

Western University
Department of Visual Arts
SA 2690Y
Special Topics Ceramics

Term/Session: Fall/Winter 2023/2024

Course Prerequisite: Studio Art 1601 or Studio Art 1605, or the former VAS 1020 or the former VAS 1025, or permission of the Department.

Course Description:

SA 2690 is an introduction to making of functional and sculptural ceramic art. Students will learn fundamental techniques through in-class presentations and hands-on demonstrations, progressing onto more advanced options as the course and their skills develop. Alongside this, the course will also survey the chemistry of ceramic materials and their interactions during the fabrication process. And using readings, discussions, presentations and lectures, students will learn about the development of Ceramics as an art form, as both historical and contemporary, and local and international and its role and place in the art world. Projects will emphasis self-direction by each student, emphasising learning through experimentation, risk taking and identification of preferences to arrive at authentic and resolved ceramic artworks. No previous clay experience is required.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will gain an understanding of expanded approaches to Clay as a primary, contemporary artist's tool of expression. They will learn how to identify distinct ways that ceramics can operate practically and critically, and be able to apply this understanding in directed and self-directed ways towards the realization of their ideas.

Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and direct their reflections on their work toward exploring and developing further projects.

Autonomy and Professional Capacity

Students will understand a range of opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice. They will understand the appropriate means by which artists communicate with their peers, advance their careers etc.

Course Requirements:

Assignments & Coursework

Students are expected to work in the studio during scheduled class times, plus 4-6 hours per week out of class. All work for this course must be original to this class and completed entirely by each student themselves.

All assignments must be handed due at the beginning of class the on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior approval, students may hand in late work with a 5% per day deduction from the assignment without academic accommodation, or no penalty with it. In cases of serious health and bereavement reasons, extensions for major assignments will be granted upon receipt of official notification from the student's faculty advisor. Attendance of all critiques from beginning to end is mandatory. Missing a critique or leaving early without prior consultation with your professor will affect your project grade.

Course Materials

Materials: The materials Fee is \$180 to be paid in cash or cheque the first class

Electronic Course Resources:

Course readings, project outlines, student grades and other resources pertaining to lessons will be posted on Owl/ Sakai in the resources folder. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they read and understand them before class time. Students are responsible for making themselves aware of all assignments, procedures and due dates in the syllabus or announced on OWL.

Late work submission:

Late projects must be handed into me personally during class or office hours, or if I am not available, take a good quality photo of your artwork and upload it to their Dropbox, then hand in the actual artwork the next class. The moment I receive the actual artwork or the digital file will be the timestamp. After uploading the picture, the project cannot be worked any further. If there is any discrepancy between the picture & the actual artwork, I will disregard the upload & use the time & date it was physically handed in.

A student does not need academic accommodation for work worth less than 10% of the course grade, providing they contact me either before or on the due date. Late work worth more than 10%, students requires notification of me by the due date and accommodation from your Academic counselor. Projects handed in without notice or Academic accommodation will incur a late penalty of 5% per day.

Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Lockers:

Students will be assigned lockers for use during the term. If shared, be respectful of others by keeping the work and supplies safe and in an orderly fashion. Students are required to clean out their belongings at the end of the term. The department cannot be held responsible for any materials or work left beyond this deadline.

Allergies:

Any student with a severe allergy requiring an EpiPen please inform me as soon as possible. Art materials use a wide range of materials & it is possible some allergens may be present in certain materials.

Prerequisite Checking:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which may be defined as “The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own,” will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This includes presenting the visual or aural work of another creator as your own. Visual or Aural Plagiarism may involve both hand-based media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, as well as digital media such as photography, video and sound. It includes work subsequently manipulated or transferred between different media, as well as self-plagiarism – work submitted for assignments previously produced and graded for another course. Similar to textual plagiarism, all student work involving the visual or aural work of others must be appropriately cited/identified whether in print or orally. Failure to do so will lead to similar academic penalties as those identified in Western’s Academic Calendar.

Student Conduct:

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf

Academic Sanctions:

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record. When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

The above prohibitions shall be in force until such time as indebtedness to the University, including payment of fee for removal of the seal, has been cleared to the satisfaction of the University. http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&Keywords=academic%20sanctions&SubHeadingID=169&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_169

Additional Course Material Request Policy:

For online courses the material may be presented in a variety of ways at the instructor's discretion. Requests for additional material can only be made in cases necessitating academic accommodation. If a student requires Academic Accommodation for the course material, they can contact Western's Academic Support & Engagement department. <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Academic Consideration:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility.

Attendance:

Under university regulations, if someone misses more than 15% of their classes (15% is equivalent to missing 8 hours of Lecture and/or Studio Lab, due to absence or lateness, or a combination of both, per semester) without written corroboration for health or bereavement, students can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or assignments. Note that if a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, they will exceed the 15% cutoff and be debarred; assignments may stop being accepted and such assignments will receive a mark of 0 (zero)

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Electronic Devices:

During Lectures: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be

prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Permission re: Promotion:

You grant permission for Western University to reproduce your name, information describing your artwork, representations of your work and any other information you have provided for the purpose of display, promotion and publicity either now or in the future.

