

Ceramics Design ART3783C

Spring 2026

Days Tuesday & Thursday

Time 3pm – 6pm

Professor: Karina Yanes (she/her)

Email: karinayanes@ufl.edu

Virtual Office Hours by appointment

Teaching Lab Specialist Derek Reeverts

Hours M-F 7:30am-3:30pm

Office FAC B18

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Syllabus

1/12/26 - 4/22/26

Location FAC B16

Credit Hours 3

Catalogue Description:

This course investigates intermediate technical, aesthetic, and conceptual issues in ceramics. We will study the formulation of clay and glaze materials with an emphasis on personalized expression through the ceramic design process.

Course Overview:

This course considers aesthetic, conceptual, and technical issues in contemporary ceramic design. Through the study of contemporary and historical ceramics, the course will discuss aesthetics and utility while examining design thinking in order to develop a critical perspective on what a ceramic design object can be and do in today's society.

We will utilize hand building, mold making, and wheel throwing approaches. The class format will include discussion of relevant readings and artists, demonstrations of sculptural techniques, ideation exercises, critique, labs on mixing clay and glaze, and electric kiln firing procedures. Class discussions and critique will follow a variety of formats focused on facilitating generative, critical, and articulate communication.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students should be able to demonstrate:

- Control and understanding of clay forming, drying, and firing from wet through fired states
- Proficiency in ceramic building techniques
- An understanding of mixing glaze and clay body
- Proficiency in electric kiln loading and firing procedures for bisque & glaze
- A critical approach to project research, development, and reflection
- Competency in proper health & safety procedures in a ceramic studio
- Exposure to contemporary artwork and theory related to ceramic design

Student Expectations

- Attend class meetings
- Come to class on time, ready to work, with the necessary supplies and completed course work
- Be attentive and engaged during demonstrations, discussions, critiques, and meetings
- Participate in group discussion and critique in an articulate and meaningful way
- Work in a focused manner during in class work time
- Challenge yourself creatively with each project
- Spend a minimum of 8 hours of studio time per week, outside of class, to complete projects
- Complete assignments on time
- Participate in cleanup at the end of class and keep a clean studio outside of class
- Participate in all group tasks including clay processing and kiln loading

Assignments Overview

Project 1 – Multiples

Students will design an object that can be produced at least 20-50 times. These objects will come together into a larger form using ceramic and/or non-ceramic strategies. The final object may be a wearable, a sculpture, an armor, a vessel, etc. Students will use at least two building methods including pinching, slab or coil building, mold making, or throwing. We will question how repeated units affect form, meaning, and function.

Project 2 – Deconstruction/Reassembly

Students will create a series of ten distinct handbuilt and/or wheel-thrown objects. They will cut apart and deconstruct each form, then reassemble the fragments into a single large form or a cohesive series of larger forms. This project asks students to consider how unique forms can be unified through structure, connection, and surface design. What kind of transformation can occur through fragmentation?

Project 3 – Body Architecture

Students will design a ceramic structure that forces a physical behavior in the participant who interacts with it. This could include restricting movement, altering posture, leaving traces on the wearer, etc. The object will be at least 20” in its longest direction.

Reading Responses

Written responses to reading or suggested artists related to each assignment. All readings will be provided on Canvas.

Triaxial Project

Each student will perform one triaxial glaze test with selected glazes.

Sketchbooks

Students should keep an active sketchbook throughout the course. This should include notes from lectures and demonstrations, along with thoughts, ideation, drawings, and reflections for each project. Your sketchbook can be in any format that compliments your practice.

Required Materials

Brands and links are just suggestions, please purchase or gather something similar by the second week of class

Needle Tool
Fettling Knife
X-acto knife
Metal Scraper Rib
Serrated Metal Scraper Rib
Wire Tool
Rubber Rib -- Mud Tool red or yellow rib is best
Small sponge
Small sureform
Paint brushes (large and small)
Banding Wheel
Ruler
Spray Bottle
Plastic Bucket – 1 or 1/2 gallon
Sketchbook
Thin painter's plastic or kitchen trash bags for wrapping work
Yogurt container or something to store all your tools in

Optional

Hand towel
Apron
Old cotton sheet or piece of fabric

Clay

We will mix clay for the class in small groups and purchase clay in increments of 25 lbs for \$25.

