

Art 260 Ceramics I

Fort Hays State University
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Visual and Performing Arts
Department of Art and Design
Linda Ganstrom

1. COURSE INFORMATION

- 1.1. 3 Credit Hours
- 1.2. Fall 2026
- 1.3. No Course Prerequisites
- 1.4. Art and Design 115
- 1.5. 260A 10:30 am to 12:20 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
260B 8:30 am to 10:20 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- 2.1. Instructor Contact Information
785-342-3584 (cell)
imganstrom@fhsu.edu
- 2.2. Contact Procedure and Policy
Please make an appointment 24 hours in advance
Office Hours
8:30 am - 11:30 am Tuesday and Thursday
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Monday and Wednesday
- 2.3. About the Instructor
Linda Ganstrom is a Professor in the Department of Art and Design
Paige Hyatt is the Graduate Teaching Assistant in Ceramics
- 2.4. Department Secretary Contact Information
Lauren Sargent 785-628-4247

3. TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

- 3.1. No Required Textbooks.**
Hands in Clay by Charlotte Speight and John Toki and other textbooks are available
- 3.2.** Handout Booklet, PowerPoints and instructional videos on Blackboard

3.3. Technology Requirement.

All students enrolled at Fort Hays State University are expected to have a computer* for use in a variety of university learning experiences. ****On-campus students are expected to have a laptop to ensure mobility.***

TigerTech helps with accessing and using FHSU hosted systems and University-owned equipment. FHSU does not sell computers and does not provide computer repair for student devices.

- **Hardware:** To meet basic security, networking, and upgrade requirements, your computer should be running Windows 7 (or newer) or Mac OS X (or newer). Ideally, your computer's warranty should be supported by the manufacturer throughout your college career. Chromebooks and iPads are not recommended for use as your primary device due to limited functionality. Ask your instructor or academic department to learn about any specific technology requirements that may apply for each course in which you are enrolled.
- **Software:** Enrolled students at FHSU can take advantage of a variety of options to get FREE and/or discounted software for use on personal devices at www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/software/.
- If you have any technical issues, contact FHSU TigerTech 785-628-3478, notify to the instructor.

3.4 Materials and Tools

Studio fee pays for clay, glaze and firing for assignments

Costs covered are:

Clay \$.75 - \$1.00 a pound for most clays. 150 lbs maximum

Glazes. Glazes range in price from \$20 - \$60 a pint

Sketchbook

Use of studio tools and equipment

Available for use during the semester

Ceramic Tool Kit (new kits range \$12 to \$20)

Sponge, needle tool, wood tools, loop tools, cut off wire, rib, sponge

Bats for throwing, \$30 each

Turntables \$30

1 yard of heavy canvas (new \$6 - \$10)

Paint brushes shared (\$3 - \$5 each)

Shared safety gear - face mask and shields, plastic and/or work gloves, protective coat/apron (\$5 to \$20)

Paddle, textures, old toothbrush, container for slip - old butter tub and lid

Plastic bags, textures, and bins of additional shared tools

5-gallon buckets

If tools and equipment are not returned, the student will be expected to pay for their replacement. Accepting the tools means the student is aware and in agreement.

4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

4.1. FHSU Catalog Description

Exploration of various techniques and methods of ceramics

4.2. Instructor Course Description

Art is for everyone, and everyone is an artist. Art is a language and a culture. In this beginning ceramics course, the student will be encouraged to **discover and develop their artistic nature** as an element of **balance and well-being**. Introduced to the nature and potential of clay as an art material for personal **artistic practice, self-care, self-expression, and communication**, we will consider the role of ceramics in daily life as both **utilitarian and artistic**.

Ceramic Art as a language. Knowledge, techniques and skills used in **forming, surfacing, and firing** ceramic objects will be explored at an introductory level. Students will develop an understanding of the **various stages** of the ceramic process from plastic clay to leather-hard, bisque and glazed. Utilizing the technical information taught in class, students will develop skills so they can bring their **ideas** into a three-dimensional **reality**.

Students will be encouraged to **research and explore ceramic art history, contemporary ceramics and develop their own ideas**. Students will discuss and select a research topic, develop a list of sources, write a **research paper**, then design, construct and manage a **final project**. **Finally, they will share a presentation** centered around their research and the ceramic production of their choice.

Ceramic Art as a Culture. Project Management and Professional Skills

Students will learn to **research, develop, design, write a research paper over a ceramic artist and their artworks**. Then **design a plan** inspired by that research, develop a calendar, **manage their time, construct** a ceramic project and **evaluate** their success and the quality of their work.

