

ART 3807c Experimental Ceramics

A Grix T/R 3:00-6:00

Course Description: This advanced ceramics course invites students to explore experimental ceramics through material and digital processes. Participants will engage in hands-on learning, pushing the boundaries of traditional ceramic art by integrating computer-aided technologies with manual clay techniques. Throughout the semester, students will investigate established and emerging methods for using software to create templates, digital sketches, plan surfaces, and shape forms. The course encourages a spirit of curiosity and discovery by blending traditional and modern approaches, fostering a new understanding of the possibilities within clay and digital technology.

Classroom: B014

Instructor Information

Name: A Grix (they/them/theirs)

Office Location: B017

Phone: 352 273 3050

Email: a.grix@ufl.edu

My office hours are drop-in Thursdays 1:30-2:30. Please email me to set up a time to meet outside of my scheduled office hours.

Email Policy

The best way you can reach me outside of class is via email. I check my email regularly Monday through Friday from 9-5 and will reply within one business day, or 24 hours. Feel free to send me emails outside of these times but emails may not be answered until the next workday.

Course Information

In this art class, we will learn ways to use clay to appreciate and wonder about art through sculpture. This class will use traditional and experimental ceramic techniques to explore multiple methods of art making. Techniques like coil building, slab building, and other ceramic building methods as digital and experimental technologies like laser cutters and digital modeling software. Through open-ended and guided assignments students will be encouraged to develop and integrate their own interests and goals into the class. We will study a broad spectrum of contemporary artists working with clay and consider what it means to use ceramic materials in the context of contemporary art as an act of cultural production.

Learning Outcomes

This course is structured for students to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Gain experience making, looking at, and talking about art
- An understanding of and ability to uses process of clay forming, drying, and firing

- An understanding of glaze and its application
- Kiln loading and firing procedures for ceramic sculpture
- A familiarity with coiling, slab building and other techniques that can be used to make sculptures
- Familiarity with some ceramic histories, contemporary artists, and contemporary issues in the fields of ceramics and sculpture
- An understanding of the ceramic process including construction, firing, clay mixing, studio upkeep, etc.
- Practice using critical thinking skills to consider what it means to make objects from clay in the context of other artists, histories, and current events
- A critical approach to the process of research, planning, building, and displaying art objects
- Some methods for using digital technologies as part of ceramic processes

Textbooks and Materials

Textbook(s): No textbook is required for this class, instead we will use the following

Materials

Students should have basic ceramic tools including those found in a pottery tool kit such as [Pottery kitLinks to an external site.](#): small sponge, wire tool, trimming (loop) tool, needle tool, 'rib' and a fettling knife

- Spray Bottle
- [Large soft brushesLinks to an external site.](#)
- Plastic drop cloth thin plastic is best
- [Serrated ribLinks to an external site.](#)
- [Exacto KnifeLinks to an external site.](#) or [Dolan flexible KnifeLinks to an external site.](#) (or sharp knife tool of your choice)
- Fork or scoring tool
- Drywall boards (assorted sizes based on projects, used is fine) purchase at hardware stores like Lowe's, or at a place like the [Repurpose ProjectLinks to an external site.](#)
- Newspaper
- Blue tape
- Coveralls or an apron or equivalent to protect your clothing
- KN95 mask and sealable bag or container to store it (you can get this free of charge from Derek Reverts the ceramic TLS)
- Sketchbook (any with at least 20 pages)
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Pencils or drawing supplies
- Sharpie
- [PC-11Links to an external site.](#), [Magic SculptLinks to an external site.](#) or Adhesive (as needed)
- Any other supplies you need/want during the semester (tools are not provided)

If you cannot afford some or all these supplies, please email me ahead of the deadline.

Purchasing Clay

Students will have the option of purchasing clay through the department at the current price of \$25 per bag or a rate based on current prices for clay mixed in class. More information on this process will be provided in class.

