Overview:

The goal of this class is to gain both an intuitive feel for clay and glaze materials and enough knowledge of more academic procedures and resources so find you can find answers to your ceramic questions when you need them. You are expected to take an active part in discussions, complete the weekly assignments (VERY IMPORTANT as class content builds on these) and one individual final project, and keep an accurate, detailed notebook of your investigations. Monday will primarily be lecture and discussion, with Wednesday’s class being a lab and problem solving day. There will be lectures on the first two Wednesdays.

Firings will usually occur on one set day of the week (in the past this has been Friday, but it depends on everyone’s schedule). Each of you will be expected to learn to fire the kilns (if you haven’t already) and take part in firings on a rotating basis. Expect to help with at least 2-3 firings during the semester. We’ll try to keep most of the firings in easy-to-fire kilns.

Assigned glaze tests are to be turned in weekly after firing and discussion. Your choice of glazes for most of the weekly tests should be mostly in the cone 5-6 range in oxidation, although some lowfire would be okay if that is your main direction in clay. Later in the semester we can do cone 10 reduction in group class gas kiln firings. Grads are expected to do a more complex final project, focusing on surfaces that apply to their studio work, and also to present one special topic presentation to the class.

Final Project:

The final project will be described in detail later, but will involve the development of a family of variations on matte to gloss and colors of a glaze of your choosing. These glaze variations should ideally be ones which you want to use on your work. Plan to make a few small pieces of your own use with these glazes. Glazes in either the cone 06 or cone 6 range are highly recommended for ease of test firing with the class. A10 reduction glazes can be tested in larger class firings closer to the end of the semester. The weekly assigned glaze tests should be helpful in finding glazes that you find interesting. Plan ahead and have tests ready for firings.

The focus of this class is to gain familiarity with clay, glaze and firing techniques that you can use them more effectively in your work. You are expected to continue to make work of your own, even if it is on a small scale. Obviously one doesn’t want to test new unpredictable glazes on a large piece that took a long time to make.

Required Books and Supplies:

Art 526/627 Reader - available at Aztec Shops bookstore

class materials and handouts (many will be on the Blackboard website: http://blackboard.sdsu.edu)
lab fee - $20 payable at the cashiers office (& while you’re there pay for at least 2-3 of bags of Bee-mix)
USB Flash Drive - 256 Mbyte min. or laptop computer (for HyperGlaze software)
notebook - a ring binder is good to be able to add handouts. Bring to every class.
calculator - small, inexpensive - use the one in your cell phone if you like.
brushes: one fine pointed small brush suitable for small lettering & labeling tiles one 3/4” wide flat, soft watercolor brush for applying glaze – both can be artificial bristle
permanent black felt marker (Sharpie type to write on plastic glaze containers)
dust mask - must have NIOSH rating for dusts and mists - disposable kind w/ 2 straps okay
plastic zip-lock bag for dust mask - keep it clean and reusable
plastic lidded containers - one pint (16 oz.) size is good, plus a few larger ones with tight-fitting lids

Note: You can also buy a large supply of 16 oz disposable plastic containers and lids in bulk at Smart & Final for about $6.

DO NOT BRING IN REUSED FOOD CONTAINERS! The possible fine for putting art materials of any kind in a food container is at least $1000 per container! All containers of glaze MUST be clearly labeled with the glaze contents.

masking tape for labeling containers temporarily
**Recommended Supplies:** *(permanently mark all kitchen-type tools with: NOT FOR FOOD)*

- measuring teaspoon set, plastic measuring cup (with milliliter markings, too), rubber spatula
- rubber gloves (disposable medical gloves or similar type okay, or heavier reusable ones)
- apron, lab coat, or other removable light protective clothing
- black underglaze pencil (some will be provided - you may want your own) for labeling tiles
- hand blender (about $20) or an old blender (donations accepted for class use!) for glaze mixing
- plastic Zip-loc bags (1/2 gallon size) to dry mix and store dry glaze and clay batches

**Bibliography:**

Many of the books below are available online, often at a discount. For used or out-of-print books, check online sources. Some of these books are in the SDSU Library, others may be in the Clay Club library in ceramics - Look for them! Or ask...

**Recommended Books (* highly recommended):**

- *The Ceramic Process*, European Ceramic Work Centre, about $65 online
- *The Potter’s Dictionary of Materials and Techniques*, by Frank and Janet Hamer
- *Cushing’s Handbook*, by Val Cushing (order as a group through clay club?)
- *Clay and Glazes for the Potter – 3rd edition*, by Daniel Rhodes and Robin Hopper - no longer in print, but try to buy a used copy online if you can.
- *The Ceramic Spectrum – 2nd ed*, by Robin Hopper
- *Out of the Earth, Into the Fire - 2nd edition*, by Mimi Obstler
- *Revealing Glazes: Using the Grid Method*, by Ian Currie (buy on web http://ian.curry.to)
- *Ceramic Faults and Their Remedies*, by Harry Fraser (available from Potters Shop  (781) 449-7687)

**Reference Materials:**

- *Ceramic Science for the Potter*, W. G. Lawrence (both editions are out of print, but in libraries)
- *Ceramic Glazes*, Parmelee and Harman (more technical, but lots of info)
- *Ceramic Colors and Pottery Decoration*, Kenneth Shaw
- *Ceramic Industry* magazine annual “Materials Handbook” issue – online at www.ceramicindustry.com
- *CeramicsTECHNICAL* magazine - not in SDSU library

**Internet Resources:**

- The CeramicsWeb: http://ceramicweb.org and other websites which are linked there
- Search for glaze recipes
- SDSU Blackboard website: http://blackboard.sdsu.edu - lots of links to ceramics information and art
Books with lots of recipes – some have photos of the glazes:

- Ash Glazes, Phil Rogers
- Ceramics: Ways of Creation, Richard Zakin
- The Ceramic Surface, Matthias Ostermann
- The Complete Guide to High-Fire Glazes, John Britt
- Contemporary Ceramic Formulas, John Conrad
- Electric Kiln Ceramics, Richard Zakin
- The Glaze Book, Stephen Murfitt
- Glazes Cone 6, Michael Bailey
- Glazes and Glazing Techniques: A Glaze Journey, Greg Daly
- Mastering Cone 6 Glazes, John Hesselberth and Ron Roy
- Oriental Glazes, Nigel Wood
- Pottery Glazes, David Green
- Smashing Glazes, Susan Peterson
- Dry Glazes, Jeremy Jernegan
- Glazes from Natural Sources, Brian Sutherland and Nigel Wood

Also check for specific articles on clays, glazes, and ceramists in these magazines:

- Ceramics Monthly
- Clay Times
- Studio Potter
- CeramicsTechnical