

ART2752C - Throwing: Skills and Concepts - Fall 2025

Tuesday/Thursday 6:15pm-9:00pm

Location: FAC B16

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Kelsey Barton

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Office Hours: By appointment (schedule via email), B16

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to creating functional ceramic vessels on the potter's wheel with a focus on hands-on practice and skill development. Students will build a strong foundation in the physical techniques of wheel throwing while developing an eye for well-made forms—understanding proportion, volume, and line as they relate to functional pottery. Through repeated practice and observation, students will learn what makes certain thrown forms successful and satisfying to use. Alongside throwing skills, the course will cover essential technical knowledge of clay preparation, trimming, surfacing, glazing, and firing using mid-range materials and electric kilns. Students will gain experience in loading and firing kilns and will participate in group critiques to analyze form, function, and craftsmanship. *Wheel throwing is a physical activity, and instruction often involves guiding students' hands and arms, which may include physical contact.*

Course Methods:

This course is primarily taught through the use of demonstrations, lectures, readings, and periods of collective work and research. Students will also be expected to conduct research and practice throwing for several hours each week outside of class times. This course is project-based, with a class critique at the end of each project.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- ❖ Build basic wheel-throwing skills through regular practice.
- ❖ Identify the qualities of well-made thrown forms.
- ❖ Improve craftsmanship in forming, trimming, and finishing.
- ❖ Learn essential clay, glazing, and firing techniques.
- ❖ Solve common problems in the throwing process.
- ❖ Discuss and critique form and technique effectively.
- ❖ Gain confidence through iterative skill-building.

Required Text:

There are no required or recommended texts for this course. Readings and resources will be provided through UF eLearning Canvas (LMS).

Required Materials:

- basic sketchbook (you MAY sketch digitally if preferred)
- a 3.5 to 5 gallon bucket (5 gallon, ideally) for reclaiming clay
- a 2.5 quart (or similar) bucket/container for holding water while throwing
- a permanent marker
- a hand towel
- a basic pottery tools kit (something like this – <https://a.co/d/5Bmjil6> , don't spend more than \$15. at minimum you will need a wire cutter tool, a sponge, a small and large trimming tool, a needle/pin tool, a flexible metal rib, and a wooden rib)

Supplies Fees:

- Clay is purchased by the student through a check or money order made out to the University of Florida, given alongside an order form to the professor or Teaching Lab Specialist.
- Each 25 lb bag of clay is \$25. Multiple bags at one time can be ordered through one order form and check/money order submission.

Optional Materials:

- a padlock for locker
- an apron
- an x-acto knife or box cutter
- clay hole punching tools
- *hake* or fan brushes for glazing
- serrated ribs

Dates and Deadlines:

Please see Tentative Course Calendar located on the class Canvas page in the “Student Resources” tab. This course calendar contains deadlines for work being ready to bisque or glaze fire, discussion post deadlines, and sketchbook/research deadlines. It also gives a general description of the expected class activities for each class period. Please contact the instructor for demonstration make-ups if necessary.

Grading and Evaluation:

Final grades will be calculated according to the following percentages:

Assignment	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Project 1*	100 points	20%
Project 2	100 points	20%
Project 3	100 points	20%
Project 4	100 points	20%
Participation**	100 points	20%
Total	500 points	100%

*Each project grade is divided as follows unless otherwise noted on project sheet:

- ❖ Preliminary sketches and/or research (discussion post, sketchbook, etc.) – 15 points
- ❖ Adherence to project guidelines – 20 points
- ❖ Craftsmanship and technical skill (throwing, trimming, finishing) – 20 points
- ❖ Quality and success of final form(s) – 20 points
- ❖ Documentation of final project – 10 points
- ❖ Participation in critique/reflection (written or verbal) – 15 points

**Participation includes:

- ❖ Arriving to class prepared and ready to work, on time, with materials
- ❖ Contributing to class discussions by asking relevant questions and giving thoughtful responses and feedback in critiques and class discussions
- ❖ Cleaning and maintenance of studio
- ❖ Attendance (after first two unexcused absences, participation grade drops 25% each additional unexcused absence)

Class Policies

CANVAS e-learning will be used for this class for calendar, announcements, email and course materials, grades and assignments. You are responsible for checking this site before each class in preparation and after for homework and follow up. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. Any additional information will be distributed by email via the official class email list on Canvas. You must use your UF account for any communication with the professor; non-UF E-mails will not be opened.

Studio Usage: It is important that all students follow the Ceramics Policy guidelines. It is required that all students understand how to operate equipment and the safety systems before using it. ALWAYS REMEMBER: Never use equipment alone. Regardless of the condition you find it in; it is required that you leave the studio clean for the next person. Each student is required to wet-mop or sponge around their work area when necessary.

Attendance

- **Class attendance is mandatory.** Unless otherwise arranged with the faculty, students must be on time and attend the entire class to get credit for attending.
- All work or assignments are due on the date specified or agreed upon in the documentation or class communication for the respective course related material. All unexcused late work will not receive full credit. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for announcements and due dates.
- If there are school related or other activities that may cause students to miss class, this must be communicated via email to the faculty prior to the date missed.
- Absences count from the first class meeting.
- Arriving late (15 minutes) or leaving early without preapproval or communication with the instructor more than three times will be considered an absence.
- More than two unexcused absences will result in a student's participation grade to be lowered 25% for each additional unexcused absence.
- Students are to check Canvas & contact classmates for material missed and come to the following class fully prepared.
- Not participating in the final studio cleanup responsibilities will result in impacting a student's participation grade for the term.
- All students MUST attend a safety demonstration/lab introduction hosted by our Teaching Lab Specialist, Derek Reeverts, during the first class period OR schedule a time to make it up.
- University attendance policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

University-Wide Academic Policies and Resources: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Health & Safety Area Specific Information: Ceramics

SA+AH H&S policy and handbook (<https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/art-and-art-history/health-safety/>)

1. Hazards of the Materials: Ceramic dust (silica) is a potential irritant, and prolonged exposure may result in chronic conditions (silicosis). 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. 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.

4. Follow all SA+AH Health and Safety handbook guidelines found here:

<https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/art-and-art-history/healthsafety/>

5. 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 the University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1111. The basement floor of FAC is designated as UF building #0599 in case you need to report an emergency.
- File an incident report (forms may be found in SA+AH H&S handbook in each Satellite Waste Accumulation Area, the SA+AH faculty handbook, and in the main office). Submit completed forms into the SA+AH Operations + Facilities Manager within 48 hours of the event.
- 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 required to use 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 return spilled materials to the 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 or the Teaching Lab Specialist.
- 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 SDS 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 SDS 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. Unmarked containers will be disposed of without notice.

Yellow: WHEN HAZARDOUS ITEMS ARE DESIGNATED AS WASTE. All containers must have a yellow label identifying the contents to be designated as trash for 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 building 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.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor. If such need arises, all changes will be discussed with students in class and alterations will be made accordingly. Updates will also be announced through Canvas announcements. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor about any concerns related to the course. The professor aims for all students to be successful and have a positive and productive semester.