

**Art 225 Ceramics**  
Tue/Thur 2:00 – 4:50  
Instructor: Matthew Driggs  
email: knittingkitten@gmail.com

**Class Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:** This class is designed to teach the fundamentals of ceramics. The class will emphasize both the craft and art aspects of the medium. You will first learn the fundamental techniques of using the materials. This involves hand-building techniques such as pinch, coil, and slab methods. You will learn about firing and glazing techniques. You will be asked to demonstrate your skills by building a number of functional pottery works. Unlike most other ceramic classes, this class will also emphasize the sculptural and art aspects of ceramics. This means that those who are skilled in functional pottery will be required to also demonstrate an ability to create art objects.

- 1) Students will demonstrate knowledge and mastery of ceramics.
- 2) Students will be able to identify major movements/ and or artist working in Western and non-western ceramics.
- 3) Students will be able to convey ideas and concepts about artwork.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Lab Fee:** \$25

**Required Materials:** ceramic tools (student store, Michael's, Rhino Art), paintbrushes, water container (small jar), closed-toe shoes, rags, plastic bags, and clay (about \$4.50/per bag).

**Project Due Date Policy:** All projects and papers **must** be turned in on the due date. Late work will not be accepted. If you know that you will be absent from class on the due date, you must arrange to have your work submitted by another student. (It is a good idea to **exchange contact information with at least 2 other students in this class**). If you miss the critique for a project and do not have proof of illness from a doctor, your grade for that project will drop 20%. If you miss the critique for the Final Project and do not have proof of illness from a doctor, your grade for that project will be 0%. A critique is the equivalent to a test, it is very important that you are present and involved in the critiques.

**Academic Honesty/Conduct in Class:** You are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all academic and professional matters. The college reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty (e.g.- plagiarism). Any student causing a disruption in class will be asked to leave and disciplinary actions will be determined by the Vice President's office. Coming to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be reported to Campus Police and students will be asked to leave the room immediately. The studio is an open environment for dialogue. However, please be respectful, verbally and physically, of others' space.

**Working in Class:** Everyone is required to work in the class for the full period. If you "finish" a project you are to remain in class and continue working on another ceramic piece that relates to

that project. Please note, if the class is engaged in a hand build project no student is to be using the wheel, all students are to be hand building. All class rules pertain to all students, including those with previous experience of using clay.

**Grading:** Grades are based on the combination of the following:

- 1) Quality of craftsmanship
- 2) Creativity of the project produced
- 3) Understanding of the ceramic's principles outlined
- 4) The artist's ability to share ideas through their work
- 5) Participation in class discussions and critiques
- 6) Quiz scores
- 7) Written assignments

### **Grade Break Down**

1. Projects: 50% of your grade: each project will be assigned a letter grade A-F with pluses and minuses. These grades constitute the majority of your grades. Each project is graded on three main areas:
  - Craftsmanship: how well a piece is made.
  - Form: the shape and appearance of an object.
  - Articulation: the way in which your project, and you, express your thoughts and concepts.
2. Quizzes and Tests: 30% of your grade: Quizzes are given at every class. Quiz questions are based on the most important lessons of previous lectures. Each quiz is worth 2 points. If you arrive late to class 1 point will be deducted from your total. If you leave class early and miss the quiz 1 point will be deducted from your total. If you miss a quiz altogether you will lose 2 points. **Please note that if you miss three quizzes you will be asked to drop the class.** The "Final Test" is worth 10% of this grade.
3. Clean-up: 10% of your grade: Clean up of the facility begins fifteen minutes before the class ends. Everyone is required to stop working, and to clean and put away all tools and supplies, and clean up after themselves. That being said, even though you may not have worked in a certain area, used a particular tool, or there might have been left over debris from a previous class, **you are also responsible to help clean up ALL areas.** Towards the end of the semester there will be a "Final Clean-up Day" in which you will also be required to attend. If you do not attend the final clean up you will receive an "F" on your "Clean-up" grade.
4. Museum Paper: 10% of your grade: For this assignment you will visit a museum and write a two-page paper describing the artwork(s) seen on your trip. You will select one museum to visit from an assigned list. A **receipt or other proof** of your museum visit is required. You will receive additional information regarding the details of the museum report.

**Class Withdrawal Rules:** If you decide to withdraw from class you are responsible for completing all required paperwork. Due to the safety aspects of a lab course, the instructor must take strong steps to ensure that all students understand materials covered in class. Therefore, the instructor retains complete discretion to process a Withdrawal (Drop) or an "F" grade after the drop date for students without additional notice, for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to follow lab safety rules.

