

ART2752C - Throwing: Skills and Concepts Spring 2025

Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday, Period 11 – E2 (6:15pm to 9:10pm)

Location: FAC B16

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Aurora Pavlish-Carpenter

Instructor Office Hours and Location: By Appointment, FAC B10 or FAC B16

Instructor Email: aurorapavlishcar@ufl.edu

Teaching Lab Specialist: Derek Reeverts

TLS Office Hours and Location: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm, FAC B18D

TLS Email: dreeverts@arts.ufl.edu

TLS Office Phone: 352-273-3085

Course Description

This course is an introduction to making functional vessels on the potters' wheel as expressive art. In this class we will examine historic and contemporary examples of pottery as a basis for understanding how the wheel-thrown vessel can be created as expressive art. We will focus on physical throwing skills, three-dimensional design concepts as they relate to the functional ceramic vessel, creative problem-solving to develop and realize an idea that can be read by other people, and the technical information necessary to support an understanding of forming, surfacing, glazing, and firing pottery. With these processes, students will learn the foundations of artistic self-expression, practice making design choices for clear expression, and conceptual and aesthetic analysis through discussion of works of art in critique. We will be using low-fire materials and learning to load and fire electric kilns. *Wheel throwing is a physical activity. Traditionally, instruction is best done by guiding hands and arms. This involves physical contact.

Methods of the Course

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 work 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/Goals

- Develop the technical skills required to throw on a potter's wheel.
- Utilize the sketchbook for visual research in developing ideas.
- Become familiar with ceramic art history and contemporary artists that have used thrown form and/or materials and processes related to those in this class, and how to use their research to expand, shape, and develop their ideas and aesthetics.
- Develop personal ideas that are visually expressed in response to the project and describe the content behind their work in critiques.
- Formulate and express an analytical critique of works through analyzing the visual expression of others and discussion of that work in critiques.

Required Texts and Software

Mastering the Potter's Wheel, Ben Carter

*Available as full PDF on canvas

Additional assigned readings will be made available on Canvas as PDF.

Other Suggested Texts:

- The Ceramics Design Course, Anthony Quinn
- The Complete Guide to Mid-range Glazes, by John Britt
- Ten Thousand Years of Pottery, by Emmanuel Cooper
- New Wave Clay, by Tom Morris
- The Ceramic Process, by Anton Reijnders
- Glaze, by Kate Doody and Brian Taylor
- Functional Pottery, by Robin Hopper
- Ceramic Spectrum, by Robin Hopper

Materials and Supplies Fees

Students will need to purchase clay and any raw materials used. See Teaching Lab Specialist for updated pricing sheet.

Required Materials:

- Basic sketchbook
- Pottery Tool Kit (8 pc set): Needle tool, flexible metal rib, wood shaping rib, wood knife, wire cut off tool, sponge, loop tool (pear shape), ribbon tool (round and square edge)
- Soft throwing sponge
- Fettling knife or paring knife
- Small Bucket
- Thin plastic (a few trash bags or plastic grocery bags will work)
- Spray bottle
- Towels and apron
- Several types of brushes for slip, glaze, underglazes, etc.
- N-95 dust mask
- Small containers/cups
- Scissors
- An enthusiastic, persevering attitude!

Optional:

- Trimming/sculpting set
- Slip trailers
- Calipers
- Serrated metal rib
- Personal ruler
- Padlock for locker
- Xacto Knife
- Painters Tape

Evaluation of Grades

The work from this class will be graded on specific criteria defined by individual project goals. Additionally, all projects will be graded on their success in the following areas: concept development, risk-taking, experimentation, excellent design decisions, craft, ambition, technical competency, and meeting process work deadlines. All process work as well as each project must be finished within the specified deadlines.

The course grade for each student will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Completion and success of 4 major projects along with uploading images and supporting documents for each
- Completion of additional activities assigned
- Completion of readings
- Attendance
- Research/sketchbook for each project
- Technical competence, craft, and inventive use materials
- Class participation in discussion, critiques, and relevant activities
- Presentation – all work should be presented at critique in a finished manner
- Effort, hard work, and a diligent, consistent effort toward excellence —challenge yourself!
- Being respectful of the instructor and other students-following directions, asking helpful questions, assisting with clean up and kiln loading.
- Maintenance and cleanliness of studio

Please note:

- You will need to spend time outside of the classroom for completion of your projects.
- Cleanup will begin 20 minutes before the end of class each day and everyone is expected to participate even if you didn't make a mess. Find something else to clean and help keep the studio in good working condition.