Assignments and Grading

For a total of 1000 points over the course of the semester, the students' final grades will consist of the following:

- **Projects** [60% of your grade]
 - Project 1 [20% of your grade]
 - 150pts
 - Mini Project 1
 - 50 pts
 - Project 2 [20% of your grade]
 - 150 pts
 - Mini Project 2
 - 50 pts
 - Project 3 [20% of your grade]
 - 200 pts

= 600 pts
- **Crits** [10% of your grade]
 - Midterm Crit
 - 25 pts
 - Final Crit
 - 25 pts
 - In-Progress Crits or 1:1 Meetings
 - 25 pts
 - Final Documentation and Images from Crits
 - 25 pts

= 100 pts
- **Quizzes or Reading Responses** [5% of your grade]
 - Quiz/Response 1
 - 5 pts
 - Quiz/Response 2
 - 5 pts
 - Quiz/Response 3
 - 5 pts
 - Quiz/Response 4
 - 5 pts
 - Quiz/Response 5
 - 5 pts

- 5 pts
-
- = 25 pts
- **Class Engagement, Work, and Participation** [25% of your grade]
 - Presence
 - 50 pts
 - Preparation outside of class
 - 100 pts
 - Engagement
 - 50 pts
 - Endurance (habitual or durational work)
 - 50 pts
-
- = 250 pts
- **Sketchbook** [5% of your grade]
 - 25 pts
-
- = 25 pts
-
- Total = 1000 points

Critique [10% of your grade]

At the middle and end of the semester the students will present their projects for critique. Critiques are facilitated to give students the chance to give and receive feedback to one another. To take full advantage of this opportunity, students are expected to have all work fully completed and installed or formally set up in their workspace or crit room at the start of class. There will be periodic in-progress critiques throughout the semester to give students the opportunity to get feedback and respond during the making process. At the end of the semester students will upload high res, clear well-lit photos documenting their work in space and upload these images to Canvas.

Sketchbook [5% of your grade]

Students will keep a sketchbook that documents the development of project ideas. This should consist of sketches, reflections, research notes, technical notes on ceramic processes, building, glazes, etc. The sketchbook will be shown to the professor at the end of the semester.

Class Engagement and Work

Presence

Showing up, contributing, and participating in all aspects of the class.

Engagement

Using course content, techniques, themes, and applying ideas thoughtfully and critically from the readings and lectures.

Preparation outside of class

Spending needed time working on projects outside of class in the studio, engaging in relevant research, and having supplies, notes, sketches and other things needed prepared in order to take full advantage of the class time.

Endurance (habitual or durational work)

Developing a workflow that is consistent and sustainable. Spending regular time on projects over the course of the semester

Extra Credit/Alternative Outside of Class Assignment [variable points]

If circumstances arise where a student will need to miss class for more than one class consecutively, or a project needs to be modified to accommodate a student, an alternative assignment or extra credit can be assigned on a case-by-case basis at the professor's discretion. Communicate your needs with the instructor as soon as possible.

Grading Scale

For grading of other assignments and tasks, please see the relevant rubric on Canvas. See "Late Work Policy" for information or submitting work past a deadline for credit.

A 94-100 Extremely well-presented, superior work; all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner. In addition, students are engaged in **exceptional studio practice**, which includes active research, and being thoroughly engaged in the project during studio hours. Resulting work demonstrates a high level of craftsmanship, conceptual experimentation, and ambition as an artist, evidenced through hard work, curiosity, and responsiveness to feedback.

A- 90-93 Well-presented, superior work; all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.

B+ 87-89 Very good work. All criteria of assignment were surpassed, and studio practice was exceptional.

B 84-86 Very good work. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Studio practice during the project was commendable.

B- 80-83 Good work. Most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was commendable.

C+ 77-79 Adequate, average work, meeting most of the criteria of the assignment. Studio practice could be improved.

C 74-76 Adequate, average work, meeting most of the assignment criteria with areas needing significant improvement. Poor studio practice overall.

C- 70-73 Adequate, average work. Project meets some criteria but falls below the expectations of the assignment, partially as a result of poor studio practice.

D+ 67-69 Barely meets the criteria; poor or unfinished work, highlighting poor studio practice.

