

Introduction to Ceramics
FA 1310.501
Fall 25

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Introduction to Ceramics

ARTS 1310.501

CRN: 64100

Fall 2025 Monday 9:00-11:30

Instructor: Janice C Pacifico

E-mail: jpacific@unm.edu

Office: B&T Building 103

Office Hours(in Person): M/W 11:30-12:00 (or by appointment)

Zoom office hours will take the place of in person if necessary

The best ways to contact me are through office hours or email.

Course Content

All 100-level art studio courses carry no prerequisites and are designed for both students who have a general interest in art as well as students who plan on majoring or minoring in art. Introduction to Ceramics is a comprehensive introduction to the basic terms, concepts, historical, and technical information that support creative development in ceramics. Lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, assigned projects and critiques will assist the student's growth and critical understanding of the issues in ceramic arts better preparing them for further study in the medium.

Student Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate introductory level working knowledge of hand building, throwing, slip working, glazing and firing methods.
- Exhibit patience, persistence and creative problem skills.
- Develop ability to think visually and communicate ideas.
- Identify and discuss major developments in ceramics as they have occurred throughout time.
- Demonstrate ability to discuss and defend work in relation to concepts, ideas, techniques, processes, and experiences.

Materials

Students will need the following materials. Stoneware Clay, Anasazi 5X (cone 6) Small Bucket, Plastic, Masking Tape, Clean-up sponge, Notebook, Towel, Lock. Glazes will be provided for the students. **Do not bring in outside glazes.**

Suggested Texts:

Ceramics. Glenn Nelson.

The Craft and Art of Clay, Susan Peterson

Centering. M.C. Richards

The Complete Potter: Throwing. Richard Plethean

Student Responsibilities

- Students are required to complete all assignments on time, participate in scheduled critiques, class discussions and maintain a safe, respectable, positive studio Environment.

- Art studio classes are very different than other classes. The majority of work is done in the studio due to equipment and material needs. Students are expected to work in the studio several hours each week in addition to scheduled class times. Open studio hours will be announced.

Neither dishonesty nor unruly behavior will be tolerated in the classroom; such actions will lead to being dropped from the course. According to our Student Code of Conduct found on page 179 of the 2012 – 2014 UNM-Valencia Catalog:

“Appropriate disciplinary procedures and sanctions shall be applied to any student who commits, or attempts to commit, any of the following acts of misconduct: 2.4. Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.”

UNM Email/Black Board Learn Access: Beginning Fall 2015 semester, all UNM-Valencia students will need a UNM Net ID which can be created by going to: <http://it.unm.edu/accounts/>. UNM Net ID will give you access to the computer labs on campus, blackboard learn and UNM Email.

- Students are expected to attend every class on time, fully prepared for each day's work and clean the studio before the end of each class. More than three absences without prior consultation may result in a failing grade or a drop from the class. Leaving excessively early or arriving late three times results in one absence. Students are responsible for lecture and demo information missed if absent. No repeats of lectures or demos will be given due to lack of attendance.
- Cell phones need to be put on mute during class times. If you must receive a call during class time leave the studio before you answer. No phone conversations, text messaging, web surfing, movie watching etc. in studios.
- If you have any issue that may need special attention or accommodation, please see me after class. All personal information is kept strictly confidential. Likewise, I keep all grades, personal information, etc confidential. Please understand that I will not give out such information on the phone or through email or to anyone other than you.

Grading

Grading is based on completion of course assignments (no full credit will be given for late work), quality of individual technical and critical development, personal commitment and ability to work in a community studio setting. Personal commitment involves regular attendance, consistent effort, completion of work and participation in group critiques and the general willingness to try. **Greenware is not finished work.**

There are two required group critiques, midterm and final. The midterm critique measures progress made on assignments up to that time and final critique is where all work is evaluated for grade.

Assignments	65%
Critiques	25%
Attendance/Participation	10%

<u>Ceramics I Introduction to Ceramics</u> PROJECT & CRITIQUE RUBRIC	<u>A+, A, A- (100% - 90%)</u> Demonstrates outstanding skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development. Quality of work is excellent, and is integrated with exceptional creativity Outstanding patience and persistence with outstanding problem-solving skills demonstrated Demonstrates an outstanding ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions. Demonstrates extensive use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in the discipline
<u>D+, D, D- (69% - 60%)</u> Demonstrates a lack of skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development. Quality of work is borderline acceptable, and is poorly integrated with creativity Limited patience and persistence with limited problem-solving skills demonstrated Demonstrates a limited ability to discuss and assess work in critique and class discussions. Demonstrates poor use and understanding of concepts and terminology used in this discipline	<u>F (59% and below)</u> Fails to demonstrate skill, discernment, and working knowledge of hand building, throwing, combined processes and surfaces development. Quality of work is unacceptable, and is not integrated with creativity No patience and persistence with no problem-solving skills demonstrated Does not participate in discussing or assessing work in critique and class discussions. Shows little or no understanding of the concepts and terminology used in this discipline