Evaluation and Grading

The work from this course will be graded on criteria defined by individual project goals. Additionally, all projects will be graded on their success in the following areas: concept development, risk-taking, experimentation, design decisions, craft, ambition, technical competency, and meeting process work deadlines.

The course grade for each student will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Completion of 3 projects along with uploading images and supporting documents for each
- Completion of readings, writings, and discussions
- Attendance
- Research/sketchbook for each project
- Technical competence and craft
- Class participation in discussion, critiques, and relevant activities
- Presenting finished work during critique

- Effort, hard work, and consistent effort—challenge yourself!

Grading

Letter Grades and Corresponding Point Values:

A (100%-90%) = Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. Student is engaged in exceptional and active studio practice.

A 100-94% A- 93-90

B (89%-80%) = Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.

B+ 89-87 B 86-84 B- 83-80

C (79%-70%) = Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation-studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

C+ 79-77 C 76-74 C- 73-70

D (69%-60%) = Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.

D+ 69-67 D 66-64 D- 63-60

E (59%-0%) = Unacceptable performance. Student disregards skills, not all projects are finished and criteria is ignored, concept is non-existent, sketchbook is like new, during discussion and critique student is disinterested, attendance is occasional.

Distribution of Grades:

Students will be graded out of 1000 points

	Grading Percentages
25%	Project 1
25%	Project 2
25%	Project 3
15%	Preparedness, participation in discussions, critiques, kiln firing, clay mixing, and studio maintenance
5%	Triaxial
5%	Attendance

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, will be dropped from the course. Demonstrations, discussions, presentations, and other group activities take place during class time that are impossible to recapture and are not repeated for those absent. In case of an absence meet with your peers for notes on missed activities. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>)

- Students have 2 unexcused absences without penalty, no note required.
 - Unexcused absences 3, 4, 5, and 6 will decrease your attendance grade by 5%
 - Any absences beyond that will drop your entire class grade by 5%
 - An unexcused absence on the day of critique will drop your project grade by 10%.
- If a situation arises and you must miss the scheduled critique date, please communicate with me.

Calendar Overview

A detailed class calendar can be found on Canvas.

Week 1 – Orientation/ Mix clay for the class/ Introduce Project 1

Week 2 – Project 1

Week 3 – Project 1

Week 4 – Project 1

Week 5 – Project 1/ Introduce Project 2

Week 6 – Critique Project 1/ Project 2

Week 7 – Project 2

Week 8 – Project 2

Week 9 – Critique Project 2/ Introduce Project 3

Week 10 – Spring Break!

Week 11 – Project 3

Week 12 – Project 3

Week 13 – Project 3

Week 14 – Project 3

Week 15 – Critique Project 3

Diversity Statement

It is the intent of the instructor that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives are well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. Additionally, materials and activities are intended to be presented in respect of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please see the instructor during the private office zoom on ways to improve the effectiveness of the course personally. In addition, if any of class meetings conflict with religious events, please notify the instructor so arrangements are made. If you will be more comfortable, please contact the SA+AH Advisor Dana Myers, FAC 103, dmyers@arts.ufl.edu to discuss any issues.

Introductions

Name preferences and preferred pronouns will be respected in this class.

Participation

Participation in discussions, group activities, in class work time, and critiques is crucial to the learning process. Through open discussion and participation in group critiques we can talk intellectually and critically about the work. Ceramic processes are a lot of work, your participation as a class in preparation, making, and cleanup are appreciated. Everyone will be expected to help. Studio cleanup is also a group activity that comes with the territory. Your participation in cleaning is crucial here, both during and after class.

Professionalism

Once you enter this course you are considered a professional and will be expected to demonstrate professional work habits. This includes meeting deadlines, managing your time and being clear, thorough and thoughtful in your written and oral responses. You will be expected to listen actively, speak thoughtfully, and be fully engaged in class. Cell phone use is not permitted.