D 64-66 Barely meets the criteria; extremely poor or unfinished work, highlighting unacceptable studio practice.

D- 60-63 Extremely poor or unfinished work, accompanied by unacceptable studio practice.

E- 0-63 Failure to meet all criteria of assignment accompanied by unacceptable studio practice.

UF final grades and grading policies

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

***A final grade of a C- or lower does not count toward major requirement**

Expectations

You can expect me to

- Be present, engaged, and enthusiastic in class
- Be invested in and committed to the development of your creative practice
- Ask critical questions to encourage you to see your work and ideas from another perspective
- Be respectful of you, your ideas, time, and goals

- Introduce you to techniques, concepts, texts, and artworks that I believe will be relevant to you and the fields of ceramics and sculpture
- Guide the class to maintain a safe and clean studio
- Give you feedback on your work and artistic development with the goal of helping you achieve your goals through the semester

I will expect you to

- Prioritize attending class
- Be on time, present and prepared with the necessary supplies and outside of class coursework completed
- Be engaged, participate, ask questions, give feedback, and share appropriate information with me and your classmates
- Use critical thinking and try out new ideas
- Make mistakes and take risks
- Challenge yourself by being ambitious and allowing yourself to grow
- Complete assignments by the deadlines
- Participate in all group activities (cleaning, kiln loading, demos, discussions) and group clean ups as much as possible within your capacity
- Clean up after yourself and keep the studio clean
- Engage with the course content and conduct your own critical and rigorous research
- Spend a significant amount of time outside of class working on your projects
- Be respectful to yourself, your classmates, and the professor, *we do not have to agree but we need to maintain a courteous and professional relationship with one another*
- Be committed to and engaged with the work of your classmates by giving thoughtful feedback during critiques and whenever appropriate

Weekly Overview

A detailed and up-to-date weekly schedule is available on Canvas.

Week 1	January 27 - Feb. 2	Introduction and Orientations
Week 2	Jan. 20-26	Project 1: Mini Project
Week 3	Jan. 27 - Feb. 2	Project 1
Week 4	Feb. 3-9	Project 1
Week 5	Feb. 10-16	Project 1 Critique
Week 6	Feb. 17-23	Project 2

Week 7	Feb. 24 - Mar. 7	Project 2
Week 8	Mar. 3-9	Project 2
Week 9	Mar. 10-14	Project 2 Critique
SPRING BREAK	Mar. 15-22	
Week 10	Mar. 23-30	Project 3
Week 11	Mar. 31 - April 6	Project 3
Week 12	Apr. 7-13	Project 3
Week 13	Apr. 14-20	Project 3 Crits
Week 14	Apr. 21-26	End of Wet Work and Loading Final Kilns
READING DAYS	Apr. 24-25	
Week 15	Apr. 26 - May 2	Finals

Important Dates

Drop/Add Ends Friday, Jan. 17

Reading Days: April 24-25

Visiting Artist Lectures:

Tuesday, February 4 | 6:15 p.m. | Room TBD

[Kukuli Velarde](#)

Tuesday, February 11 | 6:15 p.m. | Room TBD

[Stephanie J Woods](#)

Tuesday, April 1 | 6:15 p.m. | Room TBD

[Guadalupe Maravilla](#)

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory for this course. Much of the learning and instruction happens in class. Because of this it is imperative for students to be prepared to work and utilize their time in class effectively.

Students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make up the work missed. Per UF policy excused absences include Religious Holidays, university-sponsored athletic or scholarly activities within the "Twelve-Day Rule," illness, Title IX-related situations, serious accidents or emergencies, military obligation and other reasons listed under the UF excused absences policy.

In case of an excused absence, the student must notify the instructor ASAP and before the missed class and complete Make-Up work by the start of the next class period after the missed class.

Making Up Work

The student is responsible for content covered in class and must complete all assignments and make up work prior to the next class. Alternative attendance and class participation assignments for missed classes due to illness will include a 250-500 word reading response in relation to the materials covered in class and/or individual work outside of class to be decided by the professor based on course content covered the day of a missed class.

