
Course Code & No. - Section:	CERM 210 - Section 2
Course Title (Credits):	Beginning Ceramics (3)
Term & Year:	Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80177
Instructor:	Sheri Leigh O'Connor
Phone(s):	X7588 or 775-741-7437 (cell, emergencies only please)
Email:	sleigh@sierranevada.edu
Office:	Holman, room 105
Office Hours:	T & R 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., and by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	MW 1:00 - 3:45 a.m.
Location:	Holman Arts and Media Center, room 103
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None

Course Description

Clay is one of the most versatile creative mediums available to artists. The student learns how to work with clay as both a utilitarian and expressive medium. Beginning wheel throwing, hand-building and glazing techniques are taught.

Student Outcomes:

- Ability to throw beginning pottery forms on the potter's wheel
- Possess basic handbuilding skills
- Possess basic glazing skills
- Possess some knowledge of ceramic materials
- Possess basic knowledge of kilns including Raku, electric and gas
- Possess basic knowledge of how to load and fire kilns
- Ability to differentiate clay bodies, types of glazes and firing methods
- Ability to critique ceramic work

Instructional Strategies

This course will incorporate:

- instructor demonstrations
- hands on help with assigned projects
- lab time to complete assignments
- slides about ceramics
- involvement in studio operations

Required Texts and Materials

There is no required text. **Recommended Text:** Pottery on the Wheel by Elsbeth Woody

Required:

Basic pottery tool kit is required. It may be purchased at the SNC store, online, at Michael's, etc. **Please get by Weds., August 19th.**

Attendance/Grading Policy

50% of your grade is based on attendance. You will have 3 available absences without penalty. Any absence above that will cause your grade to drop one full letter grade. You may be excused beyond three absences with medical documentation or permission of the instructor. **If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be marked absent. If you leave extremely early, you will also be marked absent. Clean up is at 3:30, not before.**

40% Completion of assigned projects, due at the start of class. **No late projects, or unfinished projects will be accepted! NONE! Come to class even if you don't have your project/s.** You will be given a self assessment sheet for certain assignments, and will receive it back with grade from Professor. Part of your grade will be your participation in critiques.

10% Participation and clean up. Participation includes helping with studio operations such as making clay, loading kilns, etc. Cleaning up one's mess and studio is also considered as part of this grade. You will be given a daily chore each class day, such as cleaning the wedging table, folding towels, etc.

Class Requirements

All students are required to come to class prepared with appropriate clothing and with their pottery tools and any requested support materials, and to get busy and work on assignments, not spending class time online.

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.

This honor code may apply to ceramics classes in these ways:

- You hand in a project that you didn't make
- You hand in a project that you made for another class, or assignment
- You hand in a project more than once claiming it's another piece

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

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.

Safety Issues:

Please consider your well-being and those around you when working in the ceramics studio. Wear a respirator when working with dry glaze materials and sweeping. 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, as 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 registered ceramics students.

End of the semester:

At the end of the semester please gather all your things that are in the studio and remove them unless you are taking ceramics again the next semester. Recycle unwanted *unfired* pieces. Throw out other pieces that you do not want. If you take a ceramics course next semester, you may leave items in the studio, but they must be clearly labeled SP 16 with your name, or they will be tossed or absorbed.

Enjoy your experience with clay. It is the most versatile, plastic direct medium available to artists. Clay has countless possibilities and with each assignment you'll be able to create your own unique interpretation. Tap into your creativity in this relaxed setting where new innovative ideas are strongly encouraged. You can make "inventions" out of clay that would be difficult to create out of any other material. I hope you have a memorable semester in here and enjoy working with clay.

Class Schedule (subject to change. Slip happens!)

