

Ceramics – Wheel Throwing 1 (13432) ART 2751C

Florida Atlantic University DF Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Department of Visual Arts

Wheel Throwing 1 - **Spring 2020** - 4 credits
Prerequisites (WAC) - ART 1201C, 1203C, 1300C
Visual Arts Building 112
Tues & Thurs. 1 - 3:50pm

Thomas Stollar - *Instructor*
Ceramics 112B - *office*
Fri. 11 - 1pm - *office hours*
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FAU CATALOG:

Basic wheel-throwing course. Technical skills of wheel-work stressed with other aspects of clay work included, such as the aesthetics of form, glaze, kiln loading, and firing. Demonstrations, lectures, critiques, studio-time and slides make up majority of class time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore techniques that surround the potter's wheel. The content expressed will be driven by visual and conceptual research of the historical and contemporary ceramic arts. Class participants will be involved in a variety of processes surrounding the creation/understanding/critique of ceramic art objects: This introduction to ceramics will provide students with the fundamentals of artistic creation, personal expression, and discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As a result of completing this course student will:

- Develop physical skills of using a potter's wheel as a tool for shaping clay.
- Learn to apply ceramic surfaces such as slip, glaze, and underglaze
- Experience and understanding of loading, firing and unloading kilns.
- Examine the process of designing and making clay/ceramic objects.
- Evaluate aesthetics of form.
- Execute personal content decisions and aesthetic judgments to make expressive art.
- Study areas of ceramic art history that parallel approaches and ideas explored in class.
- Describe the ideas and decisions behind their work.
- Analyze each other's work in critique.

EVALUATION:

Grade is based upon projects, skill development, aesthetics, progress and attendance.

- 80% projects
- 10% vocabulary / writing
- 5% participation
- 5% presentation

Projects – include the creation of ceramic work, readings, research, sketches in preparation

Tests on materials/Vocab. – includes written exams of vocabulary, processes, and ceramic art history.

Participation: includes in class discussions, presentation of material, loading and firing kilns, and studio cleaning.

Research Presentation – includes research of subject, persons, history.

GRADING SCALE:

- A (93-100) work of exceptional quality: student excels at verbalizing ideas
- A- (90-92) work of very high quality: well verbalized
- B+ (87-89) work of high quality, which reflects higher than average abilities
- B (83-86) good work that satisfies goals of the course
- B- (80-82) slightly above average work that satisfies the goals of the course
- C+ (77-79) average work, which reflects an understanding of course material
- C (73-76) adequate work; passable
- C- (70-72) passing work but below good academic standing:
- D+ (67-69) below average work
- D (60-66) well below average work
- F Fail

This course requires the grade of 'C' or higher to be considered a pass

GRADING/ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

- Acquiring of all information that is missed will be the student's responsibility.
- Complete utilization of class time required. Leaving class early is discouraged, and will be penalized.
- Time outside of class will likely be necessary to complete projects and course requirements.
- The studio is open 24/7, and you may work anytime (24/7) there is not a scheduled class.
- Project will be discussed in class prior to their assignment to clarify expectations. Deadlines are subject to change.
- Each student is responsible for making sure his or her work is properly dried, loaded, glazed, and fired. The shop is not responsible for broken, damaged, or stolen works.

ETIQUETTE / RULES:

1. Be nice.
 2. Clean up after yourself.
 3. Proper shoes must be worn at all times (no open toes).
 4. Proper clothing must be worn (nothing too loose). Take care with long hair, necklaces, jewelry, etc.
 6. Observe all safety policies and procedures.
 7. No smoking, eating, drinking.
 8. Be considerate of your neighbors, and their property – this includes their work and tools.
 9. No Dogs (animals) allowed.
 10. Small children are discouraged to visit the lab areas due to safety issues.
 11. Respect of equipment, policies/procedures and the Ceramic facilities at all times.
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GENERAL POLICIES:

- Working with clay takes regular practice and attention to develop skills.
 - Ceramic work is fragile. Studio accidents or kiln issues may cause work to break.
 - Students who miss work deadlines with excused absence are responsible for submitting the work due to me before the beginning of the next class meeting to avoid being considered late. Unexcused absences will not suspend due dates.
 - Clean up of workspace is required. Please have a proprietary attitude about the shop, and leave it clean, regardless of the condition you find it. This includes cleaning up wheels, bats, table space, sink, and floor. Many people have health issues related to dust. Studio should be clean every day to protect the health of everyone using this space. Clean only with wet mops and sponges. If in doubt, please ask the Ceramic Studio Technician or myself.
 - Sketchbooks are a necessary tool for artists. You are required to keep a sketchbook/folder for keeping notes and ideas.
 - Work submitted for grading in this class may not be submitted to any other class for a grade unless both faculty give prior consent. To do so without consent will be considered a misrepresentation and cause for a failing grade.
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ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be recorded. The State of Florida's educational system acknowledges no excused absences except documented illness, jury duty or death of an immediate family member. Additionally, University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. (The work surrounding these absences may be completed without any reduction in the student's final course grade. Reasonable accommodation will also be made for students participating in a religious observance). Also, note that grades of Incomplete ("I") are reserved for students who are passing a course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. If another situation or problem develops, please see me. Otherwise, each student is permitted **3 absences** except on Project Due Dates (critique). **Each absence after the third will lower your final grade by one letter grade. 6 or more absences will constitute failure of the course.**

