2014

119-01 The Potter's Wheel

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ARTS 119-01 THE POTTER’S WHEEL SPRING 2014
TUES./THURS. 8:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

• ARTS 119: The Potter’s Wheel is a comprehensive survey of beginning “throwing” (working on the potter’s wheel) for the non-art major. ARTS 209 is for the art major.
• You will progress through a series of thrown functional forms in order to explore the infinite possibilities of working on the potter’s wheel.
• You will study all aspects of producing a finished ceramic piece, including construction techniques (wet & dry), the mixing of clay bodies and glazes from scratch, kiln loading and firing, along with gaining a historical overview. The course consists of a combination of demonstrations/discussions, critiques, lectures, audiovisuals and interaction, both individually and collectively.
• Involvement in all areas of studio maintenance is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

• Students will begin to possess a technical proficiency in manipulating clay as a 3-Dimensional material;
• Students will become skillful with the basic potter’s wheel processes and techniques of clay construction;
• Students will understand the concepts of form and function and their interrelationship;
• Students will solve creative problems with originality, imagination and risk, including research and synthesis of technical, aesthetic and conceptual knowledge.

TEXTS:

• Functional Pottery (2nd edition) by: Robin Hopper and OHIO LINK

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

• Attendance is mandatory due to the many lectures and demonstrations that cannot and will not be repeated for absentees. In addition to class time, be prepared to spend extra hours in the studio completing the various clay experiences. There will be a grade deduction for absence - for every two (2) absences, your final grade will be lowered one (1) full letter grade. Two (2) “tardies” equals one (1) absence. Arriving late and/or leaving early may result in an absence. Arrive on time and expect to stay the full 2 ½ hours.

GRADING POLICY:

• The Department of Art’s Grading Policy is listed on a separate attached sheet. Specifically for ARTS 119, all grades (8) will be weighted equally on a 100 point scale:
  A: 93-100 Critique #1 (12.5%)
  A-: 90-92
  B+: 87-89  Critique #2 (12.5%)
  B: 83-86  Critique #3 (12.5%)
  B-: 80-82
  C+: 77-79  Midterm Exam (12.5%)
  C: 73-76  Critique #4 (12.5%)
  C-: 70-72  Critique #5 (12.5%)
  D+: 67-69  Critique #6 (12.5%)
  D: 63-66
  D-: 60-62  Final Exam/Critique (12.5%)
  F:Below 60

OTHER CLASS PROCEDURES:

• Studio maintenance is a crucial part of any art class. Students are expected to participate in all aspects of this, which includes the timely mixing of clays and glazes, assisting with the stacking and unstacking of the kilns along with other kiln maintenance, and cleaning up after themselves at the end of each class session. Strict adherence is expected, and will directly affect the final grade. Xavier students are expected to check their Xavier email on a daily basis.
• Turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices while in class. An environment of mutual respect is expected.
Every class session of the semester is outlined on the following pages. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class and each designated critique. With each class session a project is late, it will be dropped one full letter grade. Active participation in class discussions and critiques will directly affect the final grade.

**Note:** There is a CRITIQUE (projects are due) every two (2) weeks.

### COURSE OUTLINE

**Week of: Jan. 14/16**  
**Tues:** Introduction to course  
**Demo:** Wedging; Wheels; Centering; Cylinders  
**Read:** Chapters 1-5  
**Thurs:** Demo: Science and Practice of Mixing Clay Bodies  
**Read:** Surface Treatment

**Week of: Jan. 21/23**  
**Tues:** Work Day  
**Thurs:** CRIT #1: 8 CYLINDERS (TEXTURED)-cut in half (keep only one half)  
**Demo:** Mugs and Handles  
**Read:** Chapters 6,7,8,9,11

**Week of: Jan. 28/30**  
**Tues:** Work day  
**Thurs:** Lecture: History, geologic origins, physical and chemical properties of clay  
**Read:** Work day

**Week of: Feb. 4/6**  
**Tues:** Work day (Video/DVD)  
**Thurs:** CRIT #2: 8 MUGS (TEXTURED)  
**Demo:** Pitchers and Spouts  
**Read:** pp. 137-139  
**Read:** pp. 148-151  
**Read:** p. 170

