

**Art 709 – Ceramics I (Sec.3352)**  
**Fall 2015**

Doug Blechner – Instructor  
FA 105, MW 6:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**--NO CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS--**  
**--No Headphone Devices and No Food--**

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the use of the potter's wheel. Continued utilization and expansion of skills developed in Art 708. Forms included for investigation: cylinder forms, bowl forms, the cylinder bottle form, lidded containers, as well as pulled handles. Continued exploration on surface treatment and glazing techniques.

**Course Student Learning Outcome:**

-Students will create basic wheel formed ceramics.

**Course Objectives:**

- To learn the fundamentals of ceramics.
- To become familiar with the potters wheel and surface decoration.
- To introduce historical and contemporary ceramic art and gain an understanding of its cultural context.
- To challenge problem solving skills.
- To effectively apply the principles of civility as they pertain to the classroom, the instructor and your fellow students.
- To learn self-assessment through the critic of ones projects.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

A student who earns a grade of "C" or higher will have:

- Secured the fundamental techniques of ceramic wheel throwing and decoration.
- Gained a greater understanding of cultural diversity through the study of art, historical and contemporary.
- Demonstrated an ability to think critically with an increased experience using problem solving skills.
- Shown a comprehension of ones civic responsibility through appropriate civil behavior as it relates to the community.
- Demonstrated an ability to self-assess through the analysis of ones art work.

**Course Requirements and Personal Responsibility**

**Lab Fee: \$25.00 (Required payment to the bookstore)**

The lab fee covers the expense of one 25-pound bag of clay, as well as glazes and firing for the semester. Prior to receiving clay to work with, each student must pay the fee to the bookstore. Additional clay may be purchased for \$7.00 a bag from the bookstore, when needed.

### **Attendance and Grading:**

Attendance to all class meetings is required. Three late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. More than two unexcused absences may result in the lowering of your final grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in your being dropped from the class. Work will be evaluated on craftsmanship and on meeting the requirements of the assignments. Projects will be graded as they are completed. If there is ever a concern about your grade, please come and see me.

### **Student Behavior and Discipline:**

It is my expectation that you conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times, behaving in a polite and courteous way to both the instructor as well as to your fellow students. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave class. Please refer to the **Code of Conduct** in the Class Schedule as well as the hand out "**College Policies and Standards.**" Each student is allowed one locker.

### **Clean Up:**

It is important that all students participate and take responsibility in helping to maintain the cleanliness of the ceramics facility. **Clean up is mandatory.**

### **Clothing:**

Be aware that this class involves the use of clay and other earthen materials. Wear clothes that you do not mind getting dirty or take precautions to protect clothing. You must wear foot protection at all times.

### **Texts:** (optional)

Nelson, Glenn C., Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook

Peterson, Susan, The Craft and Art of Clay

Speight, Charlotte, Hands in Clay: An Introduction to Ceramics

### **Tools needed for this class:**

potter's tool kit / an oriental writing brush and a medium size nylon brush /  
a cleanup sponge / dry cleaner plastic bags or other plastic / 12" plastic ruler /  
serrated rib / small empty containers with lids / rolling pin. / one gallon bucket /  
calipers / old towel / notebook

### **Assignments:**

Six cylinders 6"-8" tall, Two bowls, Four mugs with pulled handle

One pitcher with pulled handle, One cylinder bottle

Three covered containers, with three of the five different lid types

There will be one test and one written assignment during the semester

### **Final:**

**Monday, December 14, 2015, 6:45 p.m.-10:00 p.m.** The final will be a time to discuss and critique final projects. All students are required to attend the final.

### **NO CLASS:**

Monday, September 7, 2015 – Labor Day

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 – Veterans Day

### **End of Semester Studio Clean Up**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015 – The last scheduled class session is reserved for a comprehensive studio clean up. Mandatory for all students.**

## ABOUT GRADES

Grading is based upon class performance and attendance. Part of your grade will be based on craftsmanship, and part on design and creativity. The following will be the basis for determining grades in this class:

**A** – This grade will be earned by those students who have completed all of the required assignments, and which show technical and design **excellence**, and who have fewer than two unexcused absences from class.

