

Beginner Ceramics: Hand-building
Course: ASTU 2101.501
Location: ARTF 139
MW 8am-10:50am
Fall 2026

Instructor: Tara Laughery
Tara.laughery@unt.edu
Office Hour
Friday 10am – 11am



Left to right: Ceramic Sculpture by Naomi Petterson, Ceramic Bowl by Jerilyn Virden, *Venus of Dolní Věstonice*, *Terracotta Army*.

Hello,

Welcome to Beginner Ceramics: Hand-building!

Course Description:

This is an introduction to Hand-building in ceramics. This class will focus on accumulating knowledge of how to create ceramics through various methods of hand-building including slab, coil, and pinching. Through assigned projects and warmups, you will develop your knowledge on how to execute your creative concepts in clay. You will produce work through testing, planning, and practice. It is vital in ceramics to be in attendance. Practice through repetition is key in learning how to become proficient in hand-building ceramics.

Course Outcomes and Objectives:

- Develop fluency in ceramic terminology.
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue while discussing your work and fellow students work in critiques.
- Acquire understanding of how to create ceramics using traditional methods in hand-building.
- Become knowledgeable of the process of turning malleable clay into long-lasting ceramic objects.

In-Class Requirements:

You are required to attend all critiques, demos, and be a good studio citizen. That means being present during our class session, working diligently, and respecting the individuality of your fellow classmates. You are required to follow all studio protocols. Talking on the phone during official studio meeting time is prohibited. If you must take a call during class time, please step outside so you do not disturb your fellow classmates. This class is demanding and will require you to be present, practice, and use your time wisely. You will need to spend additional time working outside of our scheduled class to complete all projects and warm-up assignments and to fully develop and articulate your artistic concepts. This could be anywhere between 3-6 additional hours per week.

Required Texts and Reading Materials:

There are no official textbooks dedicated to this class.

Assignments and Grading:

During this class we will have 3 main projects. At certain times during the semester these projects will overlap. We will have 2 warm-ups that will be in support of your projects. There will be 1 quiz that is a culmination of what you have learned throughout the semester. Participation in critique, and attendance (physically and through engagement) are all components that will be considered with grading.

Projects

Each project is worth 20% of your grade.

Each project will be introduced with detailed instructions, demonstrations, handouts, as well as specific timelines for the project.

Warm-ups

Each warm-up is worth 10% of your grade. These warm-ups will support the projects outlined in the course.

Quiz

Worth 15% of your grade. You will have one quiz over ceramic vocabulary and processes.

Participation/Studio citizenship/End of the semester clean-up

Worth 5% of your grade.

Grading Explanation:

A= 100-90, B= 89-80, C= 79-70, D= 60-69, F= 59-below

A (90-100%), Excellent

This is a student who turns in all warm-ups and meets all project deadlines. Is prompt to class and stays the whole class period. Participates in critique and studio time through thoughtful dialogue with their fellow classmates. Has dedicated time to their craftsmanship in clay which is evident in final works shown in critiques. Cleans up their work area after each studio session.

B (89-80%), Very Good

This student is present in class, shows progression in skill and craftsmanship, and participates in critique with peers. Turns in projects and warm-ups on time. Incorporates interests into projects and uses research to help guide their ideas.

C (79-70%), Average

Minimal completion of work. Assignments are done but are missing some of the creative research to reach higher standards. Craftsmanship in need of further attention. Is close to fulfilling the studio requirement but the work could benefit from more studio time.

D (60-69%), Inferior

More than three absences without medical note. Multiple times arriving late or leaving class early. Lack of research in projects. This student shows minimal engagement with peers during critique. Does not complete some projects or warm-ups given during the semester.

F (59-below), Failing

4 or more absences during the semester. Work shows that this student did not spend time researching or time in the studio.

Schedule – Schedule is tentative and is subject to change throughout the semester given studio operations, unpredicted events, or at the will of the instructor.

Week 1: Monday

August 17th, 2026

Classroom Introductions, Syllabus Review
and Studio Tour.
Assign Shelving

Wednesday

August 19th, 2026

Demo: Test tiles + Pinching
Methods: Slab, Pinch, Extrude.
Pinch Pot and Pounding Stone Tools
Warm-up + Maker's mark.

