

**Art 865: Problems in Ceramics II**  
 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. Credit Hours vary according to section.
- 1.2. Fall 2025
- 1.3. Art 865
- 1.4. Center for Art and Design, Room 115
- 1.5. 865 A – D meets 5:30 pm – 7:20 pm TTh on Zoom

## 2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- 2.1. Instructor Contact Information  
**785-628-4273 or 785-342-3584 (cell)**  
**lmganstrom@fhsu.edu**
- 2.2. Contact Procedure and Policy  
 Please make an appointment 24 hours in advance
- 2.3. About the Instructor  
**Linda Ganstrom** is a Professor in the Department of Art and Design
- 2.4. Department Secretary Contact Information  
 785-628-4247

## 3. TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

3.1. No Required Textbooks. The following books are recommended and available in the Lab Library.  
**Hands in Clay** by Charlotte Speight and John Toki

**Contemporary Ceramics** by Emmanuel Cooper. Thames and Hudson. 2009

**American Art Pottery.** Orlando Museum of Art. 1995

**American Ceramics.** The Collection Everson Museum of Art. Barbara Perry. Rizzoli, New York. 1989

**Revolution in Clay.** The Marer Collection. University of Washington Press. 1994

**Color and Fire, Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950 – 2000.** Jo Lauria. Rizzoli. 2000

**A Century of Ceramics in the United States, 1878 – 1978.** Garth Clark and Margie Hughto. Dutton, 1979

**A Potter's Book** by Bernard Leach. Transatlantic Arts. 1949

**The Potter's Craft** by C. F. Binns. D. Van Nostrand Co. 1922

**Shifting Paradigms in Contemporary Ceramics: The Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection** (Museum of Fine Art Houston). Garth Clark. Yale University Press. 2012

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Ceramics** by Edmund de Waal. Thames and Hudson. 2003.2. Supplementary Handout Booklet and PowerPoints on Blackboard and ArtStor

### 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 provides assistance 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/](http://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/software/). If you have any technical issues, contact FHSU TigerTech 785-628-3478, notify to the instructor.

Devices that allow access to Blackboard, Zoom, Video and the Internet are necessary. A digital camera is necessary to document artwork. Personal headsets for listening to music and programs recommended.

### 3.4 Materials and Tools

Studio fee covers clay for assignments \$.75 - \$1.00 a pound for most clays. 150 lbs maximum  
Glazes. Glazes range in price from \$20 –up to \$60 a pint  
Firing for class assignments  
Sketchbook or Idea Files (\$3 - \$20)

Available for use during the semester for resident students  
Ceramic Tool Kit (new kits range \$12 to \$20) Sponge, needle tool, wood tools, loop tools, cut off wire, rib, sponge  
Bats for throwing  
1 yard of canvas (new \$6 - \$10)  
Paint brushes shared (\$3 - \$5 each)  
Safety gear - face mask and shields, plastic and/or work gloves, protective coat/apron (\$5 to \$20)  
Turntables (\$20 - \$40)  
Paddle, textures, old toothbrush, container for slip - old butter tub and lid  
Plastic bags, textures, and bins of additional shared tools

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 Catalogue Description

**Research and experimentation in Ceramics as a major or minor concentration.**

## 4.2. Instructor Course Description

These courses are designed to be taken as many times as necessary to develop a body of work involving ceramics and the professional skills needed by a creative entrepreneur. This course focuses on artistic production, research, communication, audience engagement and communication. The study of ceramic art history and contemporary ceramics builds a strong visual vocabulary. Demonstrations and assignments build a broad base of technical skills related to an understanding of materials and processes in Ceramics. Professionalism is developed.

The student should be increasing independent while expanding and developing his or her personal voice in clay. The student should be setting up, researching and solving problems in concept, form, surface, iconography, glaze, firing and self-expression. Experimentation, research, and extensive ceramic production are vital to artistic growth. Students are required to develop a body of work reflecting a personal style and content, that is worthy of exhibition. Students should be developing professional skills for life as an artist. The course is tailored to meet the needs of individual advanced students.

