

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Weber State University

### Intro to Ceramic Art

Art 2310

The Ethel Wattis Kimball Visual Arts Center, Room 130

Class meeting day/ time \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: Stephen Wolochowicz  
Office: The Ethel Wattis Kimball Visual Arts Center: Rm 131  
(inside ceramics studio)  
Phone: 801.626.7066  
E-mail: Swolochowicz@Weber.edu  
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30am - 12pm (except during occasional faculty meetings)  
& by appointment

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#### Description of course:

Introduction to clay and glaze, ceramic design, hand-built and wheel thrown forming techniques, and traditional and contemporary firing processes.

#### In this class, students will:

- ~~Learn and participate in making large amounts of stoneware and earthenware clay~~
- Learn the basic properties of clay and clay bodies
- Learn the potential and limitations of the material and process
- Learn how to respond to the material according to their individual modes of expression
- Learn various techniques of applying color and surface to clay and ceramic
- Be exposed to traditional and contemporary ideas and approaches involved in the uses of clay as sculpture, utilitarian objects, and as a general art material
- Develop a working ceramic vocabulary
- Conduct research on historical and contemporary art
- Communicate their concepts and content through class critiques
- Reinforce note-taking skills from lecture and demonstrations and apply to classwork

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#### Students will be evaluated on:

- 75% • All individual projects (ALL projects must be completed to pass this course)  
*Breakdown: P#1 10.5pts., P#2 16pts., P#3 22pts., P#4 10.5pts., P#5 16pts.*
- 5% • Research project (color image and report- instructor copy)
- 10% • Sketchbook (-1pt for each missing item)
- 10% • Test on vocabulary and project processes (last day of class)
- 0-5% • Notable participation in clay making / preparation of clay / kiln loading & unloading
- 0-5% • Exceptional Verbal and relevant participation in class and critiques

#### Supplemental considerations to overall grade:

- Homework assignments (grade reductions)
- Attendance (grade reductions)

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## Grading:

*The following grades and numeric point values are used to compute the cumulative grade point average by WSU.*

A	4.0	93-100%	• Exceptional work and high level of understanding of process/concepts
A-	3.7	90-92.9%	• Work and effort went above and beyond minimum expectations
B+	3.3	86-89.9%	
B	3.0	83-85.9%	• Good work. Above average understanding of process and concept
B-	2.7	80-82.9%	
C+	2.3	76-79.9%	• Average/ Acceptable work. Little deviation from project concept.
C	2.0	73-75.9%	• Minimum requirements accomplished
C-	1.7	70-72.9%	
D+	1.3	66-69.9%	
D	1.0	63-65.9%	• Below average work. Lack of effort in project concept and process
D-	0.7	60-62.9%	
E	0.0	below 60%	• Unacceptable

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## Supplemental Considerations To Overall Grade:

Unprofessional Behavior: Being a student is a job. Please respect your fellow students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus. Unruly behavior is not tolerated in the Ceramics Studio and you will be asked to leave, resulting in an absence for the day.

Stewardship and Studio Practice: You are responsible for your mess. Please clean up your area accordingly. Remember, there are over 60 students using this space. We all need to do our part to keep the studio clean and safe. You will notice the absence of brooms. Sweeping causes clay dust - which contains silica. The best way to clean up is by pulling a scraper to collect large debris and by wet processes: sponge or mopping, essentially keeping the dust to a minimum

Out of class work time: Your EFFORT and time spent will not go unnoticed. Do the best job you can on your projects. Studio art classes require 3-6 hours a week of out of class work time. (Weber State University defines 1 credit hour = 2 hours out of class work time per week) If you utilize your time efficiently, it is possible to complete the majority of your projects during class time.

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments are designed to maximize your hands on work time in the studio. Your research and preparedness for class is the best way to efficiently utilize your class time. Most homework I assign is gathering and collecting your ideas for you projects. Incomplete homework on its respective due date and will result in a 1 point reduction to your overall grade. This deduction cannot be reversed. If you are absent on a HW due date, it is the student's responsibility to present what is due at the beginning of the next class for HW credit.