For more information go to <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absence> [textLinks to an external site.](#). Or see "Attendance and Make Up Work" below for more information on UF's policies.

Late Work Policy

I will accept late work under the following conditions:

1. All late work must be completed and "handed in" during office hours. To discuss late work come to office hours or email. Contact me via email if you need to make an appointment. Do not expect to use class time to discuss late work etc.
1. Students must schedule alternate firings with myself if they miss any of the firing deadlines.
1. Each class period that work is not turned in it will lose 10% of the final grade.
1. I will not accept work that is more than one week past the deadline. Late work must be completed and handed in no later than 7 days, or two class periods after the deadline.
1. Exceptions to these rules can be made in the event of extenuating circumstances such as emergencies, illness, etc. Please communicate with me about these so we can keep you on track with the class.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should only be used for relevant reasons that assist with a student's learning and focus. Texting, calling, emailing, using social media, or other similar activities should not be done during class time. Please silence or turn off your devices and make sure that they are not distracting you or others during class.

Class Policy on AI

Any use of AI technologies for course assignments must be formally disclosed and approved by the professor prior to any assignment that utilizes any form of AI technology being turned in for

a grade. Failure to do so will be a violation of UF's Honesty Policy. (See University Statements below for more information).

Guidelines For Work in The Surrounding Community

Proper care should be taken to assure all property in the surrounding area is respected and well maintained, and projects should be executed with public health and safety in mind. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated. As on campus, students doing site-specific work off-campus will be legally and financially accountable for any illegal or destructive actions. In addition, projects involving the greater community should be carefully considered and faculty must be consulted throughout. All public projects must be cleared by faculty and permission granted. Remember, that the School of Art and Art History at The University of Florida retains the power to require a more appropriate solution to any project that may violate any of the guidelines outlined above.

Please do not litter or leave materials out in the area. Respect property, surrounding businesses and the rights of individuals in the community. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

Ceramic Materials, Equipment etc.

This class uses clay and other ceramic materials. If you know of or develop any allergies or limitations, please let the instructor know as soon as possible so that we can maintain a safe environment for you. Some parts of the class include activities like studio cleaning, kiln loading, and clay mixing. If any of these activities are not accessible to you, cause you discomfort, or are a problem for any reason please let the instructor know so that we can find a solution that works for you.

Basic Needs Statement

I believe that to learn, students need their basic needs met with food to eat and a safe place to live. If you are having trouble with either, the campus has some resources for you. If you are facing food insecurity, you can check out the Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/Links to an external site.> If you are having trouble paying rent or facing housing insecurity, you can access some resources at <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/housing-insecurity-resources/Links to an external site.> Case manager resources are also available to help you find appropriate campus and local resources at <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/case-management-services/Links to an external site.> A 24/7 Suicide Prevention hotline is available by dialing 988 or at [UF Counseling & Wellness CenterLinks to an external site.](#) 352-392-1575. Please do not hesitate to also approach me if you have trouble negotiating these resources. See "Campus Resources" below.

UF Policies

UF and Title IX

The University of Florida prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, gender transition status, sex- or gender-stereotyping, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, or protected veterans. As such, the University strives to protect students, employees, and visitors from any form of sexual misconduct or gender-based harassment, including Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Exploitation, Stalking/Cyberstalking, Pregnancy Discrimination, and associated Retaliatory Actions. We will continue to address sexual misconduct and strive to eliminate any instance of it through a multi-various approach of sexual misconduct prevention education, healthy relationship modeling, and alcohol education in order to prevent harm from occurring, along with a multitude of support options offered if misconduct occurs. The University of Florida has zero-tolerance for sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic abuse, or stalking. For more information or to get help with this you can visit [https://titleix.ufl.edu/get-help/Links to an external site.](https://titleix.ufl.edu/get-help/Links-to-an-external-site)

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center. See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

Grading Policies

For information on current UF grading policies please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>. [Links to an external site.](#)

Online Course Evaluation

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 2 GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>. [Links to an external site.](#)

Honesty Policy (regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.)

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private 3 conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources

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 U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services and 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 the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website 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; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392- 1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information. Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.