Class	Date	Demonstrations/Assignments/Critiques (Subject to Change – Slip Happens)
1	Monday, August 17	Introduction, going over syllabus and studio operations, list of chores for y'all to do, tour of the Uber cool studio, etc. Then we'll do what I like to call a "Pottery Poetry Play" activity. Always dress appropriately in clothes you can get full of clay. CLAY is a Four Letter, Dirty Word!! Wanna buy a bumper sticker? Homework: BUY TOOLS! Sheri has some kits.
2	Wednesday August 19	Bought them tooooooools yet? <i>Note to reader: It's a good idea to read this syllabus as those of you who do read the whole thing, will have a totally legal, ethical advantage over the students who don't read the syllabus, and refer to it constantly, like you do, VS the students who have never read this.</i> Handbuilding demo - textured slab handbuilding project. Discuss Raku firing process. Please have your textured, handbuilt piece on the shelf by Friday morning, latest! Welcome Back Wacky Weenie Wednesday - tonight at 4:30! 1 st Event: Say that 10 times in a row as fast as you can. Lots of other wacky events too, <i>that aren't lame like that one.</i> Everyone is welcome!
3	Monday August 24	Raku glaze demo. Take turns glazing. Put on shelf for Raku firing. If you put it on the wrong shelf bad things will happen! Insert imagination here. Throwing demonstration of eggs, we'll be making clay eggs on the wheel, and then glaze <i>your first cool</i> piece to get glaze fired. <i>Note to reader past self, from future reading self: I'm soooooo glad that I read the syllabus, referred to it constantly, and listened to Sheri Leigh intensely! If I didn't, I'd feel so embarrassed that I didn't have my piece bisque fired,</i>

and had nothing to glaze today in class, whew!

- 4 Wednesday
August 26 (Weather permitting) **Load and fire Raku kiln. Wear long pants, long sleeves (cotton best, not nylon) and closed shoes.** *It so sucked to watch my down jacket melt before my eyes that one time...*
We'll load right at 1 pm, please be on time! *You DON'T want to miss out on this! It's super rad!*
While the kiln is firing, I'll do a tornado and volcano throwing demo, and you'll make them on the wheel. Then we'll unload Raku Kiln. **2 of each for next Monday's class** - due at start of class next Monday at 1pm. If they're not done before class, you'll get a zero. Don't come in 10 minutes before class to try and whip them out, We will not be firing them, *so don't get attached to your first babies, you're going to make much more firing worthy work, we'll recycle them.*
- 5 Monday
August 31 **Volcano and Tornadoes critique** You'll be graded on a completion basis only, with each one being 25%. Get all four or more done, you get 100% plus extra credit for every extra one. Pluses will tip the scale on your final grade if you have a lot of them! *Just sayin' ... This is great, who wouldn't try their best to get a lot of extra credit?!*
We'll also look at Sheri's cup collection. Then the infamous cups and handle pulling demonstration. Then a group handle pulling session. Individual help and time to work on cups.
Prepare 2 opposite cups for Wednesday, Sept. 9th's class. They must be trimmed, handles attached, and completely finished by the start of class, but not fired.
- 6 Wednesday
Sept. 2 Individual help and time to work on cups. **Due after Labor Day, Wednesday, Sept. 9th's class.** They must be trimmed, have handles attached, and completely finished, but not fired. *Yes, it's worth repeating. Just because there's always that one person..... (Yes you! Listen carefully to what I say during demos and discussions). NO TEXTING, TWEETING, or TWURKING during class! You might get clay dust in your phone and ruin it ;)* Metamorphosis sculpture discussion.
Bring 2 unlike objects to class next Wednesday too.
- 7 Monday
Sept. 7 **No Class – Labor Day – Have a blast!**

