ART 3783C Vessel Aesthetic 1

Credits: 3; an investigation at the intermediate level of technical, aesthetic and conceptual issues in the pottery language. Development of personalized art expression through vessel. Students study the formulation of clay and work with high-temperature reduction firing.

Steve Heineman, Canadian, contemporary artist

I look forward to an enjoyable and productive semester working together. Should you have problems with your assignments or questions about your progress, you are encouraged to make an individual appointment for help or information.

Class information

This class is concerned with the exploration of the vessel as a functional, conceptual, technical, and aesthetic entity. We will look at contemporary and historic models, writings about vessels, and the technical information that supports understanding of materials, process, and function to provide a vocabulary of choices for the studio potter in his or her own art work. Students will use this information to make choices in their individual work, building both aesthetic and technical skills in the service of developing a personal artistic voice in studio work.

This information is online at: www.charliecummings.com click on student resources

This class will use of high-fire materials, and development of reduction firing and glazing skills as a material for our explorations.

Please read the Ceramics shop procedures covered in Welcome to UF Ceramics, and follow studio procedures. A copy is posted on your classroom door, and is online http://grove.ufl.edu/~ceramics/welcome-to-uf-ceramics.pdf

From Roger Lipsey, An Art of Our Own; the Spiritual in 20th Century Art:
"Craftspeople often grasp, at least in theory, that the stages through which a work must pass to reach completion parallel the maturation of the human being and so shed light on our own needs and possibilities. It follows by analogy that to study a craft is to study one's own nature; hence the firm association between craft work and the search for self-knowledge."
Clay
Students will learn to use the clay mixer, and may choose to mix a personal recipe for clay. To pay for dry materials for custom mixing, give your instructor the recipe, and Derek Reeverts, Teaching Lab Specialist, will calculate the cost of materials. These will be paid for at the bookstore, the receipt is presented in Ceramics, and the dry materials weighed out. Sign up in advance to use the mixer. Please clean up after mixing.

Students may purchase Phoenix stoneware or Helios porcelain clay. Clay tickets are $11.50 at the bookstore. Stoneware is one ticket per bag; porcelain is 2 tickets per bag. The ticket is submitted to your instructor to pick up the purchased clay in the Ceramics department. Please fill out your clay tickets w/your name and information. You keep the larger part; your instructor keeps the smaller part.

Materials fee
$45 materials fee covers the cost of consumables, such as wax resist, cones for firing, kiln wash, glaze, and other items needed for student use. Please pay for ONE orange materials ticket at the bookstore, and turn in to your instructor with your name filled in on the ticket.

Materials and supplies
Required Texts:
Functional Pottery, 2nd Ed, Robin Hopper
Arbuckle handouts as designated, available online at:
http://lindaarbuckle.com/arbuckle_handouts.html

We suggest you use an N-95 dust mask for dealing safely with dusty materials and using the spray booth. It is advisable to keep this in a zipped bag to keep it clean when not in use. UF Environmental Health & Safety requires students to file forms and pay a $5.00 processing fee when using N-95 dust masks. Use of a close-fitting respirator requires fit testing, a pulmonary function test, and medical clearance from UF to comply with federal OSHA rules. At this time, UF charges for the pulmonary test and medical clearance. Students are responsible for those charges. See SAAH Health and Safety info.

Sketchbooks are a necessary tool for artists. Regular use throughout the semester is part of research in seeing and developing ideas. Additionally, a sketchbook may function as an archive for your ideas and a record of thoughts and work produced. It takes regular exercise in using a sketchbook to help you grow as an artist.

Supply suggestions
- bound sketchbook
- fettling knife
- pin tool
- trimming tool
- clean-up sponge
- small sponge
- small bucket
- flexible metal rib
- wooden rib
- flexible smoothing rib
- cut-off wire
- shop towel
- bat pins (1/4 inch cap head screws – don’t get them really long or then snag the splash pan)
- plastic to cover work in progress
- small container for slip to join handles, etc
- brushes for slip decoration and glazing
- inexpensive brushes for wax resist use
- lock for your locker
- shop apron or shirt
- 2 pieces unprimed canvas 30 x 36” to roll slabs
- scissors, X-acto knife, ruler
- Sur-Form rasp

Firing
Work will be bisque-fired in class kilns. Students will co-ordinate with the instructor and/or kiln room technical assistant to load, fire, unload, and clean up after class kilns, and are expected to take turns on firing rotations.

Students will work in firing teams (with faculty or tech supervision) to fire the bisque and gas glaze kilns. This will involve working outside of class time, and is a part of your semester grade. Please consult with me and/or the kiln room TA for help facilitating firings. We are happy to help and usually know who else is doing similar firings.

Projects
It is part of the assignment to do assigned readings and preparation for the projects. Students are expected to do the readings assigned on the syllabus by the next class meeting from the calendar date assigned, and be prepared to discuss the material. Fulfilling assignments also includes research sketches, following the project criteria, presenting the work on the assigned dates, and participating in group critiques and discussions. Unexcused late work will result in a lowered grade, and will be docked 5% for each class period late.

