

## Art 390 Ceramics-Wheel Throwing & Firing

Time: M/W 9:05am-12:00pm

Location: ART 107

Instructor: Heather Ossandon  
Ossandon@udel.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only  
Studio 110

### Overview

Learn the fundamentals of wheel-throwing with emphasis on imaginative potentials inherent in this technique. Learn basic clay and glaze-mixing chemistry and how to fire electric and gas kilns. Encouraged to experiment in this course. PREREQ: ART290.

### Objectives

- Use essential ceramic processes, including wheel throwing, firing, and glaze chemistry, in the creation of personal artwork
- Develop productive habits that support a constructive studio practice
- Experiment and analyze both concept and technique in the creation of an individual portfolio of artwork
- Articulate the ideas and vocabulary of the ceramic process and a personal artistic practice in group critiques and individual presentations

### Attendance Policy

Attendance is vital! The more time you spend in the studio, the better. Wheel throwing is something that takes much practice, and you won't get that practice unless you are here. Please be to class on time and ready to work! Two unexcused absences will result in your grade dropping a one letter with a half grade drop for each subsequent absence. This goes for coming in late/leaving early as well.

### Class Requirements

1. Attendance is essential and mandatory. This is not a lecture class so information cannot be found from other sources. Instruction, practice, and peer interaction are the best ways to succeed and progress. Often interaction is a great source of inspiration as well. Final review and studio clean up are absolutely mandatory.
  2. Assignments are due on the date given. Flexibility is at the instructor's discretion, and must be discussed in advance. All assignments must be completed by final review.
  3. Class participation is required. In review, you will not only be expected to talk about your own work, but the work of your peers.
  4. Clean up is mandatory. In a community studio environment it is important to be respectful of others (including their time) and negligence in this area will impact your grade.
- You are expected to arrive to this class ON TIME, and ready to work. This studio class is 3 hours long. This means you must expect to spend, on average, 4-5 hours a week outside of class time in the studio as well. Remember- its how you are going to grow!

### Grading Guidelines

'A' is reserved for students who exhibit a high level of intellectual investigation, and exceptional performance within the structure of the class. They exhibit superior performance and are fully engaged in the process of learning. They are willing to push themselves to do the very best work they can throughout the semester. They come to class prepared with their tools, reference materials, readings completed, and they meet project deadlines.

'B' students perform at a level of involvement beyond basic course requirements.

'C' grade is assigned to students who approach the class requirements in a perfunctory way, without much care, interest or commitment, and have attendance and tardiness issues, or continually leave early.

## FAQ

Any student enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to access the studio during open studio hours, which will be posted outside the door by the 2nd week of class. **PAY YOUR ART CONSUMABLE FEE!!**

## PROJECTS

The semester will be organized around the following projects, though it is subject to change/addition. Actual due dates may vary depending on how quickly or thoroughly the class works as a whole.

Weekly throwing assignment (15%): To be completed in addition to the other projects due. Every Wednesday you will have 5 wheel-thrown cylinders due at the beginning of class. Please sign and date the bottom of each. This will allow you to see how you have progressed throughout the semester.

Project #1 10 cylinders or bowls trimmed, footed and glazed (20%): due Oct 8

Project #2 Sculptural or Functional (25%): creating a large-scale piece

Project #3 Final Project Set (25%): approved, thought out set of dishware

Written Assignment (5%): One page due Nov 12

Clean-up/Participation (10%): Clean up! Participate!

\*No open toed shoes or flip-flops allowed in the studio. \*No cell phones in class.

## SUPPLIES (which are MANDATORY)

1. Sketchbook: Bring it to every class!
2. Ceramics tool kit (sponge, wooden rib, fettling knife, pin tool, trimming tools)
3. Plastic container with lid
4. Small bucket for water
5. Small towel or rag

## IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 1 NO CLASS-LABOR DAY

SEPT 29 PROJECT #1 DUE

Oct 8 MIDTERM GRADES

Nov 5 PROJECT #2 DUE

Nov 12 LAST DAY FOR WET WORK, PAPER DUE

Nov 24 LAST DAY FOR GLAZE WORK

Nov 26 NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec 3 LAST CLASS, ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE, FINAL GRADES, PROJECT #3 DUE

## SCHEDULE

Aug 27

Introductions

Tools and studio equipment

Class and clean up procedures

Clay bodies: types of clay, clay properties, storage, health and safety

TECHNIQUE I: PINCH

- project: pinch pots
- techniques: pinch, creating a hollow form
- assignment: get supplies, bring ideas!! Bring 20 IMAGES of ceramic artwork.

Sept 1 NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

Sept 3

Come to class in clothes you plan to get dirty. Bring your tool kit, your art consumable fee receipt and supplies

Wheel demonstration I: Wedging & Throwing a cylinder

TECHNIQUE I: WHEEL

Handout #2: what is clay?, throwing techniques, clay bodies, anatomy of a pot

- project #1: ten cylinders: thrown, footed, and glazed=complete
- techniques: wedging, throwing on the wheel, basics
- assignment: 20 sketches of shapes/ideas. Cylinders are due: OCT 8

Sept 8

Video #1: History of Ceramics I: the beginnings

Wheel demonstration II: re-cap of throwing a cylinder, trimming

Handout #3: Written assignment

Wheel demonstration II: Trimming, Throwing a bowl and plate

- techniques: throwing on the wheel, trimming a pot

Sept 10

Video #2: History of Ceramics II: modern works

Form and function, visual properties of objects

Work on wheel

Sept 15

Video #3: History of Ceramics III: contemporary ceramic artists, kilns & glazes

Handout #4: Glaze recipes and glossary, glaze calculations, firing methods, kiln safety

Handout #5: Lids, Spouts, and Handles

TECHNIQUE V: GLAZE

- project: glazing
- techniques: types of glaze application, wax resist, taping, layering
- assignment: write extensive notes on glaze application

Wheel demonstration: beyond basics

- project: adding to wheel forms
- techniques: handles, spouts, feet and lids
- assignment: watch demo videos at home

Sept 17

Sept 22

Video #4: Ceramics as installation, conceptual ceramics, and community ceramics

TECHNIQUE VI: THROWN & ALTERED

- project: assemblage piece, functional or sculptural
- techniques: altering forms on and off the wheel, assemblage
- assignment: project proposals

Sept 24

Sept 29

Handout #6: Worksheets

- project: design of alternate project, must relate to previous project
- techniques: design and building a series

Oct 1

Oct 6

Group Critique, Midterm Grade

Handout #7: Project Proposals

Discuss final projects; final must be approved before rendering

- project: final independent project
- techniques: combine building techniques, working with a motif
- assignment: 5 scaled drawings, research ideas, historical references, context/concept

Oct 8 MIDTERM

Oct 13

Handout #8: Galleries and Museums

Video#5: Art in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- studio: view videos and work day

Oct 15

Oct 20 Additional glaze techniques

- studio: view videos and work day.

Oct 22

Oct 27

Oct 29

Nov 3 Additional glaze techniques

- studio: view videos and work day.

Nov 5

Nov 10

Nov 12 LAST DAY FOR WET CLAY!

Nov 17 Additional glaze techniques

- studio: view videos and work day.

Nov 19

Nov 24 LAST DAY FOR GLAZE WORK! EVERYTHING MUST BE ON THE SHELVES AND READY TO FIRE

Nov 26 NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec 1 CRITIQUE AND POTLUCK

Final group critique.

- studio: Final group critique, individual grades, photograph work for portfolios. Potluck!

Dec 3 LAST DAY OF CLASS