## 5. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Concept Research and Development.** The student will learn to research and develop ideas for ceramic artworks by viewing professional ceramic art, reading current articles, viewing web sites and books dealing with ceramics and by discussing their personal ideas.
2. **Art Production.** The student will develop a Personal Style, their way with clay. The student will develop ideas, concepts, style moves and techniques leading to a significant body of work. The student should be confident in mixing their own glazes and developing new glazes and firing their own work. The student should engage an audience through exhibitions and actively participate in the cultural life of their community.
3. **Knowledge.** The student will become familiar with ceramic technology, terminology, design, equipment and processes by actively working with the entire process of ceramics. Students need to organize handouts, notes and sketches. Students will be exposed to ceramic art history; discover ceramic art they connect with and develop expertise in facets of ceramic art history and contemporary art. Students are expected to integrate this knowledge into their art practice.
4. **Safety.** The student will be shown the proper use of ceramic equipment and taught safe ways of interacting with materials and equipment used in ceramics. The student is expected to use common sense when dealing with heat, dust and electricity. The student is expected to use materials and equipment in ways that do not harm others. Questions regarding ceramic safety and health issues are encouraged.
5. **Insight.** Students will participate in research, reflection and discussions about their ideas and artwork in order to develop a deeper understanding of what they are creating and communicating through their work. Critical conversations will focus on evaluating art production, identifying the strengths and motivations of the artist, imagining ways of improving the technical and artistic value of the student's artwork and discussing future projects.
6. **Inspiration.** Ceramic art history and contemporary ceramic art provides inspiration and offer options for solving design and aesthetic problems. Examples of student and professional work will add to the student's visual vocabulary and develop the ability to see deeply as an artist sees, express oneself and to connect with others through art. Looking to nature for inspiration, defining personal passions as the subject for art, art travel and attending workshops and conferences will be encouraged.
7. **Communication.** The student should learn and employ many forms of communication including oral presentations using PowerPoint, written reports, video presentations, and Zoom conversations. Reviews, blogs, articles, social media and a professional website should be developed by the end of the program. Communicating and connecting to various audiences is a professional cornerstone.
8. **Professional Development.** Students will develop skills needed for a career in art and a lifetime of creative activity. Students will be taught to build community and connect with audiences through written, oral and technological communication. Students will be introduced to the business of art and practice business skills in personal and class opportunities.

**5.2. An undergraduate degree, 10 hours in Ceramics or admission into the Graduate program is a required.**

## **6. TEACHING, LEARNING METHODS, & COURSE STRUCTURE**

### **6.1. Delivery Method**

Class time will be on Zoom with resident students face to face. Time will be utilized for demonstrations, presentations, group interaction, critical conversations and artmaking to build a class community. Much time outside of class will be needed to complete projects. Students should have access to computer technology and will use e-mail, Zoom, Blackboard and Facebook to assess information and communication

### **6.2. Instructional Approach**

Active learning is highly encouraged. The instructor will teach about ceramic materials and processes, outline projects and give demonstrations, then assist students with hands on projects that develop skills and encourage experimentation. Students will be instructed in project design and write personal projects that expand on the material understanding and processes in the unit. Collaboration in developing projects, assessing project success and areas for improvement, firing kilns and studio management is integrated into the course. Students will communicate about art as if presenting, 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. Community is essential as sharing a laboratory requires each person to be responsible and co-operate while, working, glazing, loading or cleaning. Communication skills are practiced. We are a team and a rising tide raises all boats.

### **6.3. Course Structure**

Highly personalized, artmaking dominates, with assessment of knowledge and communication through speaking and writing about art supporting the production phase and exhibition record. Work outside of class is required to complete personal series.