*Example: I did not do the research homework. I now am using my class time to sketch and prepare my ideas and concepts before I can begin to work. I am now one class behind. I now have to make up that time over the weekend. I lost 1 point off of my final grade for work I had to do anyway.*

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## Attendance:

This course begins on the first scheduled day of the semester and has homework and assignments on that day. Students who enroll later in the semester are not excused from the attendance policy or homework policy due to late enrollment time. Class starts promptly at \_\_\_\_\_ . **Attendance is mandatory.** It is important that you attend every class. The information through lecture and demonstration as well as receiving my help is invaluable to the process. This is ultimately reflected in your grade. Students are expected to be here and working during class time. A late is considered 1-15 minutes after the start of the class. Leaving class early or just not participating will also be considered as late. 2 lates equate to an absence. Attendance will be taken ~~via a sign-in sheet~~ at the beginning of class. ~~It is your responsibility to remember to sign in.~~ I also keep attendance and tardiness in my records. Attendance is a vital part of your grade. Your 3<sup>rd</sup> absence will lower your final grade by 5%. Each absent after that will result in an additional 5% deduction to your final grade. The Department of Visual Art and Design has a general policy of 6 absences resulting in a failing grade (E) for the course. Please use your “freebies” wisely.

Doctor’s notes do not excuse absences, however, they can help in the long run. (i.e.- prolonged illness or frequent illness vs. student health center note for a headache to miss a critique) Along these lines, being a student is a full time job. We all have unique lives that encompass many responsibilities. These may include: pets, children, family, other jobs, extracurricular activities, mid semester vacations (Really?), etc. Please remember these do not excuse you from class. I am willing to work with students who demonstrate extraordinary circumstances.

Critiques cannot be made up, treat them like an exam. DO NOT MISS A CRITIQUE. I will work with students who have contacted me prior to a critique who have a legitimate reason for not being present.

Like all studio art classes, it will also be necessary to spend some time outside of class working on your projects and/or monitoring the drying of you projects. Ceramics is not like riding a bike, it’s like learning an instrument. It takes time and practice. A little each day is time well spent.

There is a mandatory studio clean up day at the end of the semester. This is typically the last day of regular scheduled class. Absence will result in one full letter (10%) grade reduction to your overall grade.

Students who have not removed their work from the ceramics studio and returned their locker in clean condition by Friday, 5pm Finals Week, will receive a 5% reduction in their final grade.

Please turn off all ringers, alarms, etc. on you devices. They are a distraction to the process of learning. In class use of cellular phones, e-mail, radios, i-pods, headphones, social networking online, etc. is prohibited during scheduled class time. Feel free to use any or all outside of scheduled class time. I consider these distractions and as non participatory and it will result as an absence for the day.

**Student Athletes:** You are required and it is your responsibility to provide me with a list of the classes that you will not be attending for the semester prior to your first away event. The athletics department has guidelines to what constitutes a travel/away day.

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## Projects:

Each project will begin with a specific problem to solve, technical and/or content based. For this class, students will be focusing on hand-building projects and a brief introduction to the pottery wheel. These will be both explained and demonstrated. An emphasis will be placed on the process, issues in timing, surfacing solutions, and principles of structure and form. The degree of challenge, idea, motives, and technical issues involved in the completed works will be discussed and evaluated during critiques. Projects have 2 critiques: a greenware critique/preliminary grade, and a finished project critique/ final grade. Projects are due on specific critique days. Assignments are to be complete, finished to project requirements, and ready to be discussed for critique.

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## Critiques:

Assignments are due on specific critique days, and are to be finished and ready to be discussed. If they are not done on time, your project grade will be penalized one full letter (10%) for every class period it is late. It is better to show incomplete work than to not show up to class at all. **An absence from a critique will lower your final grade by 10%. DO NOT MISS A CRITIQUE.**

Class Critiques will be held after assignments. They are intended for discussing discoveries, problems, intent, and content. Critiques are environments for students to voice their thoughts and concerns in regards to their work as well as that of their classmates. Critiques are a vital part of the art process. Attendance and relevant verbal participation are mandatory. Participation will be evaluated and recorded, as it is a part of your overall grade.

