

# ART 2752C Throwing: Skills and Concepts

University of Florida, School of Art and Art History

Throwing: Skills and Concepts	Spring 2016
M & W 3- 6	Credit Hours: 3
Instructor: Bridget Fairbank <a href="mailto:bfairbank@ufl.edu">bfairbank@ufl.edu</a>	FAC B16 Ceramics Policies: See "Welcome to UF Ceramics" Handout
Office Hours and Location: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 FAC B10	Course website: <a href="https://throwingskills.wordpress.com/">https:// throwingskills.wordpress.com/</a>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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In this course we will explore techniques of using the potter's wheel to make functional pottery an expressive art form. The content expressed in the vessels will be driven by conceptual research and an examination of historical and contemporary pottery. Class participants will be involved in each phase of the ceramic process: forming, trimming, surfacing, and firing. This introduction to utilitarian ceramics will provide students with the fundamentals of artistic decision-making: development of personal expression, strategies for design decisions that express the maker's ideas to others, and discussion of works in critique.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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As a result of completing this course the students will:

- Develop the physical skills of using a potter's wheel as a tool for shaping clay.
- Examine the process of designing and making functional pottery.
- Evaluate the aesthetic of pottery form.
- Execute personal content decisions and aesthetic judgment to make expressive art within the parameters of functional pottery.
- Study areas of world ceramic art history that have used thrown form and/or materials and processes related to those in this class.
- Describe the content behind the work.
- Analyze each other's work in critique.

## COURSE RESOURCES:

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### Required Text:

The Ceramics Bible: The Complete Guide to Materials and Techniques. Taylor, Louisa. ISBN 978-1-4521-0162-0

### Recommended Text:

A Potter's Workbook. Illian, Clary

The Potter's Book. Leach, Bernard  
The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques. Hamer, Frank and Janet.  
Functional Pottery. Hopper, Robin.  
The Basics of Throwing: A Practical Approach to Form and Design. Cohen, David.

### **Periodicals:**

Studio Potter  
Ceramics Monthly  
Pottery Making Illustrated  
Ceramics Art and Perception

### **Websites:**

C-File <https://cfileonline.org/>  
AKAR <http://www.akardesign.com>  
Schaller Gallery <http://www.schallergallery.com>  
Freer Sackler Gallery <http://www.asia.si.edu/>  
Ceramic Arts Daily <http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org>  
Youtube <http://www.youtube.com>  
Musing About Mud <http://musingaboutmud.blogspot.com/>

### **Other:**

Red Clay Rambler Podcast [www.talesofaredclayrambler.com](http://www.talesofaredclayrambler.com)  
Field Guide <http://juliagalloway.com/field-guide/>

### **EVALUATION:**

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- 80% 4 projects (including readings, research, sketches in preparation) (20 % each)
  - 10% Test on materials, vocabulary, and process, and ceramic art history (10% each)
  - 10% Participation in class discussions, presentations of discussion material, blog, participation in loading and firing kilns, and cleaning up after yourself

### **GRADING SCALE:**

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A 94-100, A- 93-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-74, C- 73-70, D + 69-67, D 66-64, D- 63-60, E 59-0

(Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements)

UF Grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY:**

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**Turn cell phones to silent before entering class. Absolutely no texting is permitted.** Phones, laptops, and tablets are strictly prohibited during class time. The only exceptions to this will be for class related research, taking notes, and listening to music during work time with permission from instructor.

## LATE ARRIVAL POLICY:

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Prompt arrival to class is required. Three instances of tardiness will count as one absence. Leaving 15 or more minutes before the end of class is also considered tardy.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. Students must assume that they will be dropped if they fail to attend the first few days of class.

The ceramic process requires time and dedication. On your third unexcused absence, your participation grade will be lowered 5 points (50%) and the 4th unexcused absence will result in another 5-point participation reduction.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence include illness, serious family emergencies, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, jury duty, extracurricular requirements (e.g. field trips or professional conferences), and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. For your absence to be excused for the following reasons you must present me with documentation the day your return to class. See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html> for more detail.

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. If an excused absence has affected the student's ability to work, the student is responsible for discussing this with me before the due date. Unexcused absences will not suspend due dates.

## CLAY :

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Clay is a wonderful material and will do many things, but it cannot be rushed or neglected without consequences. It takes regular practice and attention to develop skills and firing techniques. **This will take studio time outside of scheduled class hours.** At times you might have to make MORE than the required number of pieces to achieve the required number of finished pieces. This class requires an equal amount of time outside of class to finish work started in class. **Plan to spend at least six hours per week outside of class time.**

**Ceramic work is fragile.** Studio accidents or kiln issues may cause work to break. While all due care will be exercised, I must have finished work to assign a grade for a project. Work that blows up or is broken before completion will require re-making for grading. If your work is destroyed in progress, please show this to me and we will discuss what must be done to achieve a finished project for grading. In the case of involved projects where the loss is not the student's fault, abridged project parameters may be negotiated and due dates adjusted.

