

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

Term/Session: Fall/Winter 2022/2023
Time Monday 9:30am - 12:30pm (Bimonthly)
Location VAC - 130A In-person
Professor Geordie Shepherd gshephe@uwo.ca
Office Hours Monday 12:30-1:30pm, Room 220
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.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

Should there be a Covid-19 resurgence we will maintain in-person learning and adapt our classes as we see fit.

Course Materials

Textbook: None is required but a list of optional reference books will be released.

Materials The materials Fee is \$180 to be paid before any materials are disbursed.

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:

Middlesex College 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.

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
- 3 painting brushes and 2 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 or plastic bags
- Large wooden board covered with canvas (for sole 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)
- Vinegar
- 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. Three (3) 2-D to 3-D Sketches Due Oct 24 – See assignments for details
2. Artist Response #1 Due Dec 6th – See assignments for details
3. Mid-Year Critique Due Dec 6th

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.

<i>Size, Depth, Orientation and Fabrication process</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Graded for</i>
• Small 2D horizontal slabs (surface/ material tests)	8	Completion
• Small 2D Vertical slabs (surface/ material tests)	8	Completion
• Small 3D vertical coil/ slab/ solid forms	3	Completion & Quality
• Medium 2D horizontal slumped Slab	1	Completion & Quality
• Medium 3D vertical coil/ slab/ solid form	2	Completion & Quality
• Large 2D horizontal slumped Slab	0	n/g
• Large 2D slab form	0	n/g
• Large 3D coil/ slab form	0	n/g
• Small wheel thrown form	2	Completion
• Medium wheel thrown form	1	Completion
• Large wheel thrown form	0	n/g

*Project wet height guidelines (Small 2-8", Medium 8-15", Large 16" +)
MINICRIT on OCT 24TH and NOV 7th. See Assignments for details.*

Completion & Quality Grading Guideline

30% Insight (curiosity & idea)

30% Experimentation (playfulness & risk)

30% Formal skills (technique & aesthetic quality)

10% Attention to studio clean-up and kiln duties

Fall Term Course Grade Breakdown:

Three (3) 2-D to 3-D Sketches	10%
Artist Response #1	10%
December Mid-course	80%
Total	100%

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)

Western University - Department of Visual Arts

Safety and Maintenance Sheet

Sculpture Studio and Workshop, Room 130

Visual Arts Centre (VAC) COVID-19 Building Guidelines

In order to ensure a safe and healthy work environment for our campus community, your experience in the Visual Arts Centre will be different than in previous years. All decisions surrounding our policies are been made in line with the current University and Health Unit directives. They may change as the COVID-19 situation evolves. The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority; **it is a shared responsibility and we all play a critical role.** In addition to the guidelines outlined by the University on the Health and Safety website, the directives below apply to the Visual Arts Centre to ensure a safe year for all.

University Health and Safety Measures

- The Department of Visual Arts will be adhering to all directives outlined by Western University and the MLHU. Up-to-date health and safety guidelines can be found at: <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety.html>

Building Safety Measures

- **Food and Drink:** are not permitted in the Visual Arts Centre, please consume your meals at your home or in designated campus eateries.
- **Clean-in, Clean-out:** students will be provided with spray disinfectant, and disinfectant wipes for shared tools and surfaces. Any shared equipment must be sanitized by the user **before and after** each use.

Sculpture Studio Use

- **Restricted to use by students enrolled in sculpture courses and graduate students**
- Graduate students, faculty, and students enrolled in sculpture classes will be required to book an appointment to ensure occupancy capacities are respected in each area of the sculpture studio. Please contact Sculpture Technician Andrew Silk asilk3@uwo.ca to book an appointment.
- Hands must be washed upon entry and before leaving.
- Shared hand tools need to be disinfected before and after each use; in other words, “Clean-in, Clean-out.”

Faculty Responsibilities

- Inform students about safe use of hand and power tools in workshop areas and safe use of toxic materials clean up.
- Make sure students are provided with a tool safety demonstration led by the workshop technician.
- Students may be required to pass a safety test before using equipment in this facility.
- Inform students about general clean up and removal of completed marked work and ensure that students are doing so.
- Inform students about clean up following each class and make them aware of designated storage spaces for their materials and work-in-progress.
- Notify technician of burnt-out light fixtures, broken or missing chairs and other furniture located in these areas.
- If an accident occurs in the workshop area and you require emergency help call 911.
- Supervise students' adherence to the maintenance requirements listed below, under the heading "Student Responsibilities".

Student Responsibilities

- Non-medical 3-layer face masks are required at all times in the Visual Arts Centre.
- Adhere to all safety practices when working in workshop area and/or studio room 130.
- **Clean-in, Clean-out:** students will be provided with spray disinfectant, and disinfectant wipes for shared tools and surfaces. Any shared equipment must be sanitized by the user **before and after** each use.
- Use appropriate areas for storage of work, tools and materials such as lockers and designated storage racks.
- Store all flammable paints, solvents etc. in the flammable cabinet, located in the spray booth.
- Follow the workshop guidelines for use of equipment as outlined by workshop studio technician.
- Return all workshop equipment to the appropriate location.
- **Remove all marked work immediately unless advised otherwise.**
- Ask the workshop technician or instructor if you have any concerns or doubts regarding the operation of equipment.
- Notify workshop technician if you suspect that equipment is not working effectively.
- Also please attach a note to any equipment you discover is broken and could potentially be a safety hazard.
- If an accident occurs in the workshop area and you require emergency help call 911.

Please note: According to University regulations guiding "Laboratory Use," students who fail to respect the responsibilities listed above will not have their final course grade sent to the Registrar.