

Independent Study Syllabus

Spring 2025 (1/13/2025-4/23/2025)

Professor A Grix (they/them)

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Office FAC B 017

Office Hours by Appointment

Credit Hours 3

Course Description:

The focus of this course is tilemaking and the history of tiles in Ohio, Puerto Rico, and Palestine. This course will provide a broad understanding of the history of tiles in the student's practice as well as their histories in Ohio, Puerto Rico, and Palestine. In this course, both technical skills and a conceptual understanding of the relationship between historical tiles and the student's studio practice will be developed. Throughout the semester, the student will develop their own clay body, research historical tiles, and clay bodies. They will use this information to create a final creative project and complete a paper tying this research into their own thesis work.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a definition of tiling/piecing/fragments as they relate to the student's studio practice
- Gain a broad understanding of the history of tilemaking in Ohio, Palestine, and Puerto Rico
- Develop a clay body intended for tilemaking
- Understand the aspects that make a clay body suitable for tilemaking
- Understand the relationship of this research to the student's studio work and to integrate this information into their thesis project
- To complete a written component relating the student's thesis work to the history of tiles learned in this course
- To complete a tile project using the clay body developed in this course

Course Calendar:

Week 1: Studio Visit 1: Finalize course content and syllabus

Week 2: Read *5,000 years of tiles*

Week 3: Studio Visit 2: Discuss base recipe for clay body and reading

Finish reading *5,000 years of tiles*

Complete first clay test – base recipe

Week 4: Read excerpts from *Feast of Ashes: The Life and Art of David Ohannessian*

Complete second clay test – line blends

Outline of writing assignment due

Week 5: Studio Visit 3: Go over completed clay tests

Week 6: Read *Preservation Briefs: Preserving Historic Ceramic Tile Floors*

Complete third round of clay test -- triaxial

Week 7: Studio Visit 4: Review clay tests, discuss possible alterations to be made

Week 8: Read *Puerto Rico Tile Designs*

Complete fourth round of clay test – line blends based on triaxial

First draft of writing assignment due

Week 9: Finish reading *Puerto Rico Tile Designs*

Studio Visit 5: Review clay tests, discuss possible alterations to be made

Week 10: Spring Break!

Week 11: NCECA

Week 12: Studio Visit 6: Finalize clay body recipe

Week 13: Make a larger batch of clay body and make tiles for final assignment

Week 14: Decorate and fire tiles for final assignment

Final draft of writing assignment due

Week 15: Thesis show is installed: Studio Visit 7 review final tiles and discuss the role the independent study played in final thesis project

Readings for the Course:

Samples of readings for the course

Grimmer, A. E., & Konrad, K. A. (1992). *Preservation Briefs: Preserving Historic Ceramic Tile Floors*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Lemmen, H. van. (2013). *5,000 Years of Tiles*. University of Chicago Press.

Moughalian, S. (2019). *Feast of Ashes: The Life and Art of David Ohannessian*. Redwood Press.

Navarro, M. A. H., & Morán, B. (1998). *Puerto Rico Tile Designs*. Plaza Mayor.

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies](#).

Evaluation of Grades

Grades are calculated using a point system. Each assignment has a point value, and point values for all assignments added up to 100. A letter grade is assigned according to the grading scale below.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)

[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Grading Scale

A 94-100 points, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69, D 64-66, D- 61-63, E below 61

Evaluation

Student will be graded based on completion of readings, clay tests, and studio visits throughout the semester.

Distribution of Grades:

	Grading Percentages
10	Clay tests
10	Studio Visits
40	Final Creative Project
40	Writing assignment

The grade for this course will be based on completion of all clay tests, readings, and studio visits. Student is expected to schedule studio visits in advance and attend all studio visits.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center. 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.

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 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/>.

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.

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](#).

COVID Issues

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit ONE.UF for screening/testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

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 educational 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 delivered by any 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 presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without 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 Policy on Course Syllabi 3 UF, Academic Affairs, August 5th, 2021 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

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](#).

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.