

<b>Course Code &amp; No. -</b>	CERM 210
<b>Section:</b>	
<b>Course Title (Credits):</b>	Beginning Ceramics (3)
<b>Term &amp; Year:</b>	Fall 2019
<b>Course Ref. No. (CRN):</b>	80003
<b>Instructor:</b>	Sheri Leigh O'Connor
<b>Phone(s):</b>	X7588 or 775-741-7437 (cell, emergencies only please)
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:sleigh@sierranevada.edu">sleigh@sierranevada.edu</a>
<b>Office:</b>	Holman, room 105
<b>Office Hours:</b>	After class and by appointment
<b>Class Meeting Time:</b>	M-F 10:00 - 3:00 (1 hour lunch break)
<b>Location:</b>	Holman Arts and Media Center, room 103
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	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:

- Professor demonstrations
- Hands on help with assigned projects
- Class time to complete assignments with Professor's help
- 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

**Attendance/Grading Policy**

**50%** of your grade is based on attendance. Since this class only meets for two weeks, attendance is mandatory!

**If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be marked absent. If you leave extremely early, you will also be marked absent.**

Lunch will be from 12 – 1. Please return promptly at 1.

**50%** Completion of assigned projects, due when noted. **No late projects, or unfinished projects will be accepted! NONE! Come to class even if you don't have your project/s.** Part of your grade will be your participation in critiques.

**Also considered:** Participation and clean up. Participation includes helping with studio operations such as making clay, loading kilns, etc. cleaning up one's messes.

**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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Professional Preparedness

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](mailto: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 two weeks:**

At the end of the class, please gather all your things that are in the studio and remove them, or they will be tossed or absorbed. Throw out other pieces that you do not want. Put bisqued or glazed fired pieces in the trash. Put greenware (non-fired clay) in the recycling garbage cans. Consider taking Intermediate Ceramics!

## Studio Rules

# At Sierra Nevada College Ceramics Studio

1. It is your responsibility to clean up after yourself, do not expect others to do it. Your mother doesn't work here, and the maid quit! The studio can become very messy and cluttered if **everyone** doesn't pitch in. Please don't sweep excessively while there are a lot of people near you. The dust isn't healthy to breathe. Your grade will be negatively affected for not cleaning up your mess! You must clean your wheel before leaving for the day.
2. Respect the materials with which you are working. A lot of ceramic materials in their unfired state are toxic to ingest or inhale. Wear a respirator or dust mask when working with dry glaze ingredients or clay dust. Do not eat or smoke with dirty hands. Do not eat, drink, or snort any ceramics materials.
3. Do not handle other people's work unless necessary. Sometimes it is tempting, but if you break it, you'll feel awful. If you accidentally do break something, please leave them an explanation note. It's tough to come in and find your work broken, but a note helps a lot.
4. Never sacrifice your own personal safety for a piece of clay. Sometimes when firing or loading or unloading kilns, particularly Raku kilns, you may have to drop the piece in order not to get burned. One can make another clay piece; you can't make new hands or body parts!
5. Students may purchase clay here in the studio for **\$10.00** a bag. You can pay cash or write a check to Sierra Nevada College.
6. Students **must** get permission from Sheri or Rick before loading and or firing any of the kilns. Raku firings must be done with at least 2 people present.
7. Students may come and use the studio before or after class.
8. **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.
9. This studio is not to be used as a professional studio. No mass production of pottery is allowed, especially with intent to sell. SNC is an educational facility, not

a commercial studio. Only a reasonable amount of work per person will be fired and only work created in the SNC studio may be fired here unless you get Sheri's permission.

10. Do not excessively drink alcohol or do drugs while operating ceramic equipment.
11. Read any announcement on the board in the studio. Firing times, assignments, announcements and events will be written on the board.
12. Do not eat food or drink items not belonging to you that are in the refrigerator as they belong to others. You may store things in the fridge here, but if it is old and or expired, please toss it. Food on the table by the window is for everyone.
13. Please use particleboard bats for storing work. Return cleaned masonite and plastic bats where they belong after using as soon as possible. Do not use these bats for storage. Please return plastic to the plastic garbage can container located to the left of the back door. Do not put trash in that container, only plastic.
14. Do not throw anything but non-fired, high fire clay into the clay recycling garbage cans in the back clay room. They look like garbage cans, but they're not. If unsure of where to put anything in the studio, ask!

**Any violation of the above rules may result in banishment from this studio.**

**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!)**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Demonstrations/Assignments/Critiques (Subject to Change – Slip Happens)</b>
1	Tuesday, Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Introductions, going over syllabus and studio operations. Always dress appropriately in clothes you can get full of clay. CLAY is a Four Letter, Dirty Word! Post Pots – Social Media Assignment – Pots Post every day! #SNCpotspost Presentation on posts at the end of the class. AM: Slab plates/trays. Put your name on the bottom! PM: Throw eggs on the wheel, then tornadoes and volcanoes.
2	Wednesday Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Tea party and cups – Throw cups, pull handles PM: Trim cups and attach handles
3	Thursday Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Make bowls – can hand-build if preferred - Empty Bowls PM: Trim bowls
4	Friday Sept. 6 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Make stamps and load into bisque. Also load bisque kiln with pieces from the week. Make pieces for pins or magnets to cast. PM: Cast plaster stamps and pins or magnets
5	Monday Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Glaze pieces we made last week PM: Load glaze kiln/s. Make stenciled slab pieces to use with stamps. Make pins and magnets with plaster press molds.
6	Tuesday Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Soap dishes, spoon rests, and butter dishes. PM: Finish these. Decorate with underglazes
7	Wednesday Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Throw or hand build pitchers PM: Trim pitchers, apply handles
8	Thursday Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Group Project – Chess set – Make tiles and pieces PM: Finish chess set. Decorate with underglazes. Finish all other work.
9	Friday Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	AM: Presentations on every pots post you made. Critique of your work. Clean up. Want to take Intermediate Ceramics with Rick? T R 3pm.