

**Beginning Wheel Throwing**  
**Spring 2023**  
**Art-10- 52442 / Art-10-52443**



**Ceramics Resource Site:** [www.centralcalclay.com](http://www.centralcalclay.com) and Reedleyclay on Instagram

**Prof. David Hicks**

**e-mail:** [david.hicks@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:david.hicks@reedleycollege.edu)

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:00pm Art Rm.155

Fridays 12:00 pm – 1:00pm via Phone (559) 786-7838

**Catalog Description:**

This class will be an introduction to ceramic arts with an emphasis on the vessel. Through lecture, demonstrations and practical application, students will explore the forms, and techniques of ceramic art throughout ceramic art history. Students will learn to create pottery from the potter's wheel and from a variety of hand-building techniques. Students

will be introduced to all aspects of the ceramic process including clay forming, glazing and firing.

#### **SLO:**

Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hopes you will be able to do at the end of the course. This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student. In addition, the department in order to evaluate the program, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance does the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes.

**ART-10 SLO1: Create a portfolio of artwork demonstrating a beginning level proficiency in ceramic vessel making addressing the topics of form and craftsmanship.**

**ART-10 SLO2: Engage in critical dialog about artwork produced and reaction to project guidelines.**

**ART-10 SLO3: Demonstrate a comprehension of the visual vocabulary through the creation of ceramic vessel artwork.**

#### **Course Objective:**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Demonstrate a basic ability to process vessels from initial production (throwing) through the trimming, glazing, and firing processes.
2. Acquire knowledge of timing and a sensitivity to ceramic materials.
3. Acquire basic skills in glazing, slip decoration and surface development.
4. Demonstrate the ability to use different methods of clay forming and construction (slab, coil, pinch, slip & score)
5. Translate the elements and principles of design into three-dimensional ceramic objects.
6. Gain a working knowledge of ceramic kilns (gas and electric) and how to utilize the appropriate firing temperatures and techniques.

#### **Assignments/Grading Policy:**

The overall course grade / evaluation will be determined by the completion of the projects assigned. Projects/Assignments will be graded on the guidelines laid out for each assigned project. These guidelines may include but not limited to scale, craftsmanship, quantity, glaze application/surface treatment and conceptual direction. Each major build project will have a 100-point value. Students will usually, but may be subject to change, be assigned 4 major build projects during the class. The specific details of each project will be determined as they are assigned. There may be opportunities for extra credit.

Extra credit will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor on an individual basis. Additional to build project the course will involve non-graded exercises design to build skills and abilities necessary to complete course projects. Other small assignments will be given during the course. These small projects may include outside of studio tasks (homework) and small tasks involving design aspects of art production.

*The projects listed on the class website and canvas are subject to change without notice. The instructor reserves the right to alter or change course projects, assignments, homework, number of, nature of or direction of assigned projects during the semester. Any changes will be noted during class meeting time to students and posted assignments will be updated to reflect changes.*

This course requires the full completion of your project to receive credit towards final course grade. Incomplete projects **will not** be considered towards your overall cumulative grade! Complete work describes work that meets all the guidelines of the assigned project. These guidelines will be given at the beginning of each project. Unfired work will not be considered complete in any circumstance in this course. Untrimmed work will not be considered completed work in this course.

Please be aware of the timelines given and complete all works as scheduled. This is not a punitive rule but rather the fact that the ceramic process necessitates it. Work will be loaded and fired as a class. If you are not present to load you work, you will fall behind in a manner that is close to impossible to make up. Please have you work done on time as stated in class project deadlines. Keep track of your deadline. You will be reminded multiple times as a project is being worked upon; however, it is up to you to stay on track.

Students will be expected to spend time outside of class time to complete their projects. Class time will be used for lecture, demonstration, and course work. Additional work time will be required to complete projects. The Ceramics studio is open every Friday from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. This time is reserved for students to work independently on homework, assignments, or independent work. Fridays are independent work time free of instruction. Students should make use of this time to complete projects.

### **Basis for Grade / Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the points earned cumulatively over the course of the semester. The project / assignment points earned during the semester will be divided by the possible points to generate the course grade.