Week 2: Monday

August 24th, 2026

Project 1: Memento Box Introduction
Canvas overview
Tools due

Wednesday

August 26th, 2026

Demo: Stages of clay
Wet, Leather hard, Bone dry
Project 1 Workday
**DUE – Warm-Up 1 Pinch Pot &
Pounding Stone Tools**

Week 3: MondayAugust 31st, 2026**DUE** – Test tiles on Greenware cart**DUE on Canvas by 12p Midnight** –

Project 1: Memento Box Sketches & Proposal.

WednesdaySeptember 2nd, 2026

Two-week critique

Week 4: MondaySeptember 7th, 2026**Labor Day – No class. Campus closed.**WednesdaySeptember 9th, 2026

Project 1: Workday

Demo: Surface design techniques

Methods: Slip trail, Sgraffito, Inlay,

Etching, Underglaze.

Week 5: MondaySeptember 14th, 2026WednesdaySeptember 16th, 2026Week 6: MondaySeptember 21st, 2026

Demo: Glazing

Methods: Spray, Paint, Dip

WednesdaySeptember 23rd, 2026

Project 2: Personal Place Setting

Introduction

Week 7: MondaySeptember 28th, 2026**DUE** – Project 1: Memento Box on Greenware cart.**DUE** – Test tiles Glazed and on Glaze cart.

Demo: Personal Place Setting objects

WednesdaySeptember 30th, 2026**DUE on Canvas by 12p Midnight** –Project 2: Personal Place Setting Sketches
& Proposal.Week 8: MondayOctober 5th, 2026WednesdayOctober 7th, 2026**DUE** – Project 1: Memento Box on
Glaze cartWeek 9: MondayOctober 12th, 2026**DUE** – Sketchbooks

Notes on Demos and Project sketches

WednesdayOctober 14th, 2026

Midsemester Critique

<u>Week 10: Monday</u> October 19 th , 2026 Project 3: Artist Research Project Introduction	<u>Wednesday</u> October 21 st , 2026 DUE – Project 2: Personal Place Setting on Greenware cart Tx Clay Fest Oct 24-25.
<u>Week 11: Monday</u> October 26 th , 2026	<u>Wednesday</u> October 28 th , 2026
<u>Week 12: Monday</u> November 2 nd , 2026 DUE on Canvas by 12p Midnight – Artist Research Proposal DUE – Project 2: Personal Place Setting on Glaze Cart	<u>Wednesday</u> November 4 th , 2026
<u>Week 13: Monday</u> November 9 th , 2026	<u>Wednesday</u> November 11 th , 2026 Friday November 13th – Wet Clay Cut-Off
<u>Week 14: Monday</u> November 16 th , 2026 Personal Place Setting Critique	<u>Wednesday</u> November 18 th , 2026
<u>Week 15: Monday</u> November 23 rd , 2026 Thanksgiving Break: No class Nov. 23rd-29th.	<u>Wednesday</u> November 25 th , 2026
<u>Week 16: Monday</u> November 30 th , 2026 Artist Presentations Group 1	<u>Wednesday</u> December 2 nd , 2026 Artist Presentations Group 2
<u>Week 17: Monday</u> December 7 th , 2026 End of Semester Critique Group 1	<u>Wednesday</u> December 9 th , 2026 End of Semester Critique Group 2

ADA Accommodation Statement:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Ceramics Department Materials Charge:

In the UNT ceramics department, we believe in the educational importance for intermediate and advanced students to learn how to formulate and mix their own clay and glazes so we provide our students with raw materials. For beginning students, the ceramics program mixes both the clay and glaze to aid in the technical making of their projects. If we did not supply students with these raw materials, they would be required purchase their own manufactured clay for \$40-\$50 per 50 lbs at a supplier in Dallas. To save students time and money, we require students taking a ceramics class to pay a \$50 materials charge within the first two weeks of class.

To pay this materials charge, please take the provided sheet from your instructor to the ***Cashiers Services in the Eagle Student Services Building***. After paying, please return your receipt to your instructor or the ceramics technician, Valerie Hancock, so that we can mark you off as paid in our records. This ensures that we keep an accurate record of all payments. Please see Brooks Oliver or Eliza Au with questions or concerns.

