

# Art 1613, Ceramics for Non-Majors Syllabus

Midwestern State University  
ART 1613 – Ceramics for Non-Majors  
(Fall 2022)

Steve Hilton  
2:00 to 4:50 Tuesday/Thursday  
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(940) 397-4270 office  
Ceramics Studio/C119

Office Hours - C119:  
10:00 AM to 1:30 PM Monday/Wednesday (please check door for more hours)

**Campus police: (940) 397-4239**

**9-911 (call if any emergency occurs)**

## Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to a lifelong appreciation of ceramics arising from global culture by a brief but comprehensive overview of the history of ceramic art and the making of personal works of art. Students will achieve this goal by researching, analyzing, and interpreting contemporary and historical ceramic objects, while also studying their materials, processes, and techniques in addition to making artifacts of their own.

An introduction to the history of ceramics, ceramic materials, and various techniques of making ceramic artwork, including: throwing on the potter's wheel, hand building, coiling, soft and stiff slab, and pinching. Further exploration will include decorating, glazing, loading and firing of artwork in both electric, wood, and gas kilns. Students will also work with the Wichita Falls ceramic community with the common goal of creating 1,000 bowls for the Wichita Fall's Empty Bowl Event, which raises money for the Wichita Falls Food Bank.

## Course Objectives (Students will be able to):

1. Develop an appreciation for both historical and contemporary functional and sculptural ceramic artworks
2. Synthesize and interpret the aesthetics of historical ceramic artifacts and their own artwork
3. Use written, oral and verbal communication in analyzing contemporary and historical artworks and their own works of art
4. Use the Elements and Principles of Art to create and describe ceramic artworks
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of equipment safety and possible health hazards associated with ceramics, while maintaining a clean working environment
6. Describe, recognize, and utilize basic ceramic tools
7. Demonstrate rudimentary knowledge of kiln firings to include oxidation and reduction methods
8. Demonstrate general skill with select hand building techniques, pinching, coiling, slab, and wheel throwing
9. Demonstrate the procedure for loading kilns: glaze and bisque
10. Demonstrate general wheel techniques
11. Demonstrate general glazing and surface decorating techniques and methods
12. Demonstrate effective research and written communication skills

**Other Expenses:**

1. Respirator: It is recommended that you buy a respirator. This is not mandatory. These are available at Lowes, Home Depot, or Granger – make sure it is good for dust (they usually have a magenta (pink) color on the filter and are generally labeled P100 filters): Approximately \$30
2. Assorted ceramic tools: Approximately \$50 (See below)

**Building Use Hours:**

1. Art building access will be discussed the first day of class
2. The use of this and all art studios is considered a privilege, if this is abused, it will be revoked.
3. The studio door code is **541**. Please do not share it with anyone outside this class.

**Locker:**

We will need to share lockers. Choose a locker (with another student) that has nothing in it and put your lock on it. Put your names on the locker sign-up list

**Attendance Policy:**

Students enrolled in the Juanita and Ralph Harvey School of Visual Arts must comply with the following department-wide Attendance and Lateness Policy:

- Students arriving ten minutes after class begins will be considered late and will be counted absent.
- THREE late arrivals count as an absence.
- Students may be absent from class THREE times without penalty and without providing any documentation regarding the absence.
- If students incur a FOURTH absence, their final course evaluation will be reduced by a full letter grade.
- If students are absent or late FIVE times, whatever the reason, they will receive a FAILING GRADE, be dropped from the class roll, and be asked to stop attending class.
- Example: after your 4<sup>th</sup> absence, a 90% will become an 80%
- Example: after your 4<sup>th</sup> absence and 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy, an 80% will become an F and you will be dropped
- *Faculty members have the discretion to make exceptions to this policy based on individual circumstances.*
- When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to contact class members and learn what you missed.

**Homework:**

You will have homework in this class . . . except you will be doing most of it in the studio. You should spend a minimum of 6 hours in the studio outside class time to be successful. **Students will also be expected to conduct research, sketch, and study outside of the studio.** The more time you spend in the studio the more successful you will be. If you make more . . . You will learn more!