Each assignment requires preparation including assigned readings. Students are expected to do the readings assigned on the project sheets by the next class meeting from the calendar date assigned, and be prepared to discuss the material. Fulfilling

assignments includes research sketches, following the project criteria, presenting the work on the assigned dates, and participating in group critiques and discussions.

**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. Dry sweeping puts toxic dust into the air. Working in built-up clay dust is a health hazard. We all work on this together, and the added effort and team spirit contributes greatly to the safe, effective, and enjoyable use of the area by a large number of people. Please read and observe shop procedures and rules. If in doubt, please ask me, Nan Smith, Anna Callouri Holcombe, Derek Reeverts (Ceramics Teaching and Technical Assistant), or any of the very able graduate students in ceramics. We appreciate your co-operation. **Please remove all work and personal equipment from classrooms at the end of the semester.** Anything left in the classrooms is considered abandoned and will be discarded.

## TOOLS & MATERIALS:

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A sketchbook, tools, and at least one clay ticket are required for the second class meeting. Please be sure to mark your tools with your name or some sort of identification.

**pin/needle tool\***

**flexible metal rib \***

**wooden shaping ribs\***

**wooden knife\***

**cut-off wire\***

**sponges\*** elephant ear and small synthetic sponge for throwing.

**trimming tools\*:** pear-shaped trim tool, square-edged trim tool

**small bucket**

**plastic** to cover work in progress, clear dry-cleaning plastic works best.

**soft rubber rib**

**fettling knife**

**brushes** for slip, glazing, wax resist: a range of watercolor-type, hake, Japanese, etc. Need not be expensive, but several sizes and shapes would be helpful. Hardware stores sell inexpensive hobby and bristle brushes.

**shop towel, apron**

**small water containers** for clean water and to wash brushes.

**padlock** for your locker

**sketchbook**

\*May be purchased as a kit from a pottery supply store or UF Bookstore.

Optional tools:

**bat pins:** 1/4" socket head cap screws with 3/8" head

**bulb syringe** (infant enema w/removable nib) or slip-trailing squirt bottles (Miss Clairol bottles from the beauty supply work well), perhaps one or two if you want to try trailing

**calipers** for lid measurement

**scraper** (plastic or metal, 6" ? to lift bats, smooth clay)

**sur-form** (small) rasp (hardware store item)

**wooden paddles** for shaping.  
**xacto knife, scissors, straight edge/ruler**

A list of local suppliers for ceramic tools: [http://lindaarbuckle.com/uf\\_ceramics.htm](http://lindaarbuckle.com/uf_ceramics.htm)

**Sketchbooks** are a necessary tool for artists. You are required to keep a sketchbook (minimum size, 8 ½"x 11") for recording notes and ideas. Please have your sketchbook in class by the second class meeting. I will review your sketchbook periodically. Don't be concerned about the quality of your drawing skills. You will be using drawing to develop your ideas, not as an art form. You should also use your sketchbook as a journal of your class experiences. Write about your ideas. Which techniques worked and which did not? What did you like or dislike about the firing results? You should also include any articles, pictures, postcards, or photographs of things that inspire you.

Regular use throughout the semester is part of developing ideas. Additionally, a sketchbook may function as an archive for your ideas and a record of thoughts and work produced. It takes regular exercise in using a sketchbook to help you grow as an artist. Other interfaces and means to collect your thoughts and catalog research are encouraged and part of a good sketchbook routine.

Works 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 misrepresentation and cause for a failing grade.

## **MATERIAL FEES:**

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**Fee:** Students are required to pay a **ceramics lab materials fee of \$45** to cover the cost of glaze materials used. This is separate from the lab fee assessed with your tuition. The lab fee covers consumable supplies such as cones for firing, replacement elements, kiln shelves, wax resist, etc. The fee is paid through the purchase of an Orange Ticket at the bookstore in the Reitz Union. Bring this ticket to class no later than **January 21st**.

**Clay:** Students will purchase premixed clay. Students will buy tickets for clay at the bookstore, and present the tickets in the Ceramics area to get clay. **Clay tickets are \$11.50 each.** Terracotta, stoneware, and sculpture clay are 1 ticket per 25-pound bag. Helios porcelain is 2 tickets per bag. Times for obtaining clay will be posted. **I recommend that you buy four tickets to start the semester. This will insure that you do not come to class without clay.**

Students may recycle clay as outlined below, or unsuitable clay may be placed in the reclaim buckets for the appropriate clay type. Students are welcome to recycle clay out of the reclaim buckets. **STIFF CLAY** may be reclaimed by cutting into slabs, alternating with layers of soft clay or slurry from the reclaim bin, then wedging to an even consistency. Clay too stiff to wedge should be broken into small lumps so that water will penetrate, and slaked down covered by water in a bucket or the reclaim barrel. If a student desires, the resulting slurry can be put onto the plaster drying slabs in the kiln patio, turned periodically until dried to a soft clay consistency, and wedged up for use.