Students will build **communication skills through research, written, oral, and artistic** formats. Students will employ **technology** geared to developing skills needed by professional artists in communication.

Students will **collaborate with classmates and community members** and interact with our **communities** of learners and cultural players. Through **focused conversations** and thoughtful interactions, students will discover ways to **develop and improve** their artworks.

5. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Concept Research and Development. Sketchbook. Through **Artistic Practice** the student will learn to research and develop ideas for ceramic artworks. The student will expand and build a personal visual vocabulary to aid in creating unique and personal ceramic art through hands on exploration, exposure to ceramic art, articles, and books.

B. Information. The student will learn ceramic technology, terminology, design, equipment, and processes by actively working with the entire process of ceramics and be quizzed over information. Students will conduct research over a ceramic artist and artworks to write a paper as foundation for a personal project, then make a presentation about the research and project.

C. Safety. The student will be shown the proper use of ceramic equipment and taught safe ways to interact with materials and equipment used in ceramics.

D. Insight. Students will participate in conversations about their ideas and artwork to develop a deeper understanding of what they are creating and communicating through their work. Conversations focus on technical and artistic value and enhancing communication.

E. Inspiration. Historical and contemporary ceramic art provides inspiration and teaches students about the field. Looking to nature for inspiration, defining personal passions as the subject for art, art travel and attending workshops will be encouraged.

F. Writing. Student will utilize discussion and writing to reflect on experiences and communicate to audiences. Students will learn to write a project plan, record data for publication, exhibition labeling and do marketing writing. Technology will be utilized to document and present their achievements. Students will write a paper researching a ceramic artist and artwork as the basis for their final project.

G. Professional Development. Students will develop ceramic skills as a foundation for a lifetime of creative activity and a career in art. Students will be taught to build community and connect with audiences through their art.

This course is designed to **meet students at their level of artistic development and teach artistic practices**. It will expose students to the broad range of possibilities for **self-care and self-expression** in Ceramics to create **purpose, balance and bring joy** to their lives. Art education majors should benefit from learning basic skills and studio techniques needed to **teach** ceramics. Art majors should be able to **transfer their personal style and creativity** to this exciting, versatile 3-D media and use ceramics to make art. The ability to **research, brainstorm, develop an idea, execute, communicate, think critically, and improve** upon a work of art will benefit all students. Students should enjoy exploring their creativity in this rewarding, absorbing material and discover a creative outlet. The ceramic major will receive a broad base of ceramic knowledge on which to build his or her personal style in ceramic art. **Project management and communication skills** will benefit a broad base of student.

6. TEACHING, LEARNING METHODS, & COURSE STRUCTURE

6.1. Delivery Method

Face to face live instruction with challenging hands-on activity supported by Blackboard, the Internet and e-mail offer a variety of experiences. Students are encouraged to use the lab to practice, interact with others on creative projects, build ceramic skills and work on projects. Community interaction opportunities are encouraged. The lab is open for work after classes.

6.2. Instructional Approach

Active learning is highly encouraged. The instructor will teach about ceramic materials and processes, outline projects and give demonstrations, then support students through hands on projects that develop skills and encourage experimentation. Students will be instructed in research, project design and write a personal project that expands on the material understanding and processes in the course. **Collaboration** in developing projects, assessing project success and areas for improvement, firing kilns and studio management are integrated into the course. Students will design project plans and **write** about projects as if marketing or applying for a competition. Students will assemble their writing and images into a report and develop an on-line presence. Students and instructor will evaluate the success of projects. **Students are seen as active members of the studio and community.**

6.3. Course Structure

Artmaking and class interaction dominates studio time, with testing of knowledge and communication through speaking and writing about art supporting the production phase. Time spent outside of class in **study, research, writing, idea development, sketching, taking quizzes and preparation** leads to the most effective use of time in the lab. Students are encouraged to use the lab when classes are not in session. Student may want to create projects that go beyond the introductory level. As more involved projects require more time, students should plan additional time in the lab to complete more advanced projects.

Goals. What do you want to learn?

Agency. How do you learn best?

Agency. What can you do to maximize your learning?

Communicate. What can I do to help you learn and grow?

7. COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule and content might change depending on students' interest and progress.

ART 260 Ceramics I, 2026 FALL

Introduction to Clay and Forming: Hand building as Mediation.

- August 17** Ceramics as Self-Care, Self-Expression. Tools. Spaces. **Pinch** Forms.
August 19 ***Clay and Clay Bodies Lecture.*** Coil Mediation Forms.
August 21 *Clay Worksheet due.* **Slab** Mediation. Stamping. Molds.