**Clay and Glaze Making Fridays**

This is a class where we have to work together. Students will be expected to sign up and attend several 3-hour clay making sessions with myself or a Studio Assistant. Making glaze is a possibility.

**Grading Policy:**

Each assignment will be evaluated and graded as it is completed. **I will be grading your work with rubrics designed for specific assignments.**

As art is subjective, I will be grading your assignments with some of the following criteria (depending on the assignment) along with a rubric, which you will receive with each assignment. It is your responsibility to show me each assignment as it is completed:

1. Is it **innovative/experimental/ambitious/creative/original . . . were you self-motivated?**
2. Does it accomplish the assignment?
3. Does it **communicate** your intention/content?
4. Is it aesthetically pleasing . . . and designed well?
5. Did you use excellent Craftpersonship?
6. Did you give adequate attention to detail(s)?
7. Is there evidence of technical proficiency?
8. Is there growth in your work? Is there evidence of progression in your work?
9. Did you challenge yourself?
10. Did you consider historical ceramic imagery and reference images in your work?
11. Is there a sketchbook entry with a written journal, and glaze application for each piece?

Your final grade will be determined by a method similar to what is listed below: For each assignment points earned will be divided by points possible (approximately 1,350 pts)

**Assignments (in order)**

1. Pinch Pots and 1inch cube sculpture
2. Cylinders
3. Historic Vessel
4. Reliquary
5. Cups and Empty Bowls
6. Your Monster

Assignments	900 points (Six major assignment at 150 points each)
Critique (5 critiques minimum)	50 points (ten points per critique)
Participation	100 points (general clean up, loading kilns and making clay 3 times)
Sketchbook/research/reference images	100 points (20 points per assignment)
Journal	50 points (25 entries)
Quizzes	100 points (4 quizzes)
Historical Vessel research/reflection paper	50 points

**Journal/Sketchbook:**

You will be required to keep a journal/sketchbook/notebook for this class. It should just contain your ceramics notes, sketches, reference images, glaze references, hours worked, and **journal entries**. You will be asked to make preliminary sketches for all assignments (except your cylinders!). You will be asked to provide reference imagery for all assignments (except your cylinders!). You will be asked to write down how you glaze every piece made this semester (including your cylinders!). In addition, you will be responsible for a minimum of 25 journal entries which will include:

- written critiques
- notes from lectures
- ideas for projects
- ceramic artists referenced in class
- Empty Bowl entries and reflections

**Communication:**

If you have a question/problem with the material or a technique, please see me as soon as possible. If you wait until the last week of the semester, I might not be able to help you.

**Disability:**

Any student who feels she/he may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services at 940.397.4140 in room 168 of the Clark Student Center to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Studio Etiquette:**

We **DO NOT** have a custodian who cleans the studio. **It is our responsibility to help keep the studio clean.** Do not leave without making sure all materials, tools, and artwork are properly stored. We are the custodians of the studio.

- The last 30 minutes of class is devoted to cleaning up, with **everyone** assisting.
- The floors need to be mopped **every** class period and **every** time you throw on the wheel
- There will be one mandatory all studio clean-up in the middle of the semester and the final clean-up on **Tuesday of finals, December 6, at 8:00 AM . . . this is part of your final**
- During the semester, everyone will be asked to help maintain the studio. A clean studio is a safe studio
- **Please turn all cell phones to silent while in the ceramics studio . . . this includes texting \*\*\*\***

**Decorum and Academic Dishonesty:**

Students will abide by all MSU rules, regulations including the *Student Honor Creed*, and will thereby earn all the student's rights as noted in the MSU Student Handbook. Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given) is academic dishonesty.

- I reserve the right to drop any student with an F grade, or recommend other sanctions, if she/he engages in any form of academic dishonesty.