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## Tools:

### Pottery tool kit items:

- Plastic bags
  - Eye protection
  - Rubber gloves
  - Silica-rated dust mask
  - Spray bottle
  - Plastic Bucket
  - Sm kitchen knife
  - Fork
  - \*\*Sure-form rasp
  - \*\*Variety of soft brushes (bamboo)
  - Change of clothes
  - Sketchbook (3-ring binder)
  - Lock for locker
  - Towel
  - Lockers: Each student will be given a locker in the studio for the semester. Locks are the responsibility of the student. Your lockers must be cleaned out and wiped down at the end of the semester during our studio clean up day.
- Sm sponge
  - Needle tool
  - Cut off wire tool
  - Wood knife
  - Wood rib tool
  - Metal rib tool
  - Sm loop tool
  - Lg loop tool
  - Rubber rib (optional)
- Pencil / pen
  - Paper
- \*\* Rasp and bamboo brushes included in tool kit from Art Elements store located in Kimball Arts Building

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## Materials and fees:

There is a lab fee for this course. Lab fees pay for the maintenance of equipment, clay, glaze materials, and department upkeep. Lab fees are kept as low as possible. Many of the materials we use are extremely expensive. All clay used in class **MUST** be made at Weber State University. All students ~~are required to~~ can help make clay for the general studio during the semester. I will demonstrate, coach and supervise all aspects of this activity. Please use as much clay as you need but remember it is a chore to make more.

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## Sketchbook:

Students are required to have a 3-ring binder. ALL notes, handouts, assignments, sketches, research and ideas are to be organized into this binder. I provide access to a 3-hole punch for adding pages to your research binder. This book is required at every class. I will collect and grade this at the end of the semester. For full credit consideration, 3-hole punch all papers and organize them accordingly. In addition, all students are required to have appropriate writing implements and paper for taking notes and sketching during class time.

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## Resources:

I do not have a mandatory textbook for this course.

Your complete sketchbook with all handouts, e-mailed PDF files, Homework and class notes will serve as your textbook.

Suggested books:      *The Craft and the Art of Clay*, by Susan Peterson  
                                 *The Ceramic Handbook*, by Val Cushing  
                                 *Clay and glaze for the potter*, by Daniel Rhodes  
                                 *Potters dictionary of materials and techniques*,  
                                 by Frank & Janet Hamer

Internet sources:      NCECA.net  
                                 Digitalfire.com  
                                 Ceramicsmonthly.org  
                                 Ceramicsculpture.com  
                                 Pottery-making.org  
                                 Pottery.org  
                                 ArtAxis.org  
                                 AccessCeramics.org

Magazines:              Ceramics Monthly  
                                 Ceramics: Art and Perception  
                                 Ceramics: Technical  
                                 Clay Times  
                                 Pottery Making Illustrated

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## Semester Calendar:

I provide you with a tentative calendar outline of the semester. This is only a guide as it is not uncommon that an event will cause an alteration to our schedule. I communicate to the class via your Weber e-mail account. I will communicate any schedule changes, reminders, handouts and additional information needed for our class through this channel. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail and all students are required to have an active WSU e-mail account. *Hint: you can forward your WSU e-mail to other accounts and devices. For more info call IT Services at 626-7777 or visit the IT Service Desk through the WSU website.*

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## Communication:

*I communicate to the class in three ways:*

- During class
- On the whiteboard in the classroom
- Via E-mail

*You can communicate to me in four ways:*

- In class
- Office voicemail (not preferred)
- E-mail (preferred method)
- Office hours or schedule a meeting

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### Studio Access:

The ceramics studio is open to enrolled students only. Children, spouses, partners, pets, etc. are not enrolled students and should not be in class with you. During the semester I keep the main doors unlocked 24/7. However, the Kimball Arts Building has limited “open” access. Ceramics classes are held \_\_\_\_\_ . You can work in the other room during another class **except** during critiques. You become a distraction to the class in critique.

### Kimball Arts Building hours:

M-F	7am-11:59pm
Sat.	8am-6pm
Sun.	Locked/ Closed

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### Homework:

You will have in class and out of class homework assignments throughout the semester. Every incomplete homework will deduct 1 point off of your final grade. Below is a list of homework assignments for this course. You will either get full credit or no credit on HW.