## 7. COURSE SCHEDULE

*This schedule is tentative and might change during the semester depending on weather and how the course evolves. The content is subject to change depending on students' interest and progress. Students will be notified of the changes through announcements either in the class or at the Blackboard course site*

Module # & Range of Dates for Module	Topics	Assessment	Due Date
<b>Unit 1</b> Aug. 19 – Oct. 10	<b>Personal Series.</b> Research and Development	Present Plans Rubrics Prototypes	Aug. 19- Oct. 10
<b>Ceramic Art History</b>	<b>American Ceramics Lectures, Art</b>	Personal Art	Aug. 19 - Dec. 6
Materials and Processes	<b>Mixed Media Partners</b>	Rubric, Critique, Report	Aug. 19 – Oct. 9
<b>Unit 2</b> Sept. 15 – Nov. 10	<b>PS.</b> Variations in the Personal Series	Working and final critiques, reports	Sept. 15 Nov. 10
Materials and Processes	<b>Mixed Media Presentations</b>	Rubric, Critique, Report	Dec.6
<b>Contemporary Ceramic Art</b>	<b>Lectures, Art</b>	Personal Art	
<b>Unit 3</b> Oct. 11 – Dec. 10	<b>PS3.</b> Variations in the Personal Series	Working and final critiques, reports	Nov. 10 Dec. 10
Materials and Processes	<b>Mixed Media Surfaces and Technology</b>	Rubric, Critique, Report	Dec. 6
<b>American Ceramic Art</b>	<b>American Ceramics</b>	Student Presentation. Art	Dec. 2
Professionalism	<b>Setting up a Studio Exhibition Plan Workshop</b>	Rubric	Dec.6
Communication	<b>Reflection Reporting</b> On-Line Presence Community Event	Rubric	Dec. 6

## 8. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING SCALE

There are 1000 points for this course. The grade you earn for this course depends on the total number of points you earn throughout the semester. The assessment methods and grading scale are as follows:

<b>Assessment Methods ART 460</b>	<b>Unit Points</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Personal Series 1 Art</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Personal Series 2 Art</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Personal Series 3 Art</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Materials and Processes</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mixed Media Piece</b>		
<b>American Ceramic Art History Presentation</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Integrate into Art</b>		
<b>Professionalism: Setting up your Studio, Exhibition Plan, Workshop</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Communication: Reporting. Critical discussions. Community.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

**Grading Scale: 90 - 100 = A, 80 - 89 = B, 70 - 79 = C, 60 - 69 = D, 0 - 59 = U**

**600 points Unit for Personal Series.** This is the best work you can make with your current skill set. Photographic images and written critical evaluation of the work is required.

1. **Planning Phase.** Write a goal statement, develop a working calendar of daily goals, and list the rubric for evaluation. Submit and explain one-page project plan for critique and approval before beginning the project.
2. **Research and Development.**  
Create **10 sketches and 10 collected images** as research before starting each series. Include in the PowerPoint presentation.
3. **Explore and investigate materials and processes** needed to accomplish your artistic goals. If you have a great deal to research before the production phase begin that research early in the semester and do the actual art later in the unit/semester
4. **Implementation Phase.**  
**Create a prototype.** Evaluate what worked or could be improved.
  - **Create variations** with improving quality in form, surface, design and style.
  - **Presentation** should engage actual and virtual audiences.
  - **Class Conversations.** Evaluate using the rubric. Refine. Re-Evaluate
5. **Document** the project and post progress. Complete series and document in professional manner. Share in your class report paper.

**100 points Materials and Processes. Mixed Media Workshop.** This is technical research and experimentation you do to expand and develop your style and body of work. Expand. Learn something new. Document your progress towards forming and surfacing pieces in your style, firings and presentation. Learn about mixed media's integration into Ceramics.