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| 8 | Wednesday
Sept. 9 | Bring two objects for Metamorphosis piece today. Cups critique. Metamorphosis sculpture discussion. Work on Metamorphosis Sculpture Project. <i>Wow, don't you have so many cool ideas right now? I'm stoked to work!</i> |
| 9 | Monday
Sept. 14 | Work on Metamorphosis Sculpture Project. |
| 10 | Wednesday
Sept. 16 | Work on metamorphosis project. High fire glaze demonstration. Glaze cups and other projects, taking turns. In the future glaze pieces as they get fired. Check bisque shelves. <i>You'll be glad that you paid attention when Sheri Leigh told you to put your name on the bottom of your pieces. A lot of them will look just like yours, but you'll know which ones are yours for sure!</i> |
| 11 | Monday
Sept. 21 | Work on metamorphosis project. Due Wednesday 9/23. <i>I hope you get so into this project, that you decide to work into the night on this tonight, so you nail it at the critique!</i> |
| 12 | Wednesday
Sept. 23 | Metamorphosis project critique. Bowl demonstration. Help throwing bowls. Make three bowls with three different distinct functions. Three trimmed, finished bowls due on next Wednesday, 9/30. <i>Mmmmm, ice cream, pop corn, M&Ms...</i> |
| 13 | Monday
Sept. 28 | Work on bowls. Due on Wednesday. |
| 14 | Wednesday
Sept. 30 | Bowl critique. <i>It's really cool to have bowls that you use at home that you actually made yourself!</i> Stamp project – pour plaster stamps. |
| 15 | Monday
October 5 | Butter dish/slab box demo. Work on stamped pieces, Make a piece using your stamps for next Monday's class. They may be thrown or handbuilt. |
| 17 | Wednesday
October 7 | Work on butter dishes/slab boxes. |
| 18 | Monday
October 12 | Stamped Butter Dish/ or Slab Box critique. Pumpkin pot demo. Work on Pumpkin Pots. <i>Tis the season. Don't get frustrated. Honestly, these are a little challenging. Practice...</i> |

you'll get it.

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| 19 | Wednesday
October 14 | Work on pumpkin pots. Due Monday, 10/19. |
| 20 | Monday
October 19 | Pumpkin pot critique. Skull discussion – Skull sculpture demonstration. Work on skull sculptures. |
| 21 | Wednesday
October 21 | Work on skull sculptures. |
| 22 | Monday
October 26 | Work on skull sculptures. Due on Weds. |
| 23 | Wednesday
October 28 | Skull sculpture critique. Foodie piece discussion. Work on foodie pieces. |
| 24 | Monday
November 2 | Work on Foodie pieces. |
| 25 | Wednesday
November 4 | Foodie piece critique. Plates and pitchers demo. Work on them. |
| 26 | Monday
Nov. 9 | Work on plates and pitchers. 1 of each Due next Monday. |
| 27 | Wednesday
Nov. 12 | Veteran's Day – No Class – Have a great day! |
| 28 | Monday
Nov. 16 | Plate and Pitcher critique. Teapot/coffee pot demonstration. Work on them. One teapot, thrown or handbuilt, and two tea cups due Monday, Nov. 31st. Work on tea sets. Final project discussion. |
| 29 | Wednesday
Nov. 18 | Work on teapots and cups. <i>You may not have time to finish these after the break, and they may get too dry. Do you want to make sure they get done this week?</i> |
| 30 | Mon & Weds
Nov.23 & 25 | No Class – Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy! |
| 31 | Monday | Teapots and Cups Critique. Work on final projects of your |

- Nov. 30 choice. Turn in contracts.
- 32 Wednesday
Dec. 2 Work on final projects.
- 33 Monday
Dec. 7 No Class – Reading Day – Prep for finals – *you can come in and work on your final project if you want to.*
- 34 Thursday
Dec. 10th **3:00 – 6:00pm FINAL Attendance is mandatory!**
Potluck – Sheri will make the main course.
Final project and 5 glaze fired finished pieces are due for this final critique.
Please make sure all your belongings are removed from the studio, or clearly labeled SP 16 if you're taking ceramics next semester. Unlabeled work, tools, etc. will be tossed or absorbed. Have a wonderful holiday break!