Introduction to Clay and Forming: Throwing. Be Present.

- August 24** Throw Meditation Forms/ Bowls.
August 26 Trim. Decorate and complete Mediation Forms. Dry. ***Firing Lecture***
August 28 *Firing Worksheet due.* Load bisque. ***Fool the Eye Fantasy Lecture.***

Introduction to Clay and Forming Sculpture: Modeling and Deep Focus.

- August 31** ***Glaze Lecture.*** Begin Fool the Eye. Glaze and fire Mediation Forms.
September 2 *Glaze Worksheet due.* Photograph, write Mediations. Fool the Eye.
September 4 Fool the Eye.

Expression: Illustrative Expressive Plates. Tell a Story.

- Sept. 7** **No School Labor Day**
Sept. 9 Throw plate. **GRADE Forms, quizzes, sketchbook, report due.**
Sept. 11 Trim and sgraffito plate. One smooth plate for majolica. Fool the Eye.
 Progress Conversations. Adjust. Load Bisque Plates and Fool the Eye.

Sept. 14 Glaze Fool the Eye. ***Ceramic Research Paper/Presentation Introduction Lecture.***
Sept. 16 Glaze Plates, majolica, sgraffito. Fire Plates, Fool the Eye.
Sept. 18 *Photograph, write: Plates, Fool the Eye. Lecture Masks.*

Self-Expression: Human/Animal: Faces, Heads, Masks. Create Characters.

- Sept. 21** Form Faces, Heads, Masks. **Fool the Eye and Plates due.**
Sept. 23 Faces, Heads, Masks. ***Share topics for Research Paper.***
Sept. 25 Faces, Heads, Masks form. Features.

Sept. 28 Faces, Heads, Masks form. ***Lecture Human/Animal Full Forms.***
Sept. 30 Adjust, bisque Faces, Heads, Masks. Work on Human/Animal.
October 2 Modeling Human/Animal. Glaze Faces, Heads, Masks

October 5 Photograph, write: Masks. Human/Animal hollow, modeling.
October 7 Detail Human/Animal Hybrids. **Faces, Heads, Masks due.**
October 9 Midterm Grades. Work Human/Animal Hybrids. ***Share Research Paper sources.***

Self-Expression Coil and Slab Forms. Go BIG!

- October 12** Conversations Human/Animals, Bisque. *Lecture Narrative Hollow*
October 14 Narrative Hollow Form. *Rough Draft due for the Ceramic Research Paper*
October 16 Glaze Human/Animal. Glaze Fire. Work on Narrative Hollow Form

October 19 Photograph, write Human/Animal. Surface Narrative Hollow Form
October 21 Bisque Hollow. *Lecture Slab Sculpture. Human/Animal due.*
October 23 Slab Sculpture. *Final Introduction and Planning.*

October 26 Slab Sculpture. Final Project. Glaze Narrative Hollow.
October 28 Slab Sculpture. Final Project. *Final Draft due for the Ceramic Research Paper*
October 30 Slab Sculpture. Final Project. Photo, write, Hollow Form.

Final Project. Make ART!

- November 2** Slab Sculpture. Final Project.
November 4 Bisque Slab Sculpture. Final Project. Narrative Hollow Form due.
November 7 Bisque Slab Sculpture. Final Project.

November 9 Glaze and fire Slab Sculpture. Final Project.
November 11 Photo, write, Slab Sculpture. Final Project. Conversations.
November 13 Bisque Final Project. *Last day for Wet Clay.*

November 16 Glaze Final Project.
November 18 Photograph, Write Final Project.
November 20 Final Project and Slab Sculpture due.

November 30 Ceramic Artist Research and Final Presentations.
December 2 Turn in Cumulative Report. Clean and return tools.
December 4 Clean Studio. Visiting Artist

Final

- December 7** Final Conversation. All work presented. Clean. Pack. Collect graded report, and sketchbook.

8. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING SCALE

Evaluation Criteria for Ceramic Projects

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 point | Sketchbook and preparatory studies |
| 4 points | Forming |
| 4 points | Glazing |
| 1 point | On time Art, Sketchbook, Rubric, Reflection Writing |

Evaluation Criteria for Ceramic Research Paper and Presentation

2 points	Rough Draft with Research sources and documentation
4 points	MLA style research paper, ceramic artist and artworks related to Final project
4 points	10-minute Presentation including images and content about the ceramic artist and their artwork and its relationship to the student's final project

