

Midwestern State University  
ART 2613 – CERAMICS I  
(Fall 2023)

Steve Hilton  
9:30 to 12:20 Tuesday/Thursday Ceramics  
[steve.hilton@msutexas.edu](mailto:steve.hilton@msutexas.edu)

(940) 397-4270 office  
Studio/C119

Office Hours - C119 or by Appointment:  
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, Monday  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Wednesday  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Friday

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

**9-911 (any emergency)**

**Course Description:**

An introduction to ceramic materials and techniques of hand building, decorating, glazing, loading and firing of kilns.

**Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of equipment safety and possible health hazards associated with ceramics, while maintaining a clean working environment
2. Describe, recognize, and utilize ceramic tools
3. Demonstrate rudimentary knowledge of kiln firings to include oxidation and reduction methods
4. Demonstrate basic skill with select hand building techniques
5. Demonstrate the procedure for loading kilns: glaze and bisque
6. Demonstrate basic wheel techniques
7. Demonstrate basic glazing and surface decorating methods

**Textbook:** *The Craft and Art of Clay* (Fourth Edition), by Susan Peterson (this book is a great book for ceramics majors. If you are not a major, you do not need to buy this book. You may use a book in the reference section of the library or I have a copy in my office.

**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. A N95 dust mask is the other option
2. Assorted ceramic tools: Approximately \$75 (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 **XXX**. Please do not share it with anyone outside this class.

**Locker:**

Choose a locker that has nothing in it and put your lock on it. Put your name 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:

- **If you are sick . . . don't come to class!! We can Zoom/Facetime you in if appropriate**
- Students arriving after class begins will be considered late. Students arriving 10 minutes after class begins 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% (A) will become an 80% (B)
- 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. Most will spend more. The more time you spend in the studio the more successful you will be. If you make more . . . You will learn more!

### **Grading Policy:**

Each assignment should be evaluated and graded as it is completed. It is your responsibility to make sure I know your work is ready to be graded.

**Since ceramic work has two stages of completion, you will be graded on turning your completed green or leather hard work in on time, and you will be graded on your glazed work at the end of the semester.**

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

1. Is it innovative/experimental
2. Does it accomplish the assignment
3. Does it communicate your intention/content
4. Is it aesthetically pleasing . . . and designed well
5. Craftpersonship
6. Attention to detail(s)
7. Technical elements and mastery
8. Growth of your work
9. Sketchbook

Your final grade will be determined by a formula similar to the one below:

Points earned divided by points possible (approximately 1940 pts)

Assignments	1500 points
Critique (4 critiques minimum)	100 points
Participation (clean-up, helping out, tools)	150 points
Wood Fire Participation	50 points (if we have a wood firing)
Quizzes	150 points

### **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.

### **Accommodation:**

Any student who feels she/he may need an 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:**

It is everyone's responsibility to help keep the studio clean. Do not leave without making sure all materials, tools, and artwork are properly stored. Your grade will be lowered if you do not clean up after yourself.

- The last 12.498 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, December 7 at 9:00 AM . . . this is the final cleanup, if you miss the cleanup, you will lose one letter grade from your final grade!**
- During the semester, everyone will be asked to help maintain the studio
- **Please turn all cell phones to silent while in the ceramics studio . . . this includes texting \*\*\*\*\***

- **Music:** Please respect everyone in the studio when playing your music on the Ion Speaker. If someone asks you to turn it down or change the music, please do so.

### MSU coronavirus pages

**If you are sick . . . stay home. But try to Zoom/Facetime the class. You have to do this in a timely manner. Do not ask to Zoom unless you give me at least some notice.**

#### **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.

- *Student Honor Creed:* "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."
- I reserve the right to drop any student with an F grade, or recommend other sanctions, if a student engages in any form of academic dishonesty.
- Smoking and other uses of tobacco products will not be allowed in accordance with the Student Handbook

*The instructor reserves the right to initiate an instructor drop with a grade of W, WF, or F, as specified in the Student Handbook (see link above) for reasons to include attendance issues, academic performance in the class, indifferent attitude, or disruptive conduct.*

*Enrollment in this class constitutes an acceptance to adhere to the Student Honor Creed and all other student conduct policies outlined in the university Student Handbook.*

#### **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 or tools are 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.

**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 as are the links
- 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 **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. sketchbook

### **Important Dates:**

Final Clean Up – **Thursday December 7**

NCECA – **March 20 to March 23**

**\*\* 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 2000 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 2613 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.

\*\*\*\*\* In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student’s WebWorld account who is at risk of scoring below a C. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students’ transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me as soon as possible.