Course Materials:

Please bring all required tools to class daily.

You should collect all the tools necessary for you to make your work. At the very minimum you need:

- Basic tool assortment for ceramics kit (Including: wooden knife, flexible steel rib, flexible serrated rib, wooden rib, wire tool, large loop tool, small double ended loop tool, needle tool, sponge)

- This kit available on Amazon, Walmart, Michaels, limited supply at Voertmans



- Plastic for covering works in progress – NOT Walmart checkout bags – buy kitchen/yard trash bags
- Small bucket
- Towel or apron (optional)
- Locker in the Art Annex
- Small Tupperware container for personal slip
- Spray bottle (optional as the studio provides communal ones)
- Folder for notes and handouts
- Fork (optional)
- Sketchbook

Tools are due at the beginning of class Monday August 24th ***

Attendance Policy:

All students are expected and required to attend all class sessions regularly and on time, prepared both mentally and physically. Students will be allowed 3 absences over the course of the semester. Four absences will result in a drop of one letter grade on the final course grade. Five absences will result in two letter grade drops and so on. Students will be given a five-minute grace period at the start of class. After five minutes you are considered tardy. Leaving class early without instructor approval will also earn a tardy. 3 tardies will count as one absence. It is the students responsibility to check with the instructor at the end of class to make sure they were marked present if they entered the class late. Regardless of the reason for the absence or tardy, the student is responsible for all material that was covered, including all announcements or changes to the schedule. Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor's excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences). Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student's failure to participate in the critique discussions.

Ceramics Studio Hours and Protocol:

Studio access is granted only to those students currently enrolled in a ceramics course. No guests are allowed in the studio.

The Ceramic Studio is a swipe-to-enter only facility. You will be required to apply for After Hours Access to the Art Annex which will provide you with nearly 24/7 access. Swipe access is unavailable Fridays after 5pm to Saturdays at 9am, as well as university breaks and closures. You may work in the studio anytime outside of scheduled class except when it directly conflicts with other scheduled classes. It is a good idea to work with at least one other person during overnight hours. Many professors will let you work in the studio while they are teaching another class – but you must first ask them if it is okay. Be considerate and respectful of classes happening while you use the studio.

Storage of Active Work:

Each student will label half of one shelf with their name on the first day of class. These shelves are only to store current and working project materials. After students have finished for the day, all tools and materials are expected to be cleared up and returned to each students' shelf.

Studio care:

Use the studio and the equipment to its full advantage, but do not abuse it. Please be considerate, it is a facility shared by more than 150 students each semester. Clean up after yourself and after any other person who forgets. Those that habitually clean up shared spaces when others forget tend to stay in my good graces, those that habitually leave a mess for someone else tend not to. Therefore, never leave a mess for anyone else to clean up. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CARING FOR THE STUDIO WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE.

Health Safety Program:

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas' Office of Risk Management.

Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>.

Health & Safety Area Specific Information: Ceramics
Please review the CVAD Health and Safety handbook
at: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>

1. Hazards of the Materials

Clay Dust is a potential irritant and prolonged exposure may result in chronic conditions. Many substances in the glaze room are marked as toxic or hazardous materials.

Ingestion and inhalation of these materials could be hazardous or fatal.

2. Best Practices

Use gloves and clean after yourself and your area to avoid exposure to hazardous materials.

3. Links for Safety

<http://www.lagunaclay.com/msds/>

4. Area Health & Safety Rules

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

- Follow all CVAD Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found here: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>)
- Follow the CVAD Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted
- In case of emergency, call campus police at (940)565-3000 or call 911
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the CVAD H&S handbook and in the main office. Turn completed forms into the Studio Art Departmental Office within 48 hours of the event)
- Do not prop classroom doors. Doors are to remain closed to ensure the building HVAC and ventilation work properly
- No food or drink in the studio
- Read and obey all signs posted in the Ceramics areas
- Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor or the ceramics technician.
- Use best practices for material handling. If you have questions about a material, ask an instructor for guidance or check the MSDS sheets located in OSH 137 (glaze material room).
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash station and first aid kit.
- Notify your instructor if first aid supplies are low.
- Do not spray any aerosols in any CVAD classroom/studio/doorway or exterior wall/floor. Cover any surface you are spraying on outside. Please do not use bricks from the ceramic brick piles to prop or hold down your items or surface cover.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. It is wise to change into clothes and / or wear an apron for this class to avoid carrying dust particles with you when you depart. These studio clothes or personal aprons may be stored in your OSH locker.
- It is recommended that protective equipment be worn at all times: safety glasses when scraping and cleaning shelves, protective lenses for kiln viewing, gloves for hot objects, ear protection for grinding and sawing, rubber gloves for mixing hazardous materials, etc.

