



Art 130: Ceramics I

Units: 4

Fall 2023—Monday/Wednesday—12:00PM-2:40PM

Location: Watt Hall, WAH 107

Instructor: Alex Anderson

Office: WAH 107

Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:00PM-4:00PM

Contact Info: alexa@usc.edu

Course Description

This course will offer an introduction to ceramic materials, processes, and history and will also build visual literacy and formal analysis skills through making and discussing ceramic objects. Students will gain an understanding of three-dimensional space and begin to physically engage with line and form through the development of hand building skills in clay. Students will approach clay as a sculptural material offering possibilities for the realization of form and surface as it aligns with concept and individual expressive inclinations. The technical elements of this course will build a foundation for students to create object-oriented narratives that give form to their worldviews.

Learning Objectives

1. Develop working proficiencies with hand building and surfacing techniques, ceramic materials, and firing processes
2. Engage medium-specific approaches to making meaning and expression
3. Use formal analysis and visual literacy structures to create and analyze art
4. Use terminology specific to the ceramic medium

Course Notes

Students will receive a letter grade for this course. All classes will take place in-person in Watt Hall, WAH 107. Experiential learning will be crucial for your development, so please do not miss class.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

There will be a group critique after the completion of each unit.

Assignments will be evaluated based on the consideration of proper application of core techniques, aesthetics, and conceptual and formal complexity.

Each of your assignments must adhere to the technical parameters below:

1. It must be made with hand building techniques and must be hollow
2. All enclosed volumes must have a hole
3. It must be at least 12 x 12 inches
4. It must have attachments that are securely scored and slipped to the surface.

Animal:

Render an animal of your choice using the demonstrated coil building methods to practice the basics of constructing a form with clay.

Before you make this sculpture, think about why you chose this specific animal and what it means to you. What is your relationship to this chosen subject or image? What do you want to highlight in this work? Which aspects of this animal are uniquely defining qualities? How can you use this form to express more than just a representation of your chosen animal?

Non-representational Self-portraits:

You will generate content through a self-reflection exercise that asks you to answer simple questions about who you are and how you see the world. You will then consider the imagery that comes to mind from this set of answers and compose it into at least two sculptures.

Narrative Part I:

Select a subject as the center of a narrative of your choice and use content, color, signs, and rendering to show your viewer how you see this subject and what you want them to see in it.

Narrative Part II:

Create a separate sculpture as context to your initially chosen subject that shifts or enhances its interpretation.

Participation

Participation will represent 15% of your final grade. In order to earn full credit for participation daily, you will need to be present in class and actively engaged in your projects. Taking small breaks, mentally processing your work, doing additional research, or drawing in place of constructing the object is also considered active engagement. Your participation in discussions and critiques is also a core component of this aspect of your grade.

Ceramics Technical Quiz

At the end of the second week, you will have a quiz assessing your knowledge of the basic principles of ceramics and general terminology.

Grading Breakdown

Table 1 Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Animal	20	20%
Non-representational Self-portraits	20	20%
Narrative part 1	20	20%
Narrative part 2	20	20%
Participation	15	15%
Terminology Quiz	5	5%
TOTAL	100	100

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

Table 2 Course Grading Scale

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Assignment Submission Policy

To receive credit, students must submit an image and any other supplemental materials described in the assignment to me via email by the prescribed deadline.

Grading Timeline

Students will receive midterm feedback and a final grade at the end of the semester. I will also check in individually as necessary.

Course Specific Policies

Phones are permitted for the purpose of searching for reference images and listening to music only. If phones become a distraction, students will be asked to store their phones upon entering the studio.

Attendance

You must be present for each class, as being present is essential for your growth. You will lose 3% of your final grade for each unexcused absence. If you have six unexcused absences, you will receive a failing grade in the course.

Classroom norms

1. Due to the nature of the work we are doing, cleanliness is essential. Please immediately clean every space, tool, or equipment you use and return everything to its proper location when you are finished.
2. The classroom studio environment is naturally social, but please remain focused on your work and keep your volume to a reasonable low level. Be respectful of potentially differing levels of comfort and keep conversation topics PG-rated.
3. Be nice to each other.
4. Be mindful that you are in a shared studio with limited space and consolidate your work in your storage areas to maximize space and be careful around other students' work.

Academic Integrity

Any aspect of academic dishonesty in your work will result in zero credit for that assignment.

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Course Evaluations

You will each receive a mid-semester evaluation to ensure you are aware of your progress and standing.

Course Schedule:

Please see the full course schedule continued on the following page.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Week 1 8/21-8/25	M: Syllabus review, Demonstration of coil building techniques, Introduction of animal sculpture, introduction of formal analysis framework W: Studio time	Plan and draw your animal sculpture. Continued independent studio work	Initial progress on animal sculpture
Week 2 8/28-9/1	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Complete rendering of animal
Week 3 9/4-9/8	M/W: Studio time M: Glazing and Surface demonstration	Continued independent studio work	Glazed animal due 9/8 via email
Week 4 9/11-9/15	M: Group critique for animals, Introduction of Non-representational self-portrait assignment W: Studio time	Plan and draw your non-representational self-portrait Continued independent studio work	Initial progress on non-representational self-portraits
Week 5 9/18-9/22	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Continued progress on non-representational self-portrait
Week 6 9/25-9/29	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Complete rendering of non-representational self-portraits
Week 7 10/2-10/6	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Glazed non-representational self-portraits due 10/6 via email
Week 8 10/9-10/13	M: Group critique of non-representational self-portraits Introduction to narrative assignment part I W: Studio time *Midterm Evaluations emailed	Plan and draw part I of your narrative assignment Continued independent studio work	Initial progress on narrative assignment part I
Week 9 10/16-10/20	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Continued progress on narrative assignment part I
Week 10 10/23-10/27	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Complete rendering of narrative assignment part I
Week 11 10/30-11/3	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Glazed narrative assignment part I due 11/3 via email

Week 12 11/6-11/10	M: Group Critique of Part I Introduction of Part II W: Studio Time	Plan and draw part II of your narrative assignment	Initial progress on narrative assignment part II
Week 13 11/13-11/17	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Complete rendering of narrative assignment part II
Week 14 11/20-11/24	M/W: Studio time	Continued independent studio work	Glazed narrative assignment part II due 11/29 via email.
Week 15 11/27-12/1	M: Studio time W: Final Group critique		
FINAL	Group critique and discussion in-person on 11/29	Final group critique and discussion is mandatory and will serve as your final examination.	Refer to the final exam schedule in the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at classes.usc.edu .

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services

(though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.