**100 points Art History – American Ceramic Art.** Study the booklet and PowerPoints to learn about American Ceramics. JStor can further your research. Select a theme, develop a class PowerPoint presentation and create an artwork connected to your research of **American Ceramics**. Research and relate the specifics of American ceramics to the broad field of international contemporary ceramics and your personal series art. Include images of your work and share your connections. Imagine your place in the historical and contemporary art communities. Discover techniques you would like to explore or include in your art practice. 10 minutes, 10 images NCECA Short Style

**100 points Professional Development.** Consider where you are working and what you need to be inspired, successful and most efficient, then set up your studio. Design an exhibition plan that will prepare you to enter your career. Travel, attend workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and critiques to build your professional experiences and resume. Seek out and engage the outside opinions of experts in informal conversations or juried competitions. Seek out sales opportunities. Build your on-line presence.

**100 points Communication and Community.** Submit a written summary report and supplement with yourself-evaluation presentation, and website or blog documenting and promoting your art and creative activities. Build a sense of community by asking questions, offering help or advice, sharing in glaze mixing, kiln loading and unloading and general studio maintenance. Share your exhibition works and research in oral critiques and written reflection. Make extensive use of social media in the private group and on your own site. Use e-mail, Zoom and Video for communication. Develop, update and submit an electronic and print resume and portfolio. Attend class meetings and be prepared to present and critique. Engage the larger community.

**Cleanup.** Students are responsible for cleaning up all areas they used, including their workspace, tables, floor, wheels, sinks, clay and glaze rooms, kiln room. If you use something, please return it to its spot. If you break something, please repair or report it broken. Do not adopt studio objects for personal use. We have plenty of supplies and equipment if we put them back so everyone can use them when we need them. Remember to clean to avoid cross contamination so we can use many different clays and materials. Any artwork or other items such as tools and clay remaining in the lab after class will become the property of FHSU and will be 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 for on-campus students. If a student must be absent, it is their responsibility to inform the instructor and if excused make an appointment 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. Three tardies equal an absence. Attendance and participation is key to success in this course.

### 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 hard work. It takes time to make art. Attend class. Prepare for projects by doing personal research and sketching. Prioritize your goals and time. Come in and work in the lab when necessary to create excellent high-quality art. Set up a studio and work at home. Be persistent. This course makes the transition into personally designed and self-motivated art production. While every effort is made to tailor the course to meet students' needs, their goals may vary greatly, so students will be learning to research materials and skills, as well as finding content for their art together. We will do class projects in materials and processes, as well as group activity revolving around critical thinking, learning to speak about art and engaging the community.

**10.3. Assignment Due Dates** are outlined on the calendar.

Grades are recorded at midterm and the end of the semester.

### 10.4. Procedures for Assignment Submission.

Artwork is submitted for discussion and critique at the leather-hard, bisque and glazed stages. Artwork is due and graded at midterm and final meetings. An illustrated report including the personal project plans, evaluation rubrics filled out, research and sketchbook pages, images of completed artwork, caption and text for marketing and reflection are expected at the end of each Personal Series. This report is used in the assessment, communication and reporting phases. Reports are due to the instructor for grading on deadlines. A final graded summary report is due at the end of the semester and is kept for documentation purposes.



## 11. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### 11.1. Academic Honesty Policy

[http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch\\_2\\_academic\\_honesty/](http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/)

#### **Linda Ganstrom'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 subject matter. If you continue to develop a large set of skills, try to find your special way of combining those skills to develop your 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 research and working within a series is designed to assist you in developing your unique art. Make your own art. If you collaborate, you need to acknowledge the role of your collaborator. Try to assist others with advice or modeling, without doing their work for them.

### 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/](http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_1_computing_resources/)