Clay is a wonderful material and will do many things, but it can’t be rushed or neglected without consequences. It takes regular practice and attention to develop skills and firing technique and this will take studio time outside of scheduled class hours. To get the best results, you must make MORE than the required number of works to achieve the appropriate number of successful finished pieces.

Projects made for this class may NOT be submitted to any other class for credit unless both faculty have given prior approval. Failure to follow this rule will be considered academic dishonesty.

Policy for late work, make-up of broken work
Students who miss work deadlines with excused absence are responsible for submitting the work due to the instructor before the beginning of the next class meeting to avoid being considered late. If excused absence has affected the student’s ability to work, the student is responsible for discussing this with the instructor before the due date. Unexcused absence will not suspend due dates, and the work will be considered late. I encourage you to talk with me about work that is not completed on time, and establish when you will complete it. Late work will received a lowered grade.

While all due care is exercised when moving, loading, and unloading work, ceramic work is fragile. Studio accidents or kiln issues may cause work to break. Instructors must have finished work to assign a grade for a project. Work that blows up or is broken before completion will require re-making for grading. If your work is destroyed in progress, please show this to your instructor and discuss what must be done to achieve a finished project for grading. In the case of involved projects where the loss is not the student’s fault, abridged project parameters may be negotiated and due dates adjusted.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>4 projects (including readings, research, sketches in preparation) (18.75% ea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2 tests: reduction firing and slip information, and clay and clay bodies (7.5% ea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>participation in class discussions and critiques, clean-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>kiln firing participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = excellent, distinguished use of concepts, materials, and execution

Grading Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100%-97</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79%-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96%-94</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>76%-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93%-90</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73%-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89%-87</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69%-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86%-84</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>66%-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83%-80</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63%-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ART 3783 Vessel
Aesthetic 1

B = good use of concepts, materials, execution
C = average
D = marginal
F = unacceptable, failure. No credit.

A semester grade of incomplete will not be given for late work unless there is an excused absence involved.

To be approved for an incomplete:
1. Students must have completed the major portion of the class with a passing grade of C or better
2. The student is unable to complete course requirements because of documented circumstances beyond his or her control
3. The student and instructor have discussed the situation prior to the final critique (except under emergency conditions)
4. The student will fill out the College of Fine Arts incomplete grade contract, which will be signed by the instructor and the chair and will detail the work to be completed and the date by which this must be done

Shop Policies

Please read and observe shop procedures and rules in Welcome to UF Ceramics (online at: http://grove.ufl.edu/~ceramics/welcome-to-uf-ceramics.pdf) If in doubt, please ask me, other Ceramics faculty (Nan Smith, Anna Calluori Holcombe), or Ray Gonzales (Ceramics Teaching and Technical Assistant), or any of the very able graduate students in Ceramics.

Clean-up of work space is required. Please have a proprietary attitude about the shop, and leave it clean, regardless of the condition you find it. This includes cleaning up wheels, table space, sink, and floor. Working in built-up clay dust is a health hazard. We all work on this together, and the added effort and team spirit contributes greatly to the safe, effective, and enjoyable use of the area by a large number of people. We appreciate your co-operation. Due to dust hazards, we wet-clean only (no sweeping).

Do not leave your work on community spaces. Please do not store anything on the floor.

Please remove all work and personal equipment from classrooms at the end of the semester. Anything left in the classrooms or lockers after finals week will be considered abandoned and will be discarded.

Resources

U.F.’s Harn Museum has a good collection of Asian high-fire ceramics. I encourage you to stop by the Harn - entry is free - and look particularly at the high-fired Asian works, as well as the other resources the museum offers.

Figure 3 Japan. Oribe basket

U.F.’s Architecture and Fine Arts library has many books, magazines and videos on both the technical and aesthetic aspects of ceramics. If you can’t find what you want in the catalog, do ask the reference librarians for help. The videos can be checked out overnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Homepage</th>
<th><a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/</a> (for all library services and collections)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Reserves</td>
<td><a href="https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/">https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/</a> (for hard copy and/or electronic reserves)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask-A-Librarian</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/</a> (direct e-mail or online chat for assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Tools and Mobile Apps</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools/">http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools/</a> (smart phone apps, RSS feeds, and much more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Guides/Specialists</td>
<td><a href="http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx">http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx</a> (by discipline and/or course)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Axis</td>
<td><a href="http://artaxis.org">http://artaxis.org</a></td>
<td>Juried site for contemporary ceramic artists. Works, resume, statements, links to web sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handouts - Arbuckle</td>
<td><a href="http://lindaarbuckle.com/arbuckle_handouts.html">http://lindaarbuckle.com/arbuckle_handouts.html</a></td>
<td>Ceramic handouts on a variety of technical subjects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links - Arbuckle</td>
<td><a href="http://lindaarbuckle.com/arbuckle_links.html">http://lindaarbuckle.com/