I hope that you will demonstrate your personal commitment to and personal investment in your work by doing lots of making, that you will push beyond what you already know and do, and that you will continue to develop your voice as an artist.

Canvas

This course uses Canvas, UF's e-learning platform for all calendar, announcements, email, course materials, and assignments. Handouts will not be given in paper form, instead, access to all course material will be online through Canvas. Additionally, **all coursework must be submitted through Canvas for grading**. You are responsible to check <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> regularly.

Firing

Work will be fired in class kilns. All students are expected to take turns in helping as part of the participation grade. If you miss a class firing, be aware that your work may not be done in time for the final critique, which will affect your final grade.

Studio Storage and Clean Up

Please leave the studio clean, regardless of the condition you find it in. Leave the work tables clear and clean. This is a group studio, and we all need to pitch in to keep it a safe and healthy functioning work environment. As a class, we will do a 10 minute power clean of shared spaces once a week.

Each student is responsible for ensuring that their projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project. The instructor, the School of Art and Art History, and the Ceramics Area are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms.

Door Codes and Access to Studios

FAC is open M-F 7:00am -10:00pm Saturday 1:00pm – 10:00pm, outside of those hours you will need your Gator1 card to enter the building

Studios are open 24/7

Your classroom code will be provided on the first day of class.

Health and Safety Specific Area information for Ceramics:

In case of emergency, call the University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1111.

The basement floor of FAC is designated as UF building #0599 in case you need to report an emergency. File an incident report (forms may be found in SA+AH handbook in each Satellite Waste Accumulation Area, the SA+AH faculty handbook, and in the main office). Submit completed forms into the SA+AH Operations + Facilities Manager within 48 hours of the event.

No eating or drinking in the glaze or mixing areas.

Familiarize yourself with the closest eyewash unit.

Shoes must be worn at all times.

It is required to use safety glasses when grinding, chipping shelves, etc., protective lenses for kiln viewing, gloves for hot objects, heat-resistant aprons for raku, ear protection for grinding and sawing, rubber gloves for mixing hazardous materials.

Do not block aisles, halls, or doors.

Do not bring children or pets into the studios.

Do not store things on the floor.

Clean up spills immediately.

Scoop up dry materials, mop up liquids, do not return spilled materials to the original source as they are contaminated now.

Carry heavy or large trash to the dumpster.

Place materials containing barium or chrome in the hazardous waste disposal area.

Do not sweep. This puts hazardous materials in the air. Rather, scrape up chunks and wet-clean.

Report any safety issues immediately to your instructor or the Teaching Lab Specialist.

All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.

Follow the SA+AH container policy (see policy below) There are 2 types of labels used in the SA+AH-- yellow and white. Both labels are found at the red SDS box and are supplied by the SA+AH. Each is used for a different purpose.

White: All new and or used product in containers (hazardous or what might be perceived as hazardous, i.e., watered down gesso, graphite solutions, satellite containers of solvents, powders, spray paints, fixatives, oils, solvents, etc.) must be labeled within the SA+AH to identify their contents. Labels can be found at the SDS box in each studio and work area. All containers must be marked with your name, contents and date opened. All secondary/satellite containers for hazardous materials must be marked with content, your name and the date opened. Unmarked containers will be disposed of without notice.

Yellow: When hazardous items are labeled as waste. All containers must have a yellow label identifying the contents to be designated as trash for EHS pick up. Flammable solid containers (red flip top) must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top). 5-gallon jugs must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside. Fibrous containers must have a yellow hazardous waste label on the outside (top). Each item in the blue bin must have a yellow hazardous waste label.

Note: Hazardous Waste labels should include all constituents in the waste mixture as well as an approximate percentage of the total for that item and must add up to 100%. Labels should also include the building and room number of the shop generating the waste along with the Waste Manager for your area, this is located on the SWMA sign posted at the sink or at the Waste Management Area.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students 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](#).

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 someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392- 1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

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, ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](http://ufcomputinghelpdesk.ufl.edu/) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Information about University wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>