

Course Code & No. - Section:	CERM 210 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits):	Beginning Ceramics
Term & Year:	Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80176
Course Work:	3 credit art courses require 5 hours of work outside of class
Instructor:	Rick Parsons
Phone(s):	x 7587 or 970-948-5555 (Rick's cell for emergencies)
Email:	rparsons@sierranevada.edu
Office:	Holman 1 st Floor
Office Hours:	Wed. 1:00-3:00 pm or by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	MW 10:00 – 12:45 pm
Location:	Holman
Prerequisites:	CERM 210
Blog:	sncceramics.blogspot.com

Course Description

Clay is one of the most versatile creative mediums available to artists. In this class, students will learn how to work with clay as both a utilitarian and expressive medium. Topics will include beginning wheel throwing, hand building and glaze techniques. There will be a strong emphasis on idea development and creative problem solving.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Throw beginning pottery forms on the potter's wheel
2. Use basic hand building skills
3. Use basic glazing skills
4. Demonstrate knowledge of ceramic materials
5. Demonstrate knowledge of kilns including Raku, electric and gas
6. Demonstrate basic knowledge of how to load and fire kilns
7. Differentiate clay bodies, types of glazes and firing methods
8. Critique ceramic work

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Students will be required to complete assigned ceramic projects by their due date and participate in class discussions. Students will also be assessed for participation in critiques and studio operations such as loading kilns, firing kilns, keeping the studio clean, mixing clay and glazes.

Instructional Strategies

This course will incorporate instructor demonstrations, hands-on help with assigned projects and lab time to complete assignments. Occasionally there will be slides and videos about ceramics. Students will be involved with studio operations.

Required Texts and Materials

There is no required text. Basic pottery tool kit may be purchased at the SNC store. Also recommended: Old hand towel, sponge, texture tools, fettling knife, calipers, and paintbrushes.

Recommended Texts and Materials

Pottery on the Wheel by Elisabeth Woody (Not available in the SNC bookstore, but can be purchased online at book websites)

Clay is sold in the ceramics studio, and recycled clay is free.

Attendance

*Attendance is **mandatory**, as this class is participatory. 50% of your final grade is based on attendance, see grading policy below. **The final for this course is mandatory.** Plan to stay the entire semester and attend the final.*

Grading Policy

50% of your grade is based on attendance. Every class is worth 1.7 points and adds up to 50 points. Absences will only be excused for medical, curricular or family emergencies. Documentation will be required. All missed classes will have to be made up to receive all eligible attendance points. **If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be marked absent. You must stay and participate in class as well. If you leave early, you will also be marked absent.**

50% Completion of assigned projects, due at the start of class. No late projects will be accepted! NONE! No unfinished projects will be accepted.

Grading Scale

- 95-100 A
- 90-94 A-
- 85-89 B
- 80-84 B-
- 75-79 C
- 70-74 C-
- 65-69 D
- 60-64 D-
- 0-59 F

Safety Issues

*Please consider your well-being and those around you when working in the ceramics studio. Wear gloves and safety glasses or face shields when required. Don't sacrifice your safety for your ceramic work; you can make another piece, but you can't make new hands. **Do not put fired clay into the recycle clay buckets.** Tie long hair back when using the wheel, grinder or other rotating tools. Do not have long fingernails; they can cause hand injuries. Do not play with equipment: it can be dangerous.*

Studio Usage

Only students registered in a ceramics class at SNC may use the studio. Do not bring in your friends to play. Security will be given rosters, and will be checking to make sure that students using the wheels, etc. are indeed ceramics students.

End of the semester

At the end of the semester please gather all your things that are in the studio and recycle unwanted unfired pieces. Throw out other pieces that you do not want. We need to totally clear out the studio and prepare for the summer workshops. Consider taking one; they're amazing!

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts Professional Preparedness Entrepreneurial Thinking Sustainability

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

1. Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

Class Schedule

- **Week One**

Day 1 - *Introduction, discuss syllabi and studio operations, tour of studio, and hand building demo.*

Day 2 - *Pinch Pots*

- **Week Two**

Day 1 - Hollow form object

Thursday - Hollow form object

- **Week Three**

Day 1 - Hollow form object

Day 2 - Animals Due

- **Week Four**

Day 1 - **4 Cups**. *Possibilities of the cylinder!*

Day 2 - *(Weather permitting) Load and fire Raku kiln. Wear long pants, long sleeves (cotton is best, no nylon) and closed-toed shoes.*

- **Week Five**

Day 1 – *Cups due.*

Day 2 – *Bowl demonstration. Individual help and time to work on bowls. Prepare three bowls with three distinct functions. Three trimmed bowls due next Thursday.*

- **Week Six**

Day 1 - *Work on bowls.*

Day 2 – **Bowl critique.** *Glaze demonstration. Glaze cups and other projects.*

- **Week Seven**

Day 1 – *Coil The Doug Browe tech,*

Day 2 – *Coil*

- **Week Eight**

Day 1 – **Coil sculpture vessel critique.**

Day 2 – *Plate demo.*

- **Week Nine**

Day 1 – *Plates.*

Day 2 – *Plates.*

- **Week Ten**

Day 1 - ***Plates Due.***

Day 2 – *Thrown slab sculptures project.*

- **Week Eleven**

Day 1 - *Thrown slab sculptures project.*

Thursday – *Work on slab sculptures. Due Tuesday.*

- **Week Twelve**

Day 1 – **Slab sculpture critique.**

Day 2 – *Introduce final project (metamorphosis).*

- **Week Thirteen**

Day 1 – Final project

Day 2 - Final project

- **Week Fourteen**

Day 1 – Final project

Day 2 -. Final project

- **Week Fifteen**

Day 1 – Final project

Day 2 -. Final project

- **Week Sixteen** **Mandatory** Friday 12/8/15 8:00 am - 11:00 am **Sketchbook / Prezi due.**

No Class-

Labor Day – Monday September 7

Veterans Day –Wednesday November 11

Thanksgiving Break November 23-27

Self –Assessment and Evaluation

Rate yourself between one and twenty in each of the following categories. The purpose of this exercise is to help you realize that the grades you receive on assignments are not subjective.*

***Subjective- based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions**

1 - being lowest

20 - being highest

1. Subject matter or concept	20
2. Originality of idea	20
3. Treatment of medium (skill or craft aligns with concept)	20
4. Participation in dialog regarding subject matter (critique)	20
5. Rate your overall effort	20
	100 pts.

What were the strengths of this piece?

What were the weaknesses of this piece?

What was revealed in the process?

For Rick to fill out.

1. Subject matter or concept	20
2. Originality of idea	20
3. Treatment of medium (skill or craft aligns with concept)	20
4. Participation in dialog regarding subject matter (critique)	20
5. Rate your overall effort	20
	100 pts.

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Course Title _____ Date _____.

I have read and understand the above policy _____.