

# Ceramics Graduate Seminar Art 6933 – Rotating Topics

## The Voice of Things

Spring 2026: March 3 – April 24

FACB014

T/TH 3-6pm

Credit Hours: 3

Professor: Grace Sachi Troxell (she/her)

Office B17 | Office Hours on request Tues 12-3pm

Teaching Lab Specialist: Derek Reeverts

Office: B18, M-F 8am – 3pm | [dreeverts@ufl.edu](mailto:dreeverts@ufl.edu) | 352 – 273 – 3085

### **Course Description:**

Taking its name from Francis Ponge's book, The Voice of Things, this ceramics seminar will explore the everyday through materiality, making, installing, and consuming in relation to both "natural" and "industrial" things. The class will develop and critique individual work, while delving into advanced ceramic techniques and weekly readings to expand our understanding of material aesthetics. The work will culminate in a site-specific group installation at the Thomas Center in Gainesville. Documentation and publicity, essential tools for the artist, will also be developed.

**Reading excerpts will include:** readings will be available on Canvas. You will be expected to lead one class reading and respond to every reading.

Bill Brown's Thing Theory, Francis Ponge's The Voice of Things, Yanagi Sōetsu's The Beauty of Everyday Things, Jean Baudrillard's The System of Objects, Yuriko Saito's Everyday Aesthetics, Timothy Morton's Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology After the End of the World, A Questionnaire on Materialisms, Claire Bishop's Installation Art, Emma Shaw Ceramics and Installation, Ruth Chambers' Ceramics Installation: Towards a Self-Definition, Glen Brown's Multiplicity, Ambivalence and Ceramic Installation Art.

### **Course Objectives:**

- develop a mature body of work and discourse around your art practice
- write about your own work and write a paper on an artist of your choosing
- share skills and hone conceptual and material thinking
- experiment rigorously
- show an ability to locate yourself within a lineage of art making
- as a group, create an installation that responds to place

- work together to collaborate on large scale work
- participate in ceramic community buildings
- advertise, write about, photograph, install and deinstall and off site exhibition at the Thomas Center
- broaden your network of ceramicists in Florida through off site group exhibitions and exchange
- Work on your own studio practice at least 20 hours a week

**Artist Lectures are required**

**Fieldtrip: Site Visit to The Thomas Center**

**Fieldtrip: Whitney Oldenburg: Left Behind**

<https://mocajacksonville.unf.edu/exhibitions/featured/whitney-oldenburg.html>

**Fieldtrip: The Harn Museum**

March 3 March 5	Individual mid-term critiques the week of March 2 – submit portfolio and artist statement by March 1 on Canvas  In class – March 2 – Propose exhibition idea March 4 – begin making  Before March 3 <sup>rd</sup> read on ceramics and installation
March 6	Community making day – 2 hour open throwing Sign up to lead one session:
March 10 March 12	Readings Studio time
March 13	Community making day – 2 hour open throwing Sign up to lead one session:
Spring Break March 14 – March 21	
NCECA March 25 - 28	Make up class hours as group studio hours
March 31 April 2	Readings Studio time Individual studio visits April 2
April 3	Community making day – 2 hour open throwing

	Sign up to lead one session:
April 7 April 9	Readings Studio time
April 10	Community making day – 2 hour open throwing Sign up to lead one session:
April 14 April 16	Readings Studio time Publicity – write about exhibition, photography, advertising
April 21 April 23	Install at the Thomas Center Group final critique – artist statement and documentation must be submitted before the critique on Canvas
Opening at the Thomas Center April 24 Deinstall date tbd	

**Email:**

I am available Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm through email. Allow me 24 hours to respond before following up. If you write on the weekend, expect a response on Monday. Please respond to and check for messages from Canvas. Until March 3<sup>rd</sup> allow 48 hours for reply.

**Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:**

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

You will find academic resources, honesty policy, course evaluation information, accommodations, attendance and grading.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to be in class. You are allowed two absences during the semester without penalty to your grade. After two absences your grade will go down one letter. Four absences will lead to a failing grade. As a studio class the time together is invaluable and cannot be replicated outside of class on your own.

**Grading & Evaluation:**

We will have individual meetings to discuss grades and evaluation. You will be graded on your individual projects, participation in critique and conversation, completion of responses to readings, completion of artist interview, artist statement, and participation

in group events. Feedback will be given verbally. You are expected to work consistently 20 hours each week. Your work should grow week to week. Embrace failure and allow time for experimentation. You are expected to research and read alongside your making. This is also part of your grade.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

*A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.*

A 4.0

A- 3.67

B+ 3.33

B 3.0

B- 2.67

C+ 2.33

C 2.0

C- 1.67

D+ 1.33

D 1.0

D- .67

S 0

#### **Accommodations:**

#### Disability Resource Center

If you have an accommodation, please share the letter with me early in the semester and schedule an appointment to discuss how to best accommodate you.

#### **Class Demeanor:**

It is assumed you will act like a professional artist in this class. Respect the group and always clean up after yourself. Differences in perception and interpretation are inherent between people of different backgrounds. Mature artistic engagement is when you are able to recognize and respect multiple perspectives. In this class, we will be open minded and thoughtful to what each individual member brings to the class. This will be most important during critique. Give constructive feedback to your peers and do so with respect.

#### **Cell Phones:**

Cell phones are not to be used during class. If you have your cell phone out it will count as being late to class. Respect the time in the studio and stay present and focused.

**Materials:**

You are responsible for your materials. Plan accordingly so you have clay to work with.

**Health and Safety: Ceramics**

Ceramic dust is a potential irritant and prolonged exposure may result in chronic conditions. Many substances in the glaze room are marked as toxic or hazardous materials. Ingestion and inhalation of these materials could be hazardous or fatal.

**Area Rules**

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

-follow all SA+AH Health and safety handbook guidelines, found on Canvas

-Follow the SA+AH satellite waste management chart in the classroom and other health and safety guidelines posted for your media

-in case of emergency, call campus police at 391-1111

-file an incident report (forms may be found in SA+AH H&S 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.

-SA+AH is committed to upholding policies set forth by the University of Florida with regards to drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities. Possession or use of drugs or alcoholic beverages is not permitted. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges

-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 material

-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 dry materials, mop up liquids, do not return spilled materials to 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
- all courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up (this is part of your participation grade)
- Follow the SA+AH container policy

*There are two 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 DESIGNATED 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