Grades on each project will be posted on CANVAS within one week of project due date. Students are encouraged to monitor their grade on CANVAS. They will be able to track all possible points to date and their total points earned and have an up-to-date record of their class grade. Students must keep the physical paper slips given to them with the

return of all graded projects. These paper slips will be the proof of grade and referenced in the event of grade dispute. Without the paper grade slips any grade changes will only be made at the discretion of the instructor. **KEEP YOUR GRADE RECIEPTS!**

### **Project Assessment:**

The work produced in this course will be evaluated based on several criteria. Each project will be introduced with images, class discussion and thorough demonstrations. Each project will have its target goals as well as areas of assessment laid out and stated at the beginning of the project. Assessment criteria will be based upon measurable aspects of fact and form and not based on personal concepts of aesthetics. We will discuss design principals such as balance, rhythm and formal proportion in class projects and explore their implementation within class projects. Assessment criteria may include the following target areas, but are not limited to these examples.

**Glaze/Finish:** Has the work been properly glazed or finished as illustrated for the project in class demonstrations?

**Craftsmanship:** Does the work display an adequate command of the materials construction techniques. (Are there structural issues, cracks, poor construction leading to structural failure, poor formal aspects that lead to inability to use the object in its intended purpose?)

**Scale:** Does the work meet the size requirements of the project? (Are the sups too small, is the sculpture too large)

**Quantity:** Did you make the required number of objects laid out in the project outline? (We often make multiple cups and bowls for wheel throwing projects)

**Conceptual Direction:** Does your project address the conceptual goals demonstrated for the project? Does it fall in line with the areas of focus the project is intended to address?

**Alteration:** Did you modify the form in a way that addresses the concepts laid out in the class demonstration. (Example: Did you change the shape of the bowl after you completed the wheel throwing aspect?)

### **Policy on Late Assignments:**

I do not accept late assignments. The nature of this course and the materials we use requires that your projects be completed **ON** the due dates posted for them to be fired in the kiln. Late assignment may not be able to be fired or completed in time for critique or grading. PLEASE finish your project on time with the firing and project deadline given at the beginning of each project. If your work has not been fired, glazed or trimmed (wheel

thrown), you will **not** be able to receive full credit for your work and it will be considered incomplete.

*You must be present on the project Critique Day in order to receive credit for your project. If you are absent without excuse your work will not be graded. Missing a critique is the*

*same as not taking the exam! PLEASE BE AT ALL CRITIQUES.*

### **Participation, Attendance and Absences:**

Student participation is defined as been present in class, listening and note taking during lectures and demos. Consistent attendance is required to successfully complete this course. Punctuality is required for the class. Being that this is a studio course you will need to be in class to progress through the assignment workload. There will be times when you will need to come in after class hours to complete your projects. The studio will be open and available for outside of class time. Students are welcome to come into any of my ceramics class times to work on projects granted you ask permission to do so. I reserve the right to not have an open lad is there is a critique or special presentation.

- Attendance at all classes, critiques, and field trips is mandatory (field trip are often trips to the field on campus to look for natural objects and textures. In the event of an actual off campus field trip the trip will be scheduled and cleared ahead of schedule with the class and college. In the event you cannot attend the trip alternative activities will be assignment.
- More than two unexcused absences in the semester will result in a grade reduction of 1/2 of one letter grade and will compound if more absences continue. Late arrivals and early departures will count toward absences.

Life happens. There are excuses for some absences, such as medical reason and emergencies, but sleeping late and inability to find parking are not excusable. Be on time for class.

### **Supplies:**

**Let me preface this section by saying this: I know materials are expensive and costly to students. I am not requiring you to purchase items that will not be used on a regular basis. All items listed below will be essential to the course and be necessary for you to be successful in the course. I will not require you to purchase anything that is non-essential, as I DO NOT want to waste your precious funds. There is no textbook requirement for this course, which will prevent extra costs to students. But you must have the items listed in this section to participate in the class activities.**

You will be required to purchase the necessary tools and materials needed to complete your projects. It is your responsibility to get the needed tools and supplies by the end of the first week of the semester. **Your** class materials **must** be with you in class during class meeting times. Students who do not come to class prepared for class work (with their tools) will be asked to leave and receive an absence on their class attendance record for that day. This course requires the use of tools and materials you are responsible for maintaining and bringing to class. If you come without your materials/tools you are in your actions not taking part in class and will be considered absent.

**These materials are mandatory and must be purchased by the end of the first week of class:**

**Notebook** heavy weight paper (build one with a binder and use 80-110 lb. card stock paper)

**Ceramic Tool Kit** (the one I have available for you in the bookstore) Clay Club also sells used tool kits on the first day of class when available, first come first served.