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including, without limitation, advertising, display, editorial, packaging, promotion, television, social media, the Department of Visual Arts website, flickr, Twitter, Instagram etc.). Students wishing to not have their work photographed should not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

Artwork Installation Liability Release:

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.

Removal:

Western University reserves the right to dispose of artwork not picked up by April 15th of each year.

Support Services:

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Health and Wellness:

Western offers a variety of counselling services and several mental health resources for students. If you or a friend are feeling overwhelmed, confused or unsure of your mental health state, please don't ignore it. There are steps you can take to help yourself or help others. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms:

Visual Arts does not have specifically gender-neutral bathrooms. There are two gender neutral bathrooms in the JLVAC. One is located in the Artlab and is open only during Artlab hours. A second single stall gender neutral bathroom can be found on the third floor of the JLVAC. Here is the full list of inclusive washrooms at UWO:

http://www.uwo.ca/equity/doc/inclusive_washrooms.pdf.

Please contact the Administrative Officer, Meghan Edmiston (meghan.edmiston@uwo.ca), for card access to the elevator and stairs if you are in need of the 3rd floor gender neutral/accessible washroom for the academic year.

AI & Chat GBT

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

STATEMENT ON GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Land Acknowledgement. <https://communications.uwo.ca/comms/land-acknowledgement/>

COURSE MATERIALS LIST

Materials and tools provided with Course fees:

- 100lbs low-fire clay
- Assorted sculpture and hand tools (Shared)
- Ceramic slips, ceramic pencils, and glazes (Shared)
- 3M N95 face mask
- painting and Hake brushes

Materials needed that are not provided by Course fees:

- Hand cream (good quality)
- Sketchbook
- Assorted clothes & rags
- Extra brushes & tools (i.e. metal fork, knife, spoon, plastic cards, etc.)
- Tracing Paper, pencil, charcoal, eraser, ruler and other measuring tools.
- Items for making marks or impressions
- Newspaper, masking tape
- Lidded and open containers (i.e. Tupperware, yogurt, bowls or buckets)

Optional Materials

- Apron
- Ziplock containers, paper towels
- Large wooden board covered with canvas (for personal use)
- Magic Mender (a fireable clay repair material)
- 5 minute Epoxy, JB weld putty, Bondo, Caulking, etc. (for post firing repair)
- Wood wax, paints, sandpaper, putty knife, etc. (post firing alteration)
- Ruler and various measuring tools

Ceramic Suppliers

Bijan Art Supply – carries boxes of low-fire clay and various tools and brushes

<https://bijansartstudio.ca/?v=3e8d115eb4b3>

Pottery Supply House (PSH)- Burlington

<https://psh.ca>

Tuckers Pottery Supply- Markham

<https://tuckerspottteryeshop.com>

FALL PROJECTS

1. November Early Bird Deadline Due Nov 6

Works handed in for this deadline will count towards required work totals in the Mid-Year Critique.

<u>Size, Orientation and process</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Graded for</u>
• Small 2D Test Tiles Horizontal	8	Completion
• Small 3D vertical coil/ slab/ solid forms	1	Completion & Quality

2. Mid-Year Critique Due Dec 4th

All forms must be fired to maturity (^04). Surface can be bare fired clay with/ without slip, stain & glaze. The subject and style of each work is open to each student.

<u>Size, Orientation and process</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Graded for</u>
• Small 2D flat Test Tiles Horizontal	16	Completion
• Small 3D vertical coil/ slab/ solid forms	3 (1 ea.)	Completion & Quality
• Medium 2D flat Slump form	1	Completion & Quality
• Small wheel thrown form	2	Completion

Project wet height guidelines (Small 6-9", Medium 10-16", Large 16" +)

Project Grading Criteria

33% Ambition & Risk

33% Creativity & Experimentation

33% Formal Skills

Kiln duty Grading Criteria

100% attendance & participation

Fall Term Course Grade Breakdown:

November 6 Early Bird Deadline	20%
December 4 Mid-year Critique	60%
Kiln Duties	20%

SA 2690Y GRADING

A+ Outstanding

- Work & work processes in and out of class fully completed with maximum effort
- Projects demonstrate **Outstanding Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

A-/A Superior/ Excellent

- Work & work processes in and out of class fully completed with extra effort
- Projects demonstrate **Superior/ Excellent Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

B+ Very Good

- Work & work processes in and out of class completed
- Projects demonstrate **Very Good Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

B-/B Satisfactory/ Good

- Work & work processes in and out of class completed
- Projects demonstrate **Satisfactory/ Good Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

C-/C/ C+ Competent

- Work & work processes in and out of class largely completed
- Projects demonstrate **Competent Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

D Minimal

- Work & work processes in and out of class barely completed
- Projects demonstrate **Minimal Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

F Fail

- Work & work processes in and out of class not completed (less than 50%)
- Projects demonstrate **Very little Insight** (curiosity & idea), Experimentation (playfulness & risk), & Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)