Project grading will be based on the following rubric. To receive a grade for your projects, images and statement must be uploaded to canvas by the due date:

Grading Policy

Information on current UF grading policies may be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

UF Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Grade Points
A	4.00
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.00
D-	0.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF	0.00

A = Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. Student is engaged in exceptional and active studio practice.

B = Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.

C = Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation-studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

D = Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.

E= Unacceptable work. No credit.

Assignments

Coursework will consist of four major projects, plus drawing book research, readings, videos, workshops, demos, and development of assigned projects. Presentations with suggested artists and readings will offer students an overview of concepts and related solutions.

Distribution of Grades:

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Project 1	20	17%
Project 2	20	17%
Project 3	20	17%
Project 4	20	17%
Photography/Documentation	20	17%
Participation	20	17%
Total	120	100%

***Participation includes:**

- Arriving to the lab 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
- Attendance
- Cleaning and maintenance of studio

Communication

My classroom is a space that is welcoming for all students. Open communication is an important part of my teaching practice and I believe is important for both students and faculty to engage in. When reaching out to me over email, I will do my best to return your email within 24 hours Monday-Friday. If you will be absent for any reason, please let me know via email so that we can make a plan for you to make up your work if necessary. If you are struggling to be successful in the class or having issues with class content, please schedule an appointment with me.

Class attendance, make-up exams

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Students are expected to attend all classes. Working with clay means each class is crucial for the development of your projects. Missing multiple classes will make it difficult for you to succeed. However, life emergencies do happen, and so communication and appropriate documentation are needed in this case.

Demonstrations are essential in this class, but they will not be repeated. If you miss a demo, your options are to: Ask a classmate to give you the demonstration, research online, or ask a classmate to record prior to absence. Many demos are concentrated in the first half of the semester and are highlighted on the calendar. Pay attention to the calendar!

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competitions or debates. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered and considered on an individual basis.

You are permitted 4 unexcused absences, no note required. Anything beyond that will be a drop in grade by 5% unless it's covered by a severe emergency or issue listed above.

Late Work

All projects, reading responses, and other assignments must be completed on time for full credit. Specific due dates are stated on the calendar and are announced in class. Every assignment will include a specific time in canvas that it is due. I will also put reminders for when work should be on the cart and ready for firing. If work isn't on the cart in the kiln room on that date/ time, it won't get fired, and it won't be ready for our critique. Please note that I build reminders into canvas, so there is no excuse for missing a firing.

Accommodations and Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Health and Safety (FOR STUDIO ART COURSES ONLY IN SA+AH)

The SA+AH Health & Safety Policy and Handbook website gives all policies and training information regarding health and safety in the art studios. All students must follow the policies in the handbook, receive proper training, sign the signature page, and submit the signature page to the SA+AH Director of Operations, FA Bldg C, Room 103, no later than the third meeting date of the course.

Additional Safety Note for This Course: Ceramics is associated with the chronic lung condition, silicosis, caused by inhalation of silica dust particles. Silica dust is a major component of clays and glazes, and thus, proper safety measures should be taken to limit silica dust inhalation. The studio should be wet-mopped after every class, and proper protection in the form of N-95 masks should be worn when mixing any glazes and clay bodies, or when using the spray booth.

Students should always properly clean their space and any equipment used at the end of each class to prevent the spread of clay dust.

Each student will be expected to participate in cleaning the studio throughout the semester and with an assigned cleaning duty at the end of the semester.

Studio Practice

The instructor and the School of Art and Art History are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms. Projects/materials are not to be stored in the group working space. Each student is responsible for ensuring that his/her projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project.

Course Outline

The calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas. Please see canvas link for up to date calendar.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence for assignments in this course is permitted to the following extent: AI should be used only for ideation/inspiration purposes **and** students must consult with the instructor before use of AI

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

Optional info

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

Visit <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>.

University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; <https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/>.