DISABILITY POLICY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) CENTER:

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to

<http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY:

Phones and computers are awesome, but remember that clay is, in some sense, dirt, which can and will effect the performance of your possessions. I do not mind if you text during studio time, but I will remark upon extended screen time. During lectures, demos, or presentations I ask for attention to be paid towards the presenter and expect no electronic device use. Exceptions will be related to research, taking notes, and listening to music during work time.

RESOURCES:

Recommended Text:

- The Basics of Throwing: A Practical Approach to Form and Design. Cohen, David.
- A Potter's Workbook. Illian, Clary
- The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques. Hamer, Frank and Janet.

Periodicals:

- Studio Potter
- Ceramics Monthly
- Ceramics: Art and Perception

Websites:

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| - Art Axis | artaxis.org |
| - Access Ceramics | accessceramics.org |
| - AKAR | akardesign.com |
| - Schaller Gallery | schallergallery.com |
| - Freer Sackler Gallery | asia.si.edu/ |
| - YouTube | youtube.com |
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TOOLS:

- A basic tool kit (available at the campus bookstore)
- Sketchbook/folder for handouts, images, notes.
- Small/medium bucket (2qts to 1 gallon)
- Cheap paint brushes of various sizes from small to 1.5 inches (used are ne)
- Towel
- "Soft" Plastic (garbage bags, or clear plastic from dry cleaners is very nice)
- Apron
- Sponges (large for clean up, small for throwing)

Clay Mixing:

Two students will mix and share approx. 150 pounds of clay.

Cost of clay is not covered in lab fee. Additional batches may be needed*.

Approx. individual cost for materials: \$ 70+. (Lab fee money goes primarily towards most of your glaze supplies).

*\$60.00 for fresh batch of clay;

*\$35.00 for recycle, slop clay.

(prices subject to change based on material costs)

FALL SCHEDULE

Tues. Aug. 20 Syllabus, Presentation (what is clay?) Project 1 (volume), Demo.
Thur. Aug. 22 Make clay, Re-demo,
Tues. Aug. 27 Pres. (Intro. History), Make clay, Work.
Thur. Aug. 29 Make clay, Work.
Tues. Sept. 3 Work.
Thur. Sept. 5 Work.
Tues. Sept. 10 Project 1 Due, Intro. proj. 2 (cylinders/decoration(stamps/resist), Demo.
Thur. Sept. 12 Pres. (history. 2), Re-demo, Work.
Tues. Sept. 17 Work.
Thur. Sept. 19 Intro. to glaze, Work.
Tues. Sept. 24 Proj. 2 due. Intro proj. 3 (cups handles/decoration (underglaze), Demo.
Thur. Sept. 26 Pres. (history 3), Work, Glaze, 1st gas firing.

Midterm

Tues. Oct. 1 Vocab/Firing 1 quiz, Work.
Thur. Oct. 3 Work, 2nd gas firing.
Tues. Oct. 8 Proj. 3 & glaze crit (proj. 1), Pres. (cont. 4), Intro. 4 (sculpture), Demo.
Thur. Oct. 10 Reading/Paper 1 assigned, Re-demo, Work, 3rd gas ring.
Tues. Oct. 15 Work,
Thur. Oct. 17 Work, 4th gas.
Tues. Oct. 22 Proj. 4 & glaze crit (proj 2), Intro. 5 (mold), Pres. (cont. 5).
Tues. Oct. 24 Discussion Reading 1 & paper due, Pres assign. (cont. artists), Work, 5th gas.
Tues. Oct. 29 Work.
Thur. Oct. 31 Work, 6th gas.
Tues. Nov. 5 Proj. 5 & glaze crit (proj. 3) Intro. 6 (choice), Demo.
Thur. Nov. 7 1st pres. group, re-demo, Work, 7th gas.
Tues. Nov. 12 2nd pres., Work.
Thur. Nov. 14 3rd pres., Work, 8th gas.
Tues. Nov. 19 Proj. 6 & glaze crit (proj. 4), Last wet day.

Thanksgiving

Tues. Nov. 26 Glaze.
Thur. Nov. 28 Vocab/Firing final, Glaze, Last gas firing.
Tues. Dec. 3 Final (crit glaze proj. 6), Clean-up
Thur. Dec. 5 Clean-up.

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF NECESSARY