**Student Honor Creed:** "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."

**Safety:**

1. **Some materials in the studio are toxic. If you are uncertain of the nature of a material, PLEASE SEE ME and/or see the Material Safety Data Sheets in the folder by the front door.**
2. Students are expected to take the utmost care in working with kilns and all power equipment. **Do not use any equipment, including kilns, without being properly trained and signing a training document.**
3. **Always** wear a respirator and rubber gloves when working with any toxic materials.
4. **Always** wear a respirator when sanding ceramic material and spraying glaze.
5. **Always** sand ceramic material outside
6. A list of all materials used in this studio is available in the yellow folder next to the front door.
7. **TAKING THIS COURSE IN THE ART DEPARTMENT AT MSU MEANS THAT YOU ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY** to use all equipment, tools, and materials related to the course in a safe and responsible manner. If you have any health-related problems that would be adversely affected by taking the course, you should consult with me at the end of the first day of the class.
8. Please tell me about any accidents, no matter how small.

**Return and Retention of Student Work:**

If work is left in the studio longer than (1) one week after the end of the semester, the department has the right to dispose of or use the unclaimed work for any purpose. The department also reserves the right to retain student work as desired for reference or exhibition purposes.

**Please buy these tools now so you have them for the beginning of the class!!**

## Materials/Tools

Numbers 1 through 4 below can be found (with a considerable MSU discount) online at <http://www.brackers.com>. But you **do not** have to purchase from Brackers if you can find a better deal elsewhere.

- If you do use Brackers . . . **Use stevehilton as the discount code.**
- All of the letters/numbers below are from Brackers
- If you know one of your classmates, **order together to save shipping cost**
- Most of these tools you **will not** be able to share
- KT means Kemper Tool

1. pottery tool kit (KTPTK - Kemper Pottery Tool Kit) (wire, needle tool, wooden rib, metal rib, trimming tool, sponge)
2. rubber rib (buy the yellow Sherrill Mudtool, soft yellow #3) **Do not buy a “cheaper alternative”. They are a waste of money**
3. loop tool kit (KTMRS Kemper - Mini Ribbon Set) **Do not buy another loop tool kit, you will need this kit specifically**
4. metal scraper (KT S10 – steel scraper with serrations) Again . . . **please do not buy another “option”**
5. small bucket: a gallon or less at the dollar store . . . **Do not buy anything larger than a gallon**
6. combination lock
7. assortment of inexpensive brushes (1/4-inch, 1/2-inch, 1 inch). You can share these!
8. notebook or sketchbook

## Important Dates:

Final Critique – Tuesday, December 6 at 8:00 AM (the time of our scheduled final)

**NCECA – March 15 to March 18**

\*\* This syllabus may be changed to best meet your needs, or for other reasons as I see fit. This includes the changing or deleting of assignments. If for some reason the assignments administered total something other than 1,350 points, the method of obtaining the final grade will remain essentially the same: the total points achieved will be divided by the total points possible to obtain a percentage and a grade will be assigned according to the percentage scale outlined above.

\*\*\* By staying enrolled in this course, you are indicating you understand and accept the terms of ART 1613 and this syllabus

\*\*\*\* Assignments are due at the **start** of the class period on the due date. Any assignment submitted after that time will receive a penalty of 10% per day, with the total penalty not to exceed 50% of the points available for the assignment. The only accepted excuses for late work or missing a test/quiz/critique/class are requests from an academic dean, or a documented medical situation. There will be no exceptions, so please do not ask.

## ASSIGNMENT TIMELINE

All deadlines are at 9:00 AM on the due date.

