when the project is completed as prompted. Craftsmanship is adequate.

B is considered above average. Project goes beyond expectations of the prompt. Craftsmanship is excellent.

A is considered excellent well above average work. Project exceeds expectations of the prompt, student brings their own voice to the project and creates something truly original. Craftsmanship is, of course, excellent.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/part-b>. 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, intimate partner violence, stalking, and harassment are prohibited by the university. You are encouraged to report all incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Office <http://equity.usc.edu> and/or to the Department of Public Safety <http://dps.usc.edu>. This is important for the health and safety of the whole USC community. Faculty and staff must report any information regarding an incident to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide outreach and information to the affected party. The sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> fully describes reporting options. Relationship and Sexual Violence Services <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp> provides 24/7 confidential support.

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://ali.usc.edu>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs <http://dsp.usc.edu> 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.