Schedule

(Subject to changes)

Week 1: Aug. 18/20	Monday: Introduction & Syllabus Wednesday: Wedging & pinch pot demos (Assignment 1)
Week 2: Aug. 25/27	Monday: Ceramic History & Coil building demo Wednesday: Workday (Assignment 2)
Week 3: Sept. 1/3	Monday: Decorative slip & Glaze demo Wednesday: Workday
Week 4: Sept. 8/10	Monday: Start work on Assignment 3 , an 18" tall, coiled pot Wednesday: Workday
Week 5: Sept. 15/17	Monday: Continue working on Assignment 3

	Wednesday: Workday
Week 6: Sept. 22/24	Monday: Workday Wednesday: Workday
Week 7: Sept 29/Oct 1	Monday: We will begin to work on the potter's wheel. Wednesday: Continue work on Assignment 4 , 3 wheel thrown pots, any size, any shape
Week 8: Oct. 6/8	Monday: Midterm Critique Wednesday Fall Break (No Class)
Week 9: Oct. 13/15	Monday: Begin work on Assignment 5 , make 1 cylinder, 1 bowl, and 1 plate, as large as you can. Wednesday: Workday
Week 10: Oct. 20/22	Monday: Workday Wednesday: Workday
Week 11: Oct. 27/29	Monday: Cups with and without handles. Assignment 6 Wednesday: Workday
Week 12: Nov. 3/5	Monday: Workday Wednesday: Workday
Week 13: Nov. 10/12	Monday: Making a covered pot. Assignment 7 Wednesday: Last Wet Clay Day
Week 14: Nov. 17/19	Monday: Workday. Finish All Trimming Wednesday: Workday
Week 15: Nov 24/26	Monday: Last Bisque Wednesday: Workday. Finish all glazing
Week 16: Dec. 1/3	Monday: Final Critique Wednesday: Pack Work & Studio Clean Up (required for grade)

Assignments

Assignment 1:

5 points

2 different pinch pots with texture (any size or shape)

Assignment 2:

5 points

1 small coil-built form with slip decoration (at least four coils)

Assignment 3:

10 points

History/Influence presentation w/ plans, large coil piece (H-18" minimum)

Assignment 4:

5 points

3 Thrown and Trimmed forms. (any size or shape)

Assignment 5:

10 points

1 Thrown cylinder. (H-8") and 1 Thrown bowl. (D-8")

Assignment 6:

15 points

3 Matching cups with handles, 2 Non-matching cups without handles. (one set thrown and other set hand built)

Assignment 7:

15 points

1 Covered jar. (Thrown or Hand built)

Locker/ Cubby Policy:

Lockers and Cubbies are available for your material and tool storage. Locker/Cubby use is contingent upon enrollment in a Fine Arts class. Claim a locker/cubby by labeling it with your name, semester, and year. For lockers you must provide your own lock. **All lockers/cubbies must be cleaned out at the end of each semester.** Failure to do so will mean the lock will be cut and belongings removed. *

***If you are taking an art class the following semester and need to store materials over break reach out to your professor or lab tech and we will do our best to make accommodations.**

Any chemicals should be stored in the yellow flammable safety cabinet. Please remember to remove your chemicals from the yellow cabinet at the end of the semester. Any chemicals left after the semester ends will be donated to the department.

Other Important Information:

Equal Access

If you have documented disability, please provide me with a copy of your letter from Equal Access Services as soon as possible to ensure that your accommodations are provided in a timely manner. It is up to you to obtain documentation of a disability. If you are a Valencia campus student, contact Equal Access Services at Valencia Campus (505) 925-8910 and <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement-and-counseling/equal-access-services.html>. If you are a main campus student you can receive documentation from the main campus Accessibility Resource Center <http://as2.unm.edu/>. I will not guarantee accommodation without the appropriate documentation

Title IX

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see page 15- <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ga-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

COVID-19 Health and Awareness:

UNM is a mask friendly, but not mask required, community. To be registered or employed at UNM, Students, Faculty, and Staff must all meet UNM's Administrative Mandate on Required COVID-19 vaccination. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class. If you have a positive COVID-19 test, please stay home for five days and isolate yourself from others, per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines. If you do need to stay home, please contact me at 505 866-0582; I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. UNM faculty and staff know that these are challenging times. Please let us know that you. Need support so that we can connect you to the right resources and please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and emails about any changes to our public health status and community response.

Land Acknowledgement:

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:

All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community.

The Administration's welcome is found on our website:

<http://undocumented.unm.edu/>