### TENTATIVE CALENDAR (Each Class is 2 hours and 50 minutes):

DATE	Activity/Handouts/Critique/Lecture	Quiz/Assign/Demo/Due
TUESDAY WEEK 1	Syllabus/ Introduction Safety Tour/Safety Tour/Quiz Handout: Ceramic Vocabulary Home Quiz	Assign: pinch pots and drawings Assign: Receipt for tools Assign: Buy Tools if you haven't already <b>Demo: Pinch Pots</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 1	Work Day Pinch Pots <b>Lecture: The History of Ceramics</b>	Assign: Out of the Fire: The Art and Science of Ceramic
TUESDAY WEEK 2	Work Day: Pinch Pots Work Day: Slabs for Texture Tiles	Assign Texture Tiles <b>Due: Tools Check</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 2	Work Day: Pinch Pots Lecture: How to Critique, Written and Oral	<b>Quiz: Handbuilding</b> <b>Due: 5 pinch pots with drawings</b> <b>Critique: Pinch Pots</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 3	<b>Demo: Wheel Throwing</b> Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Demo: Glaze Pinch Pots</b> Assign: Glaze pinch pots <b>Assign: Surface Decoration</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 3	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Due: Texture Tiles</b> <b>Due: glazed pinch pots</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 4	Work Day: Cylinders	Assign: Take Home Vocab Test <b>Demo: Trimming</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 4	Work Day: Cylinders Lecture: Glazing and Firing	<b>Due: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Cylinders</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 5	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 Cylinders</b> <b>Demo: Glazing</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 5	Lecture: Surface Decoration Lecture: Historical/Classical Vessels	<b>Due: 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 Cylinders</b> <b>Due: Bisque all Cylinders</b> <b>Critique: Cylinders</b> <b>Demo: Coil Building</b> Assign: Classic Ceramic Vessel

TUESDAY WEEK 6	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: Coil ideas and sketchbook drawings</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b>  Research/Reflection Paper and Visuals
THURSDAY WEEK 6	Work Day: Coil Vessel Glaze texture squares	<b>Due: Surface Decoration Drawings</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 7	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b> <b>Due: First 12 inches of coil vessel</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 7	Work Day: Coil Vessel Lecture: Types of Glazes	<b>Due: Glazed textures</b> <b>Demo: Glazing</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 8	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: 18 inches of coil vessel</b> <b>Quiz: Handbuilding</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b> <b>Due: Critique Coil Vessel</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 8	Work Day: Throwing Lecture: Types of Clay and Handbuilding	<b>Demo: Bowls and Cups</b> Assign Ceramic Artist Assign: Cups and Bowls
TUESDAY WEEK 9	Work Day: Throwing	Due: Take Home Vocab Test
THURSDAY WEEK 9	Work Day: Throwing Lecture: The Cup as a Vessel	<b>Due: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 cups/bowls Bisque</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 10	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 cups/bowls Bisque</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed pieces with notes</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 10	<b>TENTATIVE Wood Kiln Firing</b> Work Day: Throwing/Glazing Lecture: The Utilitarian Bowl	<b>Wood Fire Weekend (plan to be in town and not working)</b> <b>Due: 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 cups/bowls Bisque</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 11	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	
THURSDAY WEEK 11	Work Day: Glazing Work Day: Throwing/Glazing  Lecture: Who/What is Your Monster?	<b>Due: Last 10 Pieces in Bisque (Total of 25 cups/bowls)</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed pieces with notes</b> Assign: Monster Project Demo: Soft Slab Building
TUESDAY WEEK 12	Work Day: Monster/Soft Slab	Due: Sketchbook Monster Assignment <b>Due: 5 Glazed pieces with notes</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 12	Work Day: Monster/Soft Slab	

TUESDAY WEEK 13	Work Day: Monster/Soft Slab	<b>Due:</b> Critique <b>Glazed</b> Wheel Thrown Work (Bowls and cups)
THURSDAY WEEK 13	Work Day: Monster/Soft Slab	
TUESDAY WEEK 14	Work Day: Monster/Soft Slab Load Slipcasting work in Bisque Kiln	Last Day for Handbuilt Wet Clay Last Day for Thrown Wet Clay
THURSDAY WEEK 14	THANKSGIVING BREAK	THANKSGIVING BREAK
TUESDAY WEEK 15	Work Day. Glaze Anything Unfinished <b>Last Bisque Kiln</b>	<b>Due:</b> Critique Your Monster
THURSDAY WEEK 15	<b>LAST DAY OF CLASS</b> <b>Last Glaze Kiln</b>	
FINALS WEEK	<b>Final Critique/Cleanup Day</b>	