BONE DRY CLAY should be slaked down as above. WET CLAY can be dried on plaster bats or slabs until some moisture is removed, and wedged for use, or powdered clay (ask your instructor) or grog may be wedged in. Wedging itself also tends to dry clay out. CLAY SLURRY remaining in your bucket after working or clean up should be put in reclaim. **DO NOT POUR SLURRY OR SLIP IN THE SINK; USE THE RECLAIM BARREL.** Place contaminated clay in the trash. Thick liquids not going to reclaim should be put in the trash. Keeping studio areas clean of clay helps reduce the dust level and is healthier for all.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The DOS will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this document to the instructor. DOS can be contacted at: 352-392-1261 or <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drps>

## SA+AH HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY (SEE ATTACHED APPENDIX):

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The School of Art and Art History Safety Manual will be reviewed in class. Students and instructors are responsible for following policy and procedures for making art safely at all time. The entire document is available online <http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/handbook.html>

All students are required to sign and turn in the signature page to the instructor on the first day of class.

## Health & Safety Area Specific Information: Ceramics

### 1. Hazards of the Materials

Ceramic 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 to avoid exposure to hazardous materials.

### 3. Links for Safety

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

### 4. Area 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 SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found here: [www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety))
- Follow the SA+AH Satellite Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted for your media.
- In case of emergency, call campus police at 392-1111
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the SAAH H&S handbook, the SAAH faculty handbook and in the office.) Turn completed forms into the SAAH Director of Operations within 48 hours of the event.
- Alcohol is forbidden in studios
- No eating or drinking in the glaze or mixing areas
- Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit
- Shoes must be worn at all times
- It is recommended that Protective equipment be worn at all times: safety glasses when grinding, chipping shelves, etc., protective lenses for kiln viewing, gloves for hot objects, heat-resistant aprons for raku, ear protection for grinding and sawing, rubber gloves for mixing hazardous materials
- Do not block aisles, halls, or doors
- Do not bring children or pets into the studios
- Do not store things on the floor ☒ Clean up spills immediately
- Scoop up dry materials, mop up liquids, do not spilled materials to original source as they are

- contaminated now
- Carry heavy or large trash to the dumpster
- Place materials containing barium or chrome in the hazardous waste disposal area
- Do not sweep. This puts hazardous materials in the air. Rather scrape up chunks and wet-clean.
- Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor.
- All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.
- Follow the **SA+AH CONTAINER POLICY** (see policy below)

There are 2 types of labels used in the SA+AH-- yellow and white. Both labels are found at the red MSDS box and are supplied by the SA+AH. Each is used for a different purpose.

**White:**

All new and or used product in containers (hazardous or what might be perceived as hazardous –i.e. watered down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents, etc...) must be labeled within the SA+AH to identify their contents. Labels can be found at the MSDS box in each studio and work area. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened. All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. All unmarked containers will be disposed of with no notice.

**Yellow:**

WHEN HAZARDOUS ITEMS ARE DESIGNATED AS WASTE. **All containers** must have a yellow label identifying the contents that are designated as trash for weekly EHS pick up. – Flammable solid containers (red flip top) must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top). – 5 gallon jugs must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside. – Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top). – Each item in the blue bin must have a yellow hazardous waste label.

Note: Hazardous Waste labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%. Labels should also include the Bldg and room number of the shop generating the waste along with the Waste Manager for your area, This is located on the SWMA sign posted at the sink or at the Waste Management Area.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

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The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu> and <http://www.dso.ufl.edu>

## **COMPUTER USE POLICY:**

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In accordance with the UF computer rule, it is expected that all students will use electronic tools as required for class communication, research, and assignments. Class communications will include a listserv named for our section number

## **CERAMICS POLICIES:**

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All Students please read and follow studio regulations listed in “Welcome to UF Ceramics”, posted in studio, on blog and handed out on first day of class, and follow shop procedures.

## **ALCOHOL USE POLICY:**

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<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

Consumption of alcohol in classrooms, labs, offices, or studios is not permitted. Possession of open or closed containers is prohibited.

## **SCHOOL OF ART & ART HISTORY POLICIES REGARDING BEHAVIOR IN LECTURES, CLASSROOMS, STUDIOS & OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES:**

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The University of Florida is an institution which encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals requires the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs.

In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES:**

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Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance.

1. University Counseling Center: 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal counseling
2. Student Mental Health: Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services, SARS: Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling
4. Career Resource Center: Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling

## **ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:**

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Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.