

## Beginning Slab-Pottery Class with Dana Nicloy

**Curriculum:** This class introduces students to basic slab-building techniques in ceramics. Through hands-on projects, students will learn how to design and construct functional and sculptural forms using soft, stiff, and textured slabs. The class will also cover surface decoration, glazing, and kiln firing processes.

### Goals & Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand basic slab-building techniques (soft slab, stiff slab, drape molds)
- Learn proper clay preparation and storage
- Use texture, carving, and slip decoration
- Understand basic glaze application
- Complete 3–5 finished ceramic pieces

### Week 1: Introduction to Clay & Slab Work

- Studio orientation and safety
- Types of clay and tools overview
- Wedging and preparing clay
- Demo: Rolling and cutting slabs

### Week 2: Soft Slab Construction – Cups or Boxes

- Demo: Using soft slabs with templates
- Pinch and coil techniques
- Texture tools and found objects
- Begin first project: Cup, mug, or small box

### Week 3: Molds and Draping Techniques

- Using slump and hump molds
- Creating shallow dishes or trays
- Optional: Make your own simple mold

### Week 4: Surface Decoration Techniques

- Carving (sgraffito), stamping, and slip trailing
- Underglaze vs. glaze
- Finalize all construction

### Week 5: Glazing Basics

- Glaze safety and application
- Waxing, dipping, brushing
- Students glaze bisqued pieces

### Week 6: Finishing & Critique

- Finish and glaze final projects
- Group critique and discussion
- Clean-up and reflection

**Materials Needed:** *Students should bring a sketchbook or notebook, and plastic bags for storing work.*

The student supply list and studio policies are listed on the website. If you have any questions, please email Dana: [dnicloy@gmail.com](mailto:dnicloy@gmail.com)