## **LIST OF REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR Fall 2023 - TBA**

### **Departmental Policy for Gallery Openings**

- Students enrolled in studio or art history courses must attend every gallery opening.
- At every gallery opening, the student will receive a comment sheet.
- During each opening, the student must fill out and submit the comment sheet.
- If the student cannot attend the gallery opening, they must meet following requirements:
  1. The student must write a paper on the artist exhibited in the Juanita Harvey gallery.
  2. The paper should emphasize the student’s reaction to the work.
  3. The paper must be formatted in Times New Roman, 12pt font, and be double-spaced.
  4. The paper must consist of 500 words.
  5. The paper must be submitted to the art office **one week** after the exhibition opening.
  6. If the exhibition extends past the final class day of the semester, the paper will be due one week before the final class day of the semester.
- If a student does not attend the show nor submit a paper, their final grade will be dropped 3.3% per gallery opening.
- If a student misses all of the gallery openings and does not write a paper for each required exhibition, the student’s final grade will be dropped by 10%.

**ASSIGNMENTS Timeline**

All deadlines are at 9:30 AM on due date.

**TENTATIVE CALENDAR:**

DATE	Activity/Handouts/Critique	Quiz/Assign/Demo/Due
TUESDAY WEEK 1	Syllabus/ Introduction Safety Tour/Safety Tour/Quiz Handout: Ceramic Vocabulary Take Home Quiz <b>Buy Tools if not already purchased</b>	Assign: pinch pots and drawings Assign: Cylinders Pinch Pots Demo
THURSDAY WEEK 1	Work Day Pinch Pots	<b>Due: Tools Check</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 2	Work Day Pinch Pots	<b>Due: original pinch pot</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 2	Handout: Cylinder Assignment Handout: Throwing a Cylinder Work Day Pinch Pots	<b>Demo: Throwing and Video</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 3	½ Work Day: Pinch Pots ANOTHER THROWING DEMO? <b>CRITIQUE</b>	<b>Demo: Trimming</b> <b>Demo: Glaze Pinch Pots</b> <b>Due: 3 pinch pots</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 3	Work Day: Cylinders Assign: Glaze pinch pots	<b>Assign: Coil Vessel</b> <b>Due: glazed pinch pots</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 4	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Quiz: Wheelthrowing</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 5	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Due: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Cylinders</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 5	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Demo: Glazing</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b> <b>Due: 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 Cylinders</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 5	Work Day: Cylinders	<b>Demo: Coil Building</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 6	<b>CRITIQUE</b>	<b>Critique: Cylinders</b> <b>Due: Bisque all Cylinders</b> <b>Due: 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 Cylinders</b> <b>Assign: Glaze Cylinders</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 6	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: Sketchbook for Coil Vessel</b>  <b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b>

TUESDAY WEEK 7	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: First 12 inches of coil vessel</b> <b>Assign: Surface Decoration</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 7	Work Day: Coil Vessel	
TUESDAY WEEK 8	Work Day: Coil Vessel	<b>Due: 18 inches of coil vessel</b> <b>Due: 5 Glazed Cylinders with notes</b> Assign: Take Home Vocab Quiz
THURSDAY WEEK 8	Work Day: Coil Vessel	Assign Ceramic Artist
TUESDAY WEEK 9	Work Day: Coil Vessel	
THURSDAY WEEK 9	<b>CRITIQUE</b>	<b>Due: 24-inch Coil Vessel</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 10	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	
THURSDAY WEEK 10	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: Coil Vessel Surface Decoration</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 11	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: 10 cups/bowls Bisque</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 11	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Wood Fire Weekend (plan to be in town and not working)</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 12	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: Second 10 cups/bowls in Bisque</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 12	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: 5 Glazed pieces with notes</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 13	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing	<b>Due: 5 Glazed pieces with notes</b> Last Day for Handbuilt Wet Clay <b>Due: Third 10 cups/bowls in Bisque</b>
THURSDAY WEEK 13	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
TUESDAY WEEK 14	Work Day: Throwing/Glazing Load all work in Bisque Kiln <b>Last Bisque Kiln: November 28</b>	Last Day for Thrown Wet Clay <b>(Total of 30 cups/bowls)</b>

THURSDAY WEEK 14	Finish all work!	
TUESDAY WEEK 14	<b>LAST DAY OF CLASS</b> Work Day. Glaze Anything Unfinished <b>Last Glaze Kiln: November 30</b>	
THURSDAY WEEK 15	<b>Final Critique/Cleanup Day: December 7</b>	
FINALS WEEK		