**B** – This grade will be earned by those students who have completed all of the required assignments, and which show **good** creative and technical ability, and who have fewer than two unexcused absences from class.

**C** – This grade will be earned by those students who have completed all of the required assignments showing some creative and technical ability, and have fewer than three unexcused absences.

**D** – This grade will be earned by those students who have completed fewer than half of the required assignments, showing below average abilities, and/or who have three or more unexcused absences.

**F** – This grade will be earned by those students who have completed only a few of the required assignments, demonstrating well below average abilities, and/or who have three or more unexcused absences.

### NOTE:

**You are expected to be in class on time. Three late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. More than three unexcused absences may result in your being dropped from the class.**

### NOTE:

**It is your responsibility to make sure that I see your finished work. Due to the firing procedures, it is not always possible to get every piece by every student into each firing. Please let me know if your work has been passed over for a firing, and I will make every effort to get it into the next firing.**

### NOTE:

**Put your last name on the bottom of each of your pieces. Work without names will not be put in the kiln for firing.**



## College Policies and Standards

### **Professional Conduct in Our Classroom Community**

The West LA College faculty, staff and administrators are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and will not tolerate any disruptive behavior in or outside of the classroom or any academic dishonesty. These standards apply to all students.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered, to be prompt and to remain in class/lab for the entire time. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from the class. Instructors may drop a student from a class whenever a student is absent more hours than the number of hours the class meets per week. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

### **Dropping a Class**

Student wanting to drop a class should drop online at [www.wlac.edu](http://www.wlac.edu); click "For Students," then "Student Information System." Students who stop attending a class are responsible for withdrawing from the class to prevent being issued a failing "F" grade in the class.

### **Special Instructional Accommodation**

If there are special accommodations that you require to be successful in this course, please discuss your situation with the professor. To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services, HLRC. Tape recording of lectures and discussions will not be permitted without the consent of the instructor.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor may assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. Before a substandard grade is issued the instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

#### **Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity**

- **Cheating.** Using any materials or devices or strategies which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student's exam, using phones or other communication systems to text message during exams, taking pictures or images of exams, talking with others during exams; using Internet to find information, or any other system of inappropriate "help." Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.

- **Collaboration.** Working together on projects, papers, exams or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.
- **Plagiarism.** Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

For assistance with classroom projects, papers and assignments, please visit the Learning Skills Center, HLRC.

### **Standard of Student Conduct**

Faculty members are charged with responsibility for building and maintaining a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. Disruptive, disrespectful, or obstructive behavior will be dealt with in terms specific to this syllabus and in accordance with the LACCD Standard of Student Conduct. Select forms of disciplinary action appropriate to the misconduct may be taken by an instructor when there is evidence that the student's behavior interferes with classroom instruction.

The following types of disciplinary action may be taken by an instructor:

- 1) **Warning-** A verbal or written notice, given to the student by an instructor. Continuation or repetition of the specified conduct may be cause for further disciplinary action.
- 2) **Removal by Instructor** - An instructor may remove (suspend) a student from his or her class for the day of the incident and the next class meeting. During this period of removal, the student shall not return to the class from which he or she was removed without the permission of the instructor of the class.

Students may refer to the College Catalog or the online student orientation at [www.wlac.edu](http://www.wlac.edu); click "Counseling, Assessment and Orientation," then scroll down to "Orientation" for complete details regarding the aforementioned policies.

### **Cell Phone and Other Communication Devices**

If you bring your cell-phone to class, be sure to have it in a mode where it will not ring and disturb others. If you have to answer an emergency phone call, please step out of the classroom. Devices of this type should be placed on vibrate and should never be visible during class time.

### **Classroom and Campus Cleanliness**

Please help us keep the classroom and-campus grounds clean. No food or beverages, except for water, is permitted inside instructional classrooms /labs. Please use the receptacles to dispose of trash.

### **Electronic Mail**

Electronic mail is the official method of communication for delivery of college information. Please check your Student.LACCD@Edu account daily/weekly. To access your account visit [www.wlac.edu](http://www.wlac.edu), click on the Student Email button. To log in use your student ID# and your birthday and month. Your Student.LACCD@EDU email can be forwarded to any other personal email account.