Assessment Methods. Planning, Making, Reflection, Writing	Unit Points	Percentage
1. Intro/Mediative Forms: Pinch, Coil, Slab, Thrown (Stains, Glazes, Saggar or Pit fire Option)	10	10%
2. Modeling: Fool the Eye (Stains, Glazes)	10	10%
3. Illustrated Plates: Thrown (Majolica, Sgraffito)	10	10%
4. Modeling Heads, Faces, Masks (Raku option)	10	10%
5. Human/Animal Modeling	10	10%
6. Expressive Hollow Form	10	10%
7. Slab Sculpture	10	10%
8. Final Personal Project	10	10%
9. Research Paper/Presentation Ceramics	10	10%
10. Final Report, Attendance	10	10%
<i>Total Points</i>	100	100%

Grading Scale

8 - 10 = A

7 = B

6 = C

0 - 5 = U

Course Grading Scale

80 – 100 = A

70 – 79 = B

60 – 69 = C

0 – 59 = U

Cleanup. Each person is responsible for learning and employing studio management involving cleaning up all areas they used, including their workspace, floor, sinks, glaze room, and kiln room in learning to develop healthy studio citizen habits. If you use something, please return it to its spot. If you break something, please report it. At the end of class, artwork or other items such as tools remaining in the lab will become the property of FHSU and disposed of after the final class meeting.

9. STUDENT HELP RESOURCES

Students have access to academic services, technical support, and student services at Fort Hays State University. You can find the resources online at <http://www.fhsu.edu/ctelt/services/Student-Help-Resources/>

10. COURSE POLICIES

10.1. Class Attendance

Class attendance is **required and vital for success**. If a student must be absent, please inform the instructor and if excused make an appointment during office hours to make up the time and activity missed. School related absences should be discussed in advance. Appointments should not be made during class-time. Illness should be documented with Student Affairs or a doctor's note. Three absences may result in one grade lowered. Attendance will be taken in the first 5 minutes of class. Three tardies may be counted as one absence.

10.2. Class Participation

Do your work to the best of your ability. You get out of your education what you invest in it. No amount of talent can replace time on task. It takes time to make art. Attend class to learn skills, obtain and offer feedback and participate in class activities. Prepare for projects by doing personal research, thinking and sketching. Prioritize your goals and time. Work additional hours in the lab if necessary to create high-quality art. Be persistent.

10.3. Assignment Due Dates are outlined on the calendar.

Points are assigned on Blackboard with due dates. Grades are recorded at midterm and the end of the semester.

10.4. Procedures for Assignment Submission.

Actual artwork is submitted for conversations/critique/discussion at the leather-hard, bisque, and glazed stages. Completed ceramic art and a report is submitted for self and teacher consideration and evaluation in the assignment of points at the end of each project.

Photographs document the completed or glazed ceramic art and are used in the assessment, communication and reporting phases.

Print reports are due at grading sessions and electronic complied reports are due near the end of the semester to judge growth and progress. A **written research paper** over a ceramic artist and their artwork is due in advance of the Final Project as preparation for the project. A **presentation of the research paper** and its impact on the final project is due near the end of the semester.

10.5. Test and Make-ups

Artwork is subjected to the test of firing. Quizzes are ungraded and intended to measure essential knowledge and understanding needed to function in the studio.

11. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

11.1. Academic Honesty Policy

Membership in the FHSU learning community imposes upon the student a variety of commitments, obligations, and responsibilities. It is the policy of FHSU to impose sanctions on students who misrepresent their academic work. These sanctions will be selected by appropriate classroom instructors or other designated persons consistent with the seriousness of the violation and related considerations. Students participating in any violation of this policy must accept the consequences of their actions. Classroom instructors and/or university review/appeals committees and administrators will assess the sanctions for violation of this policy. The seriousness of the violation will dictate the severity of the sanction imposed. More information can be found at

http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

Instructor's Art Academic Honesty Policy.

In an art class, academic honesty means your art should not be copied from another artist. If you have subject matter interests, then research and develop those interests, they will lead to unique solutions and content. As you continue to develop a set of skills, find your special way of combining those skills to develop your personal way with clay. If you use other's clay or glaze recipes, work to create new and unexpected combinations that will help your art become more personal and original. The process of research and development of subject matter, materials and processes and working within a series is designed to assist you in developing your unique and personal art.

11.2. Statement of Accessibility and Services for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.fhsu.edu/disability/get-access/>

11.3 Title IX

<https://www.fhsu.edu/president/Compliance-Office/Title-IX-Policy/>

11. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

11.4. Use of Computing Resources

http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_1_computing_resources/

11.5 Withdrawal Policy

(<http://www.fhsu.edu/registrar/academic-policies-and-information/>)