- Missing three quizzes.

**Safety and Rules:** Unless otherwise informed come to class prepared to work with clay. Some critique days will also be clay working days.

- 1) Wear work clothes that you do not care about, they may get stained or torn
- 2) Have closed-toe shoes, **NO SANDALS**. (If you wear sandals you will be asked to leave.)
- 3) No loose hair, loose jewelry, iPod, or headphones while working on the wheels.
- 4) No students are permitted in the lab technician's storeroom.
- 5) Wash your hands thoroughly after using any glazing materials.
- 6) The use of power tools (that includes hand power tools) is not permitted in this class.

**Media Devices and Phones:** Although I do allow iPods, phones, or music players with earphones in class you may want to think twice before using them. We will be using very wet materials in class and this may harm your media player or phone. It might even be advisable to take your phone off of your body and place it in a safe area where it will not get wet or stolen. I will leave this up to your discretion, but neither MiraCosta College nor your professor will be liable if your phone, media device or headset is damaged. Headphones can be worn in class except when working on the wheel and when I am lecturing. Also if you want to use an iPod or other music media player, only one of the headphone ear buds can be inset in your ear, it makes for an anti-social environment to have both buds in your ears.

**Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs & Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Their phone number is (760) 795-6658 and they are located on the Oceanside campus in Building 3000-Student Services, Room 3009, adjacent to Parking lot 3C. Please note that a studio, unlike a lecture room, is a dusty place. You will also be required to use tools. If you are a danger to yourself or others you will be asked to withdraw from the class.

**Library Resources:** The MiraCosta College faculty librarians assist students with their research questions, whether academic or personal. Students may obtain assistance from librarians either one-on-one at the reference desk, through class orientations, group workshops, individual appointments, or online. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of library resources. More information regarding the library may be found at their webpage:  
<http://www.miracosta.edu/library>.

**College Support Services:** The Tutoring and Academic Support Center(TASC) and the Writing Center(WC) assist students by providing individual and group tutoring, WC drop-ins, learning communities, self-help materials, and student success workshops. Services are free and available to all students during day and evening hours at all MiraCosta College campuses. Take advantage of these academic support services. For more specific information, please call (760) 795-6682.

**Academic Honesty/Conduct in class:** You are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in all academic and professional matters. The college reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty (e.g.-

plagiarism). Any student causing a disruption in class will be asked to leave and disciplinary actions will be determined by the vice president's office. Coming to class under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be reported to Campus Police and students will be asked to leave the room immediately. The studio is an open environment for dialogue. However, please be respectful, verbally and physically, of others space.

**Course Outline:** (The order of events may change in response to class capacity and progress.)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Aug 20	Introduction, Syllabus, Safety in the studio, Facility tour
Aug 22	Project 1: intro, Wedging Demo, Pinch Demo, Pinch Project
Aug 27	Hot Potato in a Pinch, Coil Demo, Coil Project
Aug 29	Slab Demo, Slab Project
Sept 3	Project 1: Wheel demo, throwing 2 cups
Sept 5	Project 1 continued
Sept 10	Project 1 continued
Sept 12	<b>Critique 1</b> (greenware): pinch project, coil project, slab project, 2 cups
Sept 17	Project 2: Introduction, <u>first bisque fire</u> : All projects must be bone dry
Sept 19	Project 2: Functional Ware- 2 bowls, 2 mugs (or tea cups), 1 vase
Sept 24	Project 2, <u>First glaze fire</u>
Sept 26	Project 2
Oct 1	Project 2
Oct 3	Project 2
Oct 8	<u>Second bisque fire</u> : All projects bone dry
Oct 10	<b>One Day Project- Going Big and Tall</b>
Oct 15	<u>Glaze fire</u> : All projects glazed
Oct 17	Project 3: Inspiration from fruit and veg: Bring in fruit and veg!
Oct 22	<b>Critique Project 2</b>
Oct 24	Project 3
Oct 29	Project 3
Oct 31	Project 3
Nov 5	Project 4: Making functional objects non-functional,
Nov 7	Project 4

Nov 12 Project 4  
Nov 14 Project 4, all projects prepared for bisque fire

Nov 19 Final bisque fire  
Nov 21 Hot potato wheel throwing

Nov 26 **Last day to glaze**  
Nov 28 Thanksgiving

Dec 3 **Test, Clean up**  
Dec 5 **Final Studio Clean-up**

Dec 10 **2:30 – 4:30 Critique Project 3 and 4**