- It is strongly recommended that a respirator with particulate filters be worn when working with dry materials, especially in the glaze material room (OSH 137), the clay mixing room (OSH 122), and the plaster room (OSH 124).
- Do not block aisles, halls, or doors
- Do not bring children or pets into the studios
- Studio, equipment and material use is restricted to students currently enrolled in a ceramics class.
- If you do not know how to use a piece of equipment or are unsure of proper procedures please ask someone. Do not use force on any piece of equipment.
- If something breaks, please tell the ceramics technician or your instructor immediately.
- Do not store things on the floor or on the counters. Tools, buckets, clay and works in progress should be stored in the storage areas provided.
- Clean up spills immediately
- Clean up your working area daily- wipe down all used surfaces and check the floors. Do not leave works in progress out on the tables, wheels or counters when you are not in the studio.
- Scoop up dry materials, mop up liquids, do not return spilled materials to original source as they are contaminated now
- If you accidentally cross-contaminate dry materials in the glaze material room (OSH 137), please inform the ceramics technician or your instructor immediately.
- All discarded bisqueware, glazeware and empty dry material bags must be taken to the dumpster. Do not place in the trash cans.
- All glazing utensils must first be rinsed in the yellow rinse bucket prior to being washed in the sink.
- Place materials containing barium carbonate or chromium oxide in the hazardous waste disposal area
- Do not sweep. This puts hazardous materials in the air. Rather vacuum, scrape up chunks and wet-clean.
- Do not sand greenware, glaze or bisqueware indoors. If sanding *must* be done, please do so outside (over a trash can) while wearing an appropriate dust mask or respirator.
- Do not block doorways or block access to lights.
- Do not remove furniture from rooms or borrow furniture from rooms without permission from the area coordinators.
- Do not create “daisy chains” with multiple electric cords.
- No hazardous materials down sinks.
- Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.
- Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor.
- All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.
- Follow the **CVAD CONTAINER POLICY** (see below)

There are 3 types of labels used in CVAD.

All containers must have a label identifying the contents at all times.

UNIVERSAL LABELS (while chemical is in use):

All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials (or what might be perceived as hazardous -i.e. watered-down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents) must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice. Labels can be found in the studios. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened.

UNIVERSAL WASTE LABELS (when material is designated as waste):

All containers solely containing a universal waste must have a universal waste label identifying the contents as “Universal Waste - (type of universal waste)” that are designated as waste for proper disposal. The label must also include the date the first item of universal waste entered the container.

HAZARDOUS WASTE LABELS

All hazardous waste containers must have a label identifying the contents as hazardous. Labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item. All constituents should equal 100%.

Academic Integrity:

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Building Emergency Procedure:

In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. For the ceramics facilities, we will evacuate to the Church parking lot on the East side of Oak Street Hall. In case of a tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow instructions of your teachers, act accordingly and remain calm.

Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable student behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu>.

Access to Information – Eagle Connect:

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Survivor Advocacy:

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally,

alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Ceramic Suppliers in the DFW area:

Trinity Ceramic Supply Inc
9016 Diplomacy Row, Dallas,
TX 75247
(214) 631-0540
M-F 9am-5pm, SAT 9am-
Noon
Closed Sunday

**Texas Pottery Supply &
Clay Company**
4401 Garland Dr, Haltom
City, TX 76117
(817) 503-2022
M-F 9am-4pm, SAT 9am-1pm
Closed Sunday

**American Ceramic Supply
Co**
3310 Keller Springs Rd #130,
Carrollton, TX 75006
(817) 535-2651
M-F 10am-5pm, SAT 10am-
1pm
Closed Sunday

Recommended Texts

Mastering Hand Building, Cobb, Sunshine.

