

**MVLA**  
**2024-25**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title: Ceramics 1**

**CTE Pathway:** CTE credit is not yet available in Ceramics, but the process has begun to bring this option to MVHS.

**School: MVHS**

**UC/CSU requirement:** UC/CSU A-G requirement (F)

**Textbook and/or other learning resources:** All materials provided in class.

**Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:**

Ceramics I is an introductory course. Students learn strategies to generate ideas, sketch, make, and share original art to explore 3D design principles as respectful members of a community ceramics studio. The course covers coil, slab, pinch, and wheel-throwing techniques using clay. Students speak and write to build vocabulary and critically analyze functional and decorative forms through aesthetic, functional, cultural, and historical lenses. Materials include clay, glazes, hand tools, and large studio equipment. Responsible and safe studio practices, independent and collaborative work, and oral, written, and digital presentation, reflections, and critiques are all part of student evaluation.

**Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)):**

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:  
**Final Semester Grades will be based on California State Content Standards:**
  - 1.0 Artistic Perception 5%**
    - Processing, Analyzing, Responding to Sensory information through the language and visual art skills.
  - 2.0 Creative Expression 65%**
    - Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Visual Arts
  - 3.0 Historical and Cultural Context 5%**
    - Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of the Visual Arts
  - 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing 5%**
    - Responding to, Analyzing, and Making Judgments about works in the Visual Arts
  - 5.0 Connecting, Relationships, Applications 10%**
    - Connecting and Applying what is learned in the Visual Arts to other Art forms, subject areas, careers**Work Habits grade 10%**
  - Effective use of class time, adherence to all deadlines, contributions to a calm, clean, productive, positive classroom culture for all students to meet creative and academic goals
2. **Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:**

Rubrics are used to evaluate performance on all grading criteria when students submit their project packets online in Canvas. This includes evidence of meaningful class participation, timely completion of artworks, documentation of research and idea development process, studio habits, etc.
3. **Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):** Students are given adequate time to complete all work during class time. The only need for homework in this course is if the student was absent, off-task, or would like to complete a more advanced version of the assignment to meet their own creative goals.
4. **Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):** All work should be meaningfully original, and substantially changed from reference materials to incorporate the students' unique vision and voice on their topic. If you have questions, please ask.
5. **Use of the MVHS Ceramics studio:** Ceramics materials and tools pose substantial health and safety risks **\*\*if used improperly\*\***. Students must adhere to all classroom conduct, safety, and cleaning protocols to earn their studio work habits grade, and to maintain a safe, calm, productive learning space for all students. Students who are unable to self-discipline in our ceramics studio will be referred to MVHS administration for disciplinary support and parents will be contacted.

- 6. Grading scales:** Rubrics are shared with students and are used to determine assignment grades.  
A+ 98.00 to 100%    A 93.00 to 97.99%    A- 90.00 to 92.99% - Demonstrated mastery with excellence.  
B+ 87.00 to 89.99%    B 83.00 to 86.99%    B- 80.00 to 82.99% - Demonstrated mastery of grade-level standards.  
C+ 77.00 to 79.99%    C 73.00 to 76.99%    C- 70.00 to 72.99% - Inconsistent demonstration of some key material.  
D+ 67.00 to 69.99%    D 63.99 to 66.99%    D- 60.00 to 62.99% - Student is not yet performing at grade level.  
F 50 to 59.99% - Insufficient participation or evidence of understanding course material to earn credit at this time.
7. **Excused absence make-up practices** (Education Code 48205(b)): Work is available in Canvas and students are expected to meet all online submission deadlines regardless of whether they are present for in-person classes. Avoid working up to the last minute to minimize stress and to submit work in advance of deadlines. Absent students should promptly review all materials available online and contact peers when circumstances are beyond their control and they must miss a class. In truly extenuating circumstances, contact teacher ASAP to arrange submission and grading of late work before the end of the grade window.
8. **Revision practices:** Revisions will be graded once, and can only be guaranteed if the student makes an appointment for an in-person re-grade during tutorial. Revised work will not be accepted for re-grading during the final week of any administrative grading period.
9. **LMS Info:** If you want to be sure all work has been submitted and graded, view Canvas. If you want to see information that colleges will see when transcripts are released, view Aeries. During the semester, Canvas is used to communicate up-to-the-moment grades. It is highly recommended that guardians view their student's Canvas profile as an Observer. This allows parents to see course information, view electronically time-stamped assignment submissions, and grades in real time, rather than discovering missing work once it's too late to submit. Zeros in Canvas indicate missing assignments only.

In all grade reporting for official school records, the lowest possible assignment grade is 50% for a missing or unattempted assignment. Aeries is updated (at minimum) at established regular grade reporting intervals, per the MVLA official district calendar. Again: Canvas is most reliable for real time updates.

**Instructors' email address:**

JESSICA.COHENBENDER@MVLA.NET

**Class website:**

[Click to visit Ceramics & AP/3D class site](#)

To schedule an appointment with Ms Cohen, please email Ms Cohen or click: [Parent-Teacher Meeting Request](#)

**Supporting the Arts at MVHS:**

Clay and glaze material costs continue to rise every year, with a particularly sharp increases due to economic and supply chain issues dating back to 2020. For this reason, we ask that families who can please make a tax deductible donation to support our class budget so that we can provide adequate quality materials to all MVHS students. In the interest of making art courses accessible to all students, the Visual Arts Department does not *require* a lab fee, but we greatly appreciate and we do rely on the generous support from our families and community.

**Donations to the MVHS AP3D Art Class fund can be made online via the MVHS Spartan Web Store [Ceramics/3D Art Donations](#) or In-person at the MVHS Finance office. **Recommended donation: \$150.00****

*Checks payable to MVHS Ceramics/AP 3D Art Class fund*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**