**Towel** (hand towel size, we do not use paper towels for clay cleanup)

**Spray Bottle** (do not use bottles that have previously been used with chemicals)

**Plastic Trash Bags** (small trash bag, kitchen size are perfect)

**CLAY** Buy clay from us in the ceramics department first. (We will use a lot of clay, make sure you buy only the clay I tell you to use! It's very important not to get the wrong clay. There are many types of clay available in general, but we only use specific ones in the studio. Always ask first so you can avoid and issues that may arise from getting the wrong clay!)

If you do not have your materials by the first week of class, you will be advised to drop the course. This is a studio course and requires the use and purchase of your course materials. If you come to class unprepared for class work, you will be asked to leave and receive an unexcused absence for the class session. Be prepared for class! You classmates are not there to teach from. They are there to learn and work, not provide you with the things you forget! (*See syllabus section on attendance*)

**STUDIO SAFETY:**

Appropriate clothing should be worn in the studio (work clothes are encouraged). Do not wear clothing you do not want to get clay on. This class will be quite messy in the beginning. Foot ware must be always worn (closed toe shoes are recommended). Do not use equipment unless an instructor has checked you out to use the equipment. Dust masks must be worn when mixing dry ingredients. Care should be taken with everything we use in the studio as ceramic materials can and do pose serious health risk if improperly handled or used. This subject will be covered at great length, if you have questions, please ask I do not stop advising on studio safety, it will be a regular topic throughout the semester. If you have questions or concerns bring it to my attention. All concerns about safety are taken seriously and will be addressed.

### **CLEAN UP RULES:**

Cleanup is VERY important in the studio. Clean all workspaces when you are done. Return all tools to their proper locations and immediately wipe down equipment when done. Please leave the room as clean as or cleaner than you find it. **USE YOUR SPONGE!!!!** Make sure you rinse it out regularly when you clean. Clean and return splash pans, stools, chairs, and anything else you see out of place. We will shut down class early every day to provide time to clean.

### **Behavioral Standards:**

I expect for the studio to be a place where all students can relax and focus on the project at hand. Students are required to be on time to class. Tardiness is unacceptable and rude. I will generally start the class with some words on the project, timeline of the assignment or with lecture and demo. Please be on time so as not to miss out on the information necessary for your success in the course. Offensive language will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to leave the class if their behavior/language becomes a disturbance to the class and its activities. This includes excessive conversation not related to project at hand. Cell phones are not to be used in class unless you are searching the web for information and inspiration. If your cell phone becomes a distraction, I will ask you to turn it off or leave the class. I do not advise the use of personal headphones. This is only because there will be times when I will make announcements or try to engage you in conversation about your work at hand. You may miss the opportunity of being forced to grab your headphones out of your ears with wet clay covered hands. It gets messy and can ruin your headphones. Remember the squeaky wheel gets the grease! If you're not trying to learn and engage you will miss out. I am here to teach you information about the class **you** chose, not to force upon you information you do not seek. If you're not engaging, you are missing out.

### **Cheating:**

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating on exams, assignments, or caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" in the form 0% credit for the assignment and will have their actions reported to the College for academic review. Plain and simple, don't cheat. Cheating can also be defined in this course by having your work completed by someone other than yourself. This includes throwing, trimming, glazing and or any other tasks required to be completed by the individual students as a task, assignment, practice, written project, or other hands-on activity. Do the work yourself, for yourself and no one else. This class is an activities-based studio course. Do not do work for others, it is considered cheating and will result in negative consequences for all parties involved in the act.

### **Accommodations for Students with Special Needs:**

Any student with a documented learning, physical, chronic health, psychological, visual, or hearing disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to Disability Support Services and present the instructor with disability verification provided by the Disabled Student Service Department as early in the semester as possible (preferably within the first week). All discussions will remain confidential.

Please contact the Reedley College Disabled Student Service Department at: (559) 638-0332

***DROP DEADLINE:***

***Check the Reedley College Schedule*** Be sure to check with the College enrollment office to ensure that you are aware of the last day to drop this course without receiving an “F”. It is your responsibility to manage your academic status. Students who do not show the first Day of class will be dropped to make room for wait-listed students. Students who do not show for the second and third week of classes will be dropped. In other words, if you show for the first class and then stop coming you will be dropped. Please be aware of your responsibilities as a student.