Creative Pottery, Schwartzopf, Deb.

Craft and the Art of Clay, Peterson, Susan.

Further Resources

Podcasts

Tales of a Red Clay Rambler, with Ben Carter.

Wheel Talk Podcast, with Becca Otis and Ryan Durbin.

For Flux Sake, Matt and Rose Katz, Kathy King.

The Potters Cast, with Paul Blais.

Websites/Subscriptions

Art Axis, <https://artaxis.org>.

Ceramics Monthly, (monthly magazine subscription/hub for ceramics information)

<https://ceramicsartsnetwork.org>.

Artist Ayumi Horie Website <https://ayumihorie.com/links/>

Artist Jen Allen Website <https://www.jenniferallenceramics.com/>

University of North Texas
Ceramic Studio Policies
Brooks Oliver, Eliza Au
Lab Tech: Valerie Hancock

1. Please help us keep the studio clean and safe.
2. Clean up after yourself. If YOU make a mess, YOU clean it up. The wheels, workstations, clay mixers, & extruders need to be washed down with a wet sponge. All kilns need to be vacuumed and shelves & kiln furniture needs to be returned to its home. Be considerate and don't leave a mess for someone else to clean up.
3. DO NOT PUT CLAY IN THE SINK! Use the large bin located in the center of the ceramics lab. Do not put anything other than clay in the slop bin.
4. Put all studio tools back in their proper place after use.
5. All clay objects to be fired must have your name, initials or logos on the piece. No name, no fire, no exceptions.
6. Scrape insides of glaze buckets after use. This helps prevent the glaze from building up on the inside of the bucket. Also sponge off the outside of the bucket. Cleaning up immediately after glazing is much easier than when the glaze has dried and hardened.
7. Work to be glazed must be cleaned up 3/8" from where it touches the tabletop. If it's not, you will find your piece on the REJECT SHELF and it will not be fired until YOU clean it up!
8. If your glaze is thick and drippy and runs onto the kiln shelf, you will be required to clean the shelf and possibly pay for the shelf, depending on the damage. Kiln shelves cost \$50.
9. Work that is unacceptable for firing, whether improperly glazed, cracked, or poorly constructed, will be placed on the REJECT SHELF. It is the responsibility of the student to remedy the problem before putting it back on the shelf to be fired. If you are not sure what the problem is, ask the instructor.
10. PLEASE DO NOT handle other people's work, it is very fragile.

11. Check the bisque shelves often! We will go through the bisque shelves and throw away bisque ware that has been there for more than 3 weeks. Space is a valuable commodity in this studio.
12. Cycle your work in a timely manner. Don't wait until the end of the semester, or you may be disappointed.
13. Lockers and shelves must be cleaned out at the end of each semester. Items that are not removed will be thrown away.
14. When testing glazes you must make your own test tiles. You also need to bring your own containers for your glazes.
15. Your cooperation is essential for a safe and smooth operation of this studio.

SOME RULES AND HINTS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
BY JOHN CAGE

- RULE ONE: Find a place you trust, and then try trusting it for awhile.
- RULE TWO: **General duties of a student.** Pull everything out of your teacher. Pull everything out of your fellow students.
- RULE THREE: **General duties of a teacher.** Pull everything out of your students.
- RULE FOUR: Consider everything an experiment.
- RULE FIVE: Be self-disciplined. This means finding someone wise or smart and choosing to follow them. To be disciplined is to follow in a good way. To be self-disciplined is to follow in a better way.
- RULE SIX: Nothing is a mistake. There is no win and no fail. There is only make.
- RULE SEVEN: The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It is the people who do all of the work all of the time who eventually catch on to things. You can fool the fans but not the players.
- RULE EIGHT: Don't try to create and analyze at the same time. They are different processes.
- RULE NINE: Be happy whenever you can manage it. Enjoy yourself. It is lighter than you think.
- RULE TEN: We are breaking all the rules, even our own rules and how do we do that? By leaving plenty of room for 'X' quantities.
- HINTS: Always be around. Come or go to everything. Always go to classes. Read anything you can get your hands on. Look at movies carefully and often. Save everything. It might come in handy later.