

Course Code & No. -	CERM 210
Section:	
Course Title (Credits):	Beginning Ceramics (2)
Term & Year:	Fall 2019
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	80006
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 - 2:45
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:

- Professor 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., or from Sheri for \$10. **Please get by Monday, August 27th.**

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 final 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.**

50% 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.

Also considered: 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 your grade.

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.

3D Lab Co-requisite

All students must take a 3D lab as a co-requisite. This lab time is for you to work on your projects, with a professor available to help you.

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, or they will be tossed or absorbed. Throw out other pieces that you do not want. Throw bisque or glazed fired pieces in the trash. Put greenware in the recycling garbage cans.

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. Recycled clay is free if you participate in the recycling process. "Those who make it can take it!" There is a lot of work involved, so please "Don't help yourself, unless you helped, yourself!"
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 as long as there is not another class in session. Class times this fall semester are: M & W 1:00 – 2:45 and T & R 3:00 – 4:45. The Cont. Ed. Class will meet Tuesday nights, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. **Do come to your class/lab of course, but please do not come in to work**

**when other classes are in session unless you have prior permission!
REALLY!!**

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!)

Class	Date	Demonstrations/Assignments/Critiques (Subject to Change – Slip Happens)
1	Monday, Sept. 16 th	Introduction, going over syllabus and studio operations. Then Chia Pet project. Always dress appropriately in clothes you can get full of clay. CLAY is a Four Letter, Dirty Word! Homework: BUY TOOLS!
2	Wednesday Sept. 18 th	If you haven't purchased your tools, buy them! Throw eggs, then tornadoes and volcanoes on the wheel. One of each due Monday. Will be graded on completion basis only.
3	Monday Sept. 23 rd	Mug project. Throw two mugs and make and attach handles. Demo, mug examinations and tea!
4	Wednesday Sept. 25 th	Work on mugs. Due Monday!
5	Monday Sept. 30 th	Mug critique. Mugs must be finished, trimmed bottoms, and handles attached. Stenciled and Stamped project. Slides and demo. Make stamps.
7	Wednesday October 2 nd	Make stencils or templates for clay slabs. Make stenciled and stamped pieces. Due Monday.
8	Monday October 7 th	Stenciled and Stamped critique. Bowl project. Demo. Throw bowls for distinct purposes.
9	Wednesday October 9 th	Trimming demo. Trim bowls. Due Monday.
10	Monday October 14 th	Bowl critique. Bowls must be trimmed and finished. Butter dishes project. Demo.
11	Wednesday October 16 th	Work on butter dishes. Due Monday.
12	Monday October 21 st	Butter dish critique. Upside down cups demo.

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| 13 | Wednesday
October 23 rd | Work on upside-down cups. Due Monday. |
| 14 | Monday
October 28 th | Upside-down cups critique. |
| 15 | Wednesday
October 30 th | Easy tray project. Due Monday. |
| 16 | Monday
Nov. 4 th | Easy tray critique. Metamorphosis project. Choose two disparate objects, sculpt each, then each morphing into each other. |
| 17 | Wednesday
Nov. 6 th | Work on Metamorphosis projects. |
| 18 | Monday
Nov. 11 th | No Class! Veteran's Day |
| 19 | Wednesday
Nov. 13 th | Work on Metamorphosis projects. Due on Monday. |
| 20 | Monday
Nov. 18 th | Metamorphosis critique. Tea set project. Teapot and cups demo. |
| 21 | Wednesday
Nov. 20 th | Work on tea sets. Due Monday, 12/2, after the break. |
| 22 | Monday
Nov. 25 th &
27 th | No classes! Thanksgiving Break! Enjoy! |
| 24 | Monday
Dec. 2 nd | Tea set critique. Final project discussion. Begin final projects. |
| 25 | Wednesday
Dec. 4 th | Work on final projects. Glaze work. |
| 26 | Monday
Dec. 9 th | Work on final projects. Due Weds. |
| 27 | Wednesday
Dec. 11 th | Final projects critique and clean up. If you are taking ceramics next semester, you can leave stuff, but clearly label it with your name and SP 20. Happy Holidays! |

