

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE

ART 5452

Ceramics: Wheel Throwing

3 Semester Hours

II. PREREQUISITES

ART 351

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course structure focuses on the wheel throwing process, with emphasis on advanced techniques and skill development.

IV. RATIONALE

The goal of this course is to provide students with opportunities to concentrate on advanced wheel throwing techniques. Wheel throwing is a skill that takes years of practice to master. A focus on wheel throwing is necessary to help students: develop control over pleasing pottery shapes; create pottery forms with walls of uniform thickness; and apply appropriate trimming and glazing techniques to their work.

V. LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Become proficient in basic wheel throwing
- B. Throw simple cylinder shapes before adding shape to tall pottery forms.
- C. Become familiar with throwing a variety of pottery shapes such as open, enclosed, organic, and sculptural forms.
- D. Learn various methods of making and attaching handles to wheel thrown pottery.
- E. Become familiar with various methods of throwing lids for lidded pots.
- F. Throw and join separated wheel thrown forms into composite pots with pleasing proportions
- G. Throw wall pots with appealing proportions and surface decoration.
- H. Create interesting abstract sculptural wheel thrown structures with interesting positive and negative shape relationships
- I. Demonstrate knowledge of glazing bisque ware through a variety of glazing techniques (such as dipping, cross dipping, spattering, spraying, etc.)
- J. Research various unfamiliar wheel throwing techniques in contemporary ceramic literature and apply information in practical ways.
- K. Synthesize various techniques researched in the course on a series of creative pots of the student's choosing.

VI. COURSE TOPICS

The major topics to be considered are:

- A. Clay and Clay Bodies
 1. Definition of clay
 2. Formation of clay
 3. Clay types and bodies
 4. Clay preparation

B. Wheel Throwing Techniques

1. Wedging on the table and wheel
2. Centering
3. Opening
4. Resetting
5. Purposes and methods of Trimming
6. Throwing Specific Forms (projects):
 - a) Cylinders
 - b) Spoon vases
 - c) Candle hlders
 - d) Mugs
 - e) Bowls
 - f) Plate
 - g) Pitcher
 - h) Lidded pot
 - i) Heart shaped composite vase
 - j) Wavy oval vase
 - k) Double wall pot
 - l) Tea pot (body, spout, handle, and lid)
 - m) Reconstructed pot (sculptural form)

C. Decorating and Glazing

1. Glazing techniques (dipping, pouring, spraying, spattering, etc.)

D. A few highlights ceramics history (related to wheel thrown forms)

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Method and activities for instruction will include:

- A. Lectures
- B. Demonstrations
- C. Personal examples
- D. Oral reports
- E. Critiques

VIII. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

- A. **Ceramic Notebook:** Each student will be required to keep a ceramic journal/notebook that should include: lecture notes, sketches for ceramic projects, glazing notations, oral report notes, photocopies of wheel thrown examples, etc.

Method of Evaluation: The ceramic notebook will be graded on content (inclusion of lecture notes, glazing notations, library research, sketches, examples, etc.), legibility, neatness, and organization. 10%

B. Oral Report: One day during the semester will be dedicated to giving oral reports on wheel thrown topics. Each student will research a wheel throwing topic in the library and give a 5-8 minute oral report of his/her findings. Topics will be related to wheel thrown topics.

Method of Evaluation: The report will include a bibliography, central thesis, main points, visuals, conclusion, and a practical application. Outline and notes should be recorded in a ceramic journal or notebook. 10%

C. Wheel throwing Exercises and Projects: approximately 22 pots will be required during the semester. The student will initiate the course throwing a few exercises and then begin a series of wheel throwing projects that will follow the structure of the text book. Exercises and projects include throwing:

- a) 4 acceptable exercise pots
- b) 2 cylinder/spoon vases (7 to 8 inches tall)
- c) 1 candle holder
- d) 3 soup bowls
- e) 3 mugs with handles
- f) 1 pitcher (at least 8 inches tall)
- g) 1 plate with surface decoration
- h) 1 heart shaped composite vase
- i) 1 wavy oral vase
- j) 1 double wall pot
- k) 1 tea pot (with handle, spout, and lid)
- l) 1 reconstructed pot (sculptural form)
- m) 1 creative pots of student's choice
- n) 1 application of a wheel throwing technique from a ceramic article

TOTAL: 22 pieces of pottery

Method of Evaluation: Each assignment will be graded according to a specification checklist. The spec (critique) sheet will be handed out at the beginning of each assignment so that students are aware of applying certain techniques/principles. 70%

D. Final Examination: A comprehensive examination will be required at the end of the semester. The test will be graded according to objective information given in class related to oral reports and lecture notes. 5%

TOTAL 100%

IX. GRADING SCALE

- A. = 93-100
- B. = 85-92
- C. = 76-84
- D. = 65-75
- F. = 0-64

I. = A incomplete may be given to a student who has been providentially hindered from completing work required in a course, provided that:

1. Semester attendance requirements have been met;
2. Most of the required work has been done;
3. The student is doing passing work and the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty member to complete the remaining work at a later date.

The grade of I must be removed promptly or it becomes an F; it cannot be removed by repeating the course.”

X. LIST OF MATERIALS

Trimming tools (wire loop tools)
Metal, rubber, wooden ribs
Storage container for tools
Potter's needle
Sponge
Wire cutters
Fettling knife
Face mask
Canvas material (to cover boards, or to spread out on the table)
Spray bottle
Plastic garbage bags
Kitchen fork for scoring
Airtight plastic bucket for storing clay
Bamboo brush
Hand lotion
Notebook and pencil for recording notes and drawings
Calipers
Canvas cloth (square yard)

XI. REFERENCES

Available by request from the professor.