

# Course Syllabus

 Edit



Department of Art+Design /School of Humanities, Arts and Public Engagement

## ART2024 Ceramics: Foundations in Clay

3 Units

*Fall 2025*

**Meeting days/times: TR 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Meeting location: Starky 107B**

**Final Exam: Tuesday, 12/15 10:40 – 1:00 pm**

### Information

### Specifics for the Course

**Instructor title and name:** Professor J. David Carlson, MFA

**Phone:** 626-644-9402

**Email:** dcarlson@pointloma.edu

**Office location and hours:** Keller 110, contact for appointment

### PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send



Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

## Course Description

ART 2024 Ceramics: Foundations in Clay (3 Units) is an introduction to clay, glazes, firing, and studio procedures through the production of hand-built and wheel-thrown forms. There is an emphasis on function and aesthetics as it relates to both historical and contemporary practices.

**Prerequisite(s):** [ART 1003](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=ART%201003)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=ART%201003>) OR [ART 1004](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=ART%201004)  (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/search/?P=ART%201004>) or consent of instructor.

**Fee:** Course fee applies. See "Special Fees" in Financing a PLNU Education.

## Program and Course Learning Outcomes

- **Develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and knowledge through the completion of assignments and artworks created in this class.**
  - Idea Objective: Learning to Apply and Develop Creative Capacities
  - Activities and all assignments
- **Acquire technical skills and craftsmanship through the use of various ceramic methods, including but not limited to hand building, wheel throwing, glazing, and firing.**
  - Idea Objective: Developing specific skills, competencies, & points of view needed by professionals in this field
  - Activities and all assignments
- **Demonstrate an understanding of clay using various techniques and approaches.**
  - Idea Objective: Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing
  - Activities and all assignments
- **Apply the techniques demonstrated in class to a series of required assignments created for class.**
  - Idea Objective: Develop Creative Capacities
  - Activities and all assignments
- **Participate in the evaluation of presented artworks through both individual and collective critique.**
  - Idea Objective: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas.
  - Activities and all critiques

## Required Texts

No Text required to purchase. All supplies will be provided for the course.

## Recommended Study Resources



Additional Resources are provided in each assignment

## Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

## Assessment and Grading

### Semester Grades

Final semester grades are based on a percentage of points accumulated in weighted categories throughout the semester. If class sessions must be canceled due to events out of the instructor's control, such as illness, natural disaster, etc., the point total may be reduced. Still, the percentage assigned to each category will remain the same.

### Final Grade Breakdown

Projects | 4 total (500 pts.)

Homework, Research Documentation ( 100 pts. )

Vocabulary Test (100 pts.)

In-Critiques | (40 pts.)

Participation (145 pts.)

Final Clean-up (100 pts.)

### GRADE SCALE:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

### INDIVIDUAL PROJECT GRADES

While grading works of art is subjective, I approach each student's work as fairly and objectively as possible.



possible, considering each student's circumstances and abilities. Projects turned in late will receive an automatic 20-point deduction. You will have one week from the due date to turn it in. After one week, you will receive an F for that project. On-time means that it is uploaded to Canvas by the due date before the assignment closes. All homework assignments must be turned in through Canvas to receive credit and will not be accepted late.

Individual work will be graded using the following five categories. Rubrics will be provided for each major project.

- o Meets Project Objectives
- o Composition/Visual
- o Craftsmanship/Technical
- o Concept/Creativity
- o Individual Effort

## **CRITIQUES AND PARTICIPATION**

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At the end of each major project, there will be a group critique. The primary purpose of critique is to practice utilizing the language of the arts and creatives, which is an essential skill for professional artists and designers. Dialogue and constructive criticism also help the artist/designer recognize the strengths and weaknesses of their work and others. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion. In fact, your participation grade is based in part on your willingness to join in during the critique. If you are absent from a critique, your project will be marked late. There will be no opportunity to make up for the points lost for missing a critique. Students are given a grade for each critique. 50% of the grade is based upon participation during the critique, and 50% is based upon overall class participation up to that point.

### **Final Examination Policy**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules) (<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules>) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

### **PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy**

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.



## CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is required. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Each additional absence will result in a 10-point deduction from your final participation grade. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out from your peers what information you missed. If you arrive more than 5 minutes after the start time or leave more than 5 minutes early from a required class session, you will be marked late. You will be marked absent if you miss 30 minutes or more of a required class session. Three late arrivals or early departures equal one absence.

Exceptions to the attendance policy will only be made in the event of a family emergency, illness with a doctor's verification, or something of an unexpected, urgent nature that is out of your control. Family vacations, weddings, work schedules, and or travel/flight schedules are not valid excuses for missing a required class session or exam. Excessive absences may result in you being dropped from the course.

- o **1–2 unexcused absences:** *no effect*
- o **3–5 unexcused absences:** *–10 percentage points from participation grade for each unexcused absence beyond 2*
- o **6+ unexcused absences:** *Withdrawal from the course or failure if after the last day to drop*
- o **5+ minutes late:** *Tardy*
- o **30+ minutes late:** *Absent*
- o **3 Tardy:** *Absent*

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## MATERIALS AND SAFETY

Practicing studio safety is a combination of four factors: having knowledge of the materials you are handling, understanding the environment (space) in which you are working, being aware of emergency procedures, and practicing common sense in any given situation. Most of the materials that you will be using in this class have relatively low levels of toxicity unless ingested. Eating and drinking are only permitted in designated areas. Pay special attention to the following:

- **Dust:** When using clay and other materials in the ceramics room, it is common for dust to pick up. Avoid breathing the dust. Do not blow on your ceramic greenware (unfired clay) and pick up the accumulated dust around you after working. Please do whatever you can to keep the dust particles from being suspended in the air you breathe.

## CLEAN UP

Art, by its nature, is a messy process. You must clean up after yourself. This includes the classroom and anywhere else that you might work. These are areas that we all share and use, so be courteous and leave your work area as clean or cleaner than you found it. If you habitually neglect to clean up after yourself, your final grade will be affected.

**1st Offense = Warning / 2nd Offense = 1 tardy / 3rd or more = absence for each offense**

## GENERAL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS



- o Arrive on time and be prepared to participate in all class activities, projects, discussions, and critiques.
- o Attend every class and work diligently.
- o Dress appropriately for class.
- o Bring all necessary tools and supplies.
- o Early or late exams/quizzes will not be administered.
- o Late homework assignments will not be accepted.
- o Coming to class unprepared is the same as an absence.
- o Work done by someone else is considered cheating/plagiarism, and University Policy will be enforced.
- o You are expected to purchase the required text and materials.

### **PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

- o Students should remain focused and engaged during class.
- o Phones must be silenced and placed in a designated phone bin during class.
- o Headphones are not allowed during class unless given permission.
- o Unauthorized use of electronic devices for non-course-related activity is prohibited. For some class sessions, you will want to have your computer or tablet to access quizzes and for some creative processes. No outside class activities can be done on your electronic devices during class time.
- o Repeated violations of these policies may result in an absence.
- o If you have an emergency or special circumstance, arrangements must be made with the professor in advance.

**1st Offense = Warning / 2nd Offense = 1 tardy / 3rd or more = absence for each offense**

### **Content Warning**

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In [class name], all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

### **Trigger Warning**

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In [class name], we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include [list topics]. Each time this topic appears in



a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

## **Spiritual Care**

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

**If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation)**

**(<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation>)**

## **State Authorization**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on **State Authorization**

**(<https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures>)** to view which states allow distance education outside California.

## **PLNU Copyright Policy**

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

## **PLNU Recording Notification**



In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

### **PLNU Academic Honesty Policy**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See **Academic Policies** [\(https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/\)](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) (<mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu>) or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided.



is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

## Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

## Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at [pointloma.edu/Title-IX](http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX) (<http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX>). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at [counselingservices@pointloma.edu](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) (<mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu>) or find a list of campus pastors at [pointloma.edu/title-ix](http://pointloma.edu/title-ix) (<http://pointloma.edu/title-ix>).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [www.pointloma.edu/bias](http://www.pointloma.edu/bias) (<http://www.pointloma.edu/bias>).



The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage \(https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>  (<https://plnu.mywconline.com/>)
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>  
(<https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>)

Email: [writingcenter@pointloma.edu](mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu) (<mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu>)