HW#1	Questionnaire/ quiz
HW#2	1 hour in class exercise
HW#3	Purchasing tool kit (complete with bamboo brushes and surform blade)
HW#4	3-ring binder
HW#5	In-class coil exercise
HW#6	Project #1 research (20 images/sketches + one enlarged to scale)
HW#7	In-class additive maquette making
HW#8	Project #2 research (20 sketches + one enlarged to 8.5” x 11” paper)
HW#9	Carved element research for Project #2
HW#10	Library book (project #3 research)
HW#11	Enlarged image as big as possible on 8.5” x 11” paper – project #3
HW#12	½” grid drawn over HW#10
HW#13	Culture research – fillable PDF
HW#14	Drawing and cup aesthetics handout
HW#15	Drawing mugs handout
HW#16	Document glazing scheme of cups
HW#17	Document glazing scheme of mugs

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### Additional notes:

#### Stay Informed

•The Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities ([www.weber.edu/cah](http://www.weber.edu/cah)) wants to ensure you stay updated on all of the events, announcements and opportunities in our college. In addition, you will have the opportunity to win prizes on Facebook and Twitter that you will not want to miss. As such, we encourage students to follow our college on the various social media platforms listed below.



[Facebook.com/WSUartsandhumanities.com](https://www.facebook.com/WSUartsandhumanities.com)



[@WeberStateArts](https://twitter.com/WeberStateArts)



[Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities](https://www.youtube.com/LindquistCollegeofArtsandHumanities)

#### BFA Program

•If you are considering becoming an Art Major, schedule a meeting with a faculty member in your area of interest. They will help guide you through the application process and relay the expectations for the specific area of study.

### Student Artwork documentation

•I document student projects at the end of the semester. For those interested, I will teach you how to photo-document your artwork from this class or other 3D work from outside of this class. Your artwork images are available to you after the semester closes. I have a DVD that you can upload your artwork from. Additionally, you are now required by the College of A&H to fill out a "Photo Release Form". ~~It is an online form located on the A&H College homepage under "Newsroom". You have to right to not consent. E mail notification is required the first week of classes confirming you have completed the form or wish to opt out.~~

### Scholarships

•The University, College and individual departments have scholarships. Some are general, honors based, major or minor specific, etc... There are many to be awarded. A little research can end up paying you!

### Academic Integrity

•As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is "the un-cited use of any other person's or group's ideas or work" Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or in more serious cases, failure of the entire course. The WSU Student Code includes a more extensive list of prohibited behaviors; you should familiarize yourself with all aspects of the code. Students who commit infractions of the WSU Student Code will be dealt with according to procedures outlined in the code.

### Core Beliefs

•Weber State University recognizes that there are times when course content may differ from a student's core beliefs. Faculty, however, have a responsibility to teach content that is related to the discipline and that has a reasonable relationship to pedagogical goals. If you, as a student, believe that the content of the course conflicts with your ability to pursue a topic, you may request a resolution from the instructor. The instructor is not obliged to grant your request except in cases where a denial would be arbitrary and capricious. Your request must be made in writing and copies must be delivered to the instructor and the department chair. The request must clearly articulate how the assignment would place a burden on your beliefs. Please see WSU policy 6-22 for further clarification on this policy.

### Disability Accommodation

•PPM 3-34 notes: "When students seek accommodation in a regularly scheduled course, they have the responsibility to make such a request at the Center for Students with Disabilities before the beginning of the [semester] in which the accommodation is being requested. CSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

### Code Purple Emergency Notification

•System Code Purple is an emergency notification system that gives Weber State University the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly--by text, voice, and e-mail message. By enrolling in Code Purple, you may receive safety-related information, regardless of your location. WSU has contracted with the third-party firm Send Word Now to provide the infrastructure and equipment to support the Code Purple notification system. To review or update your contact information, please log in to the eWeber portal and click on the link under the WSU Code Purple channel on the main eWeber page. If you do not wish to be notified by the Code Purple system in the event of an emergency, click the "deactivate my account" button at the bottom of the Code Purple registration page.

### Emergency Closure

•If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will not have class. We will continue where we left off on our schedule when classes resume. If we have/had a critique we will have it the next class period. Look for an e-mail from me outlining the schedule changes.