### 11.5 Withdrawal Policy

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

### 11.6. Proctoring Requirements (Virtual College courses only if applicable)

<http://www.fhsu.edu/virtualcontent.aspx?id=12884902424&terms=proctor>

**Ceramics 865, Fall 2025, 5:30 to 7:20 TTH**

Aug.	19	Syllabus. Safety. Space. Blackboard Resources. <b>Dream, List goals, Develop plans. Design Personal Series. American Ceramics theme. Mixed Media Workshop.</b>
	21	PS Prototype. <u>Mixed Media Partners lecture.</u>
	26	PS Prototype. Mixed Media Partners.
	28	PS Prototype. Mixed Media Partners. Plan to enter NCECA Student entries.
Sept.	2	PS Prototype. <u>American Ceramics: Art Pottery Lecture.</u>
	4	PS Prototype. Mixed Media Partners.
	6	<b>Kansas Clay Day at Wichita</b>
	9	Complete PS Prototype and Mixed Media Partners. <b>NCECA NSJE due Sept. 10!</b>
	11	<b>Critique PS Prototypes and Mixed Media Partners.</b> Begin PS Variations
	16	<u>Studio Potter Era Lecture.</u> Prototype and Partners Glazing.
	18	PS – Variations. Load kilns. <u>Mixed Media Presentations Lecture.</u>
	23	PS – Variations. <u>Contemporary Sculpture Lecture.</u>
	25	PS – Variations. Unload Kilns. <b>Photographs for NCECA.</b>
	30	PS – Variations. <u>Contemporary Vessels Lecture</u>
Oct.	2	PS – Variations. Mixed Media Presentations.
	7	PS – Variations. <u>Revolution in Clay Lecture.</u>
	9	<b>Midterm Self Evaluation due. Grade Glazed PS Prototypes, Mixed Media Partners. Develop PS – Variations.</b>
	14	Discuss West <b>PS – Variations and Mixed Media Presentation.</b>
	16	PS – Variations. <u>Mixed Media Technology Lecture.</u>
	21	PS – Variations. <u>Contemporary Figures Lecture.</u>
	23	PS – Variations. <b>Glaze PS Variations and Mixed Media Presentation.</b> Photo and write <b>PS Variations and Presentation.</b>
	28	PS – Variations. <u>Contemporary Installation Lecture</u>
	30	PS – Variations. <b>Grade PS Variations and Mixed Media Presentation.</b>
Nov.	4	PS – Variations. <u>Lecture Mixed Media Surface.</u>
	6	PS – Variations. <u>Setting up a studio discussion.</u> Mixed Media Technology and Surface.
	11	<b>Critique PS – Variations and Mixed Media Surface.</b>
	13	<b>Bisque then Glaze PS – Variations. <u>Last day to work in wet clay.</u></b> Complete website.
	19	<b>Critique PS – Variations Glazed and Mixed Media Technology and Surface.</b> Slides. Report.
	20	<u>America Ceramic Art STUDENT Presentations.</u> Help with report.
Dec.	2	<b>Turn in Final Self-Evaluation Report, Website and Resume.</b> Critique.
	4	Travel
	6	<b>Final Class Meeting. Print Report. All Art out for Final Critique.</b>

**60% Personal Work** – A project/series for each credit hour. Design a “problem” and solve it in your most creative way. Written critical evaluation of the work. Discuss its degree of success in concept, craftsmanship in forming and glazing, three-dimensional design, artistic content or function and degree of difficulty.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Options:

Cylinder forms: Create vases, pitchers, mugs, teapots, sculptures

Underglaze and slip exploration

Atmospheric Firing: Soda

Make a claybody and slip

**10% Class Assignments Materials and Processes.** Broaden your foundation understanding  
**Mixed Media Workshop Piece**

**10% American Ceramics Art History:** Attend lectures and give a short form 10 minutes, 20 images lecture. Create an artwork that incorporates your historical research:

**American Art Pottery**

**Studio Pottery Movement**

**The Revolution in Clay**

**Contemporary Ceramics**

**10% Professional Development:**

Outline for Setting up a studio

Exhibitions and competitions

Workshops and Art Travel

Write and publish social media pieces

**10% Communications: Written self-evaluations, resume, on-line presence, community event**

**Students will self-evaluate** in oral and written formats. **Teachers will evaluate** and **assign grades** based on punctual completion of requirements using the rubrics. Rubric covers: research, development, concept, content, creativity, design, craftsmanship, presentation, growth, size, time and effort.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A, 80- 89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=U