**Week of: Feb. 11/13**  
**Tues:** Work day  
**Thurs:** Demo: Kiln Stacking  
**Read:** Work day

**Week of: Feb. 18/20**  
**Tues:** Glazing: Science and Practice of Dry and Wet Mixing Ceramic Glazes  
**Demo:** Making test tiles for glaze palette  
**Thurs:** CRIT #3: 6 PITCHERS (TEXTURED)  
**Demo:** Bowls; Foot Trimming  
**Read:** Chapters 9,10,15,16,17

**Week of: Feb. 25/27**  
**Tues:** Work day  
**Thurs:** Glazing: Mix Glaze #2  
**Read:** Work day

**SPRING BREAK • MID-SEMESTER •**
Week of: Mar. 11/13  
Tues: 8” “PERFECT CYLINDER” (MID-TERM PRACTICAL EXAM)
Thurs: CRIT #4: 8 BOWLS (TEXTURED)
        Demo: Lidded Forms
        Read: Chapter 12
              pp. 139-144, 146-147, 192-243

Week of: Mar. 18/20  
Tues: Work day
Thurs: Work day

Week of: Mar. 25/27  
Tues: Glazing: Mix Glaze #3
        Work day
Thurs: Glazing: Mix Glaze #4
       Work day

Week of: Apr. 1/3  
Tues: CRIT #5: 5 LIDDED FORMS (TEXTURED)
        Demo: Teapots
        Read: Chapter 13
              pp. 144-146
              pp. 151-152
Thurs: Work day

Week of: Apr. 8/10  
Tues: CRIT # 6a: 1 TEAPOT (TEXTURED)
        CRIT # 6b: 1 TEAPOT (TEXTURED, WITH DIFFERENT HANDLE AND LID than 1st teapot)
Thurs: No more claywork! No exceptions!

Week of: Apr. 15/17  
Tues: Glazing & Kiln Firing
        Glazing & Kiln Firing
Thurs: NO CLASS-EASTER BREAK

Week of: Apr. 22/24  
Tues: Glazing & Kiln Firing
        Glazing & Kiln Firing
Thurs: Glazing & Kiln Firing

Week of: Apr. 29/ May 1  
Tues: Glazing & Kiln Firing (LAST DAY TO GLAZE—NO EXCEPTIONS!)
        Studio clean-up

• FINAL EXAM AND CRITIQUE: (MANDATORY) TUESDAY, May 6, 2014 8:30 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.
• ABSENCE FROM THE FINAL EXAM COULD RESULT IN FAILURE OF ARTS 119

*BRING A NOTEBOOK/SKETCHBOOK AND THIS SYLLABUS TO CLASS EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY*
These will be checked for accuracy in note taking and development of ideas (sketches/photos/thumbnails).

• The professor reserves the right at all times to add to and/or delete from this syllabus when she deems necessary.
Grade F will be given for:
   a) failure to meet course requirements

Grade D will be given for:
   a) overall poor quality of work, unsatisfactory effort, motivation and improvement during semester
   b) incomplete or late projects
   c) absence from critiques, inadequate participation
   d) lack of ability to receive advice, criticism and to exercise critical judgment in relation to works in progress
   e) repeated absences from class (see policy)

Grade C will be given for:
   a) overall average (satisfactory) quality of work, satisfactory motivation, effort and improvement demonstrated during the semester
   b) completion of all projects
   c) participation in discussions, critiques and classroom exercises
   d) ability to receive advice and criticism, and to exercise critical judgment in relation to works in progress
   e) attendance (see policy)
   f) minimum 5 hours per week spent on home and studio assignments

Grade B will be given for:
   a) consistently high quality of work, motivation, effort, and improvement during the entire semester, and demonstrated attempts to go beyond the required standards of the course.
   b-f) same as for grade C

Grade A will be given for:
   a) consistently exceptional quality of work, motivation, effort and improvement during the entire semester, with results going far beyond the required standards and framework of the course.
   b-f) same as for grade C

NOTE: Quality of Work in grade definitions means studio project(s), conceived and started as a concept/idea, materialized with appropriate craftsmanship and with interesting visual, formal, and/or conceptual end results (finished project).