

Course Code & No. - Section: CERM 210 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Beginning Ceramics (3)
Term & Year: Spring / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10079

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 10:00 - 12:45
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.

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 12:30, 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.

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. Recycle unwanted *unfired* pieces. Throw out other fired pieces that you do not want.

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	Wednesday, January 21	Introduction, going over syllabus and studio operations, tour of studio, fun sculptural projects. Always dress appropriately in clothes you can get full of clay.
2	Monday January 26	Handbuilding demo. Discuss pieces for Raku firing.
3	Wednesday January 28	Throwing demonstration of eggs. Finish handbuilt Raku projects. Put on shelves in electric kiln room.
4	Monday February 2	Demo on wheel thrown tornadoes and volcanoes, individual hands on help for students, and time to work on them. Prepare 2 of each for next Monday's class, due at start of class next Monday. We will not be firing them, but please recycle them. Raku glaze demo. Take turns glazing. Put on shelf for Raku firing.
5	Wednesday Feb. 4	(Weather permitting) Load and fire Raku kiln. Wear long pants, long sleeves (cotton best, not nylon) and closed shoes. We'll load right at 10 am, please be on time! Volcano and Tornado critique Look at Sheri's cup collection. Cups and handle pulling demonstration. Individual help and time to work on cups. Prepare 2 opposite cups for Wednesday, Sept. 10th's class. They must be trimmed, handles attached, and finished, but not fired. Work on opposite cups. Due Weds.
6	Monday Feb. 9	Work on cups. Metamorphosis discussion. Bring two unlike objects to class on Weds.
7	Wednesday Feb. 11	Cups critique. Bring two objects for Metamorphosis piece. Metamorphosis sculpture discussion. Work on Metamorphosis Sculpture Project.
8	Monday Feb. 16	No class, President's Day. Enjoy!

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| 9 | Wednesday
Feb. 18 | Work on metamorphosis project. Glaze demonstration. Glaze cups and other projects, taking turns. |
| 10 | Monday
Feb. 23 | Work on metamorphosis project. Due Monday 3/2. |
| 11 | Wednesday
Feb. 25 | Work on metamorphosis project. |
| 12 | Monday
March 2 | Metamorphosis project critique. Bowl demonstration. Help throwing bowls. Prepare three bowls with three different distinct functions. Three trimmed, finished bowls due on next Monday, 3/9. |
| 13 | Wednesday
March 4 | Work on bowls. Due on Monday. |
| 14 | Monday
March 9 | Bowl critique. Plaster project – demo. |
| 15 | Wednesday
March 11 | Work on plaster project. Due on Monday 3/23. |
| 16 | Monday
March 16 | Spring Break – Enjoy!! |
| 17 | Wednesday
March 18 | Spring Break – Enjoy!! |
| 18 | Monday
March 23 | Plaster project critique. Pumpkin pot demo. |
| 19 | Wednesday
March 25 | Work on pumpkin pots. Due Monday, 3/30. Replicated historical piece discussion. |
| 20 | Monday
March 30 | Pumpkin pot critique. Work on historical pieces. |
| 21 | Wednesday
April 1 | Work on historical pieces. Due Monday |
| 22 | Monday
April 6 | Historical piece critique. Plate demo. |
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| 23 | Wednesday
April 8 | Work on plates. |
| 24 | Monday
April 13 | Work on plates. 3 Due Wednesday. |
| 25 | Wednesday
April 15 | Plate critique. Teapot demonstration. |
| 26 | Monday
April 20 | Work on teapots. |
| 27 | Wednesday
April 22 | One teapot, thrown or handbuilt, and two tea cups due Monday. |
| 28 | Monday
April 27 | Teapot and cups critique. Final project discussion. |
| 29 | Wednesday
April 29 | Work on final projects. |
| 30 | Monday
May 4 | Work on final projects. |
| 31 | Wednesday
May 6 | Work on final projects. |
| 32 | Friday
May 8 | 11:30 – 2:30pm FINAL Attendance is Mandatory! Please make sure all your belongings are removed. Unlabeled work, tools, etc. will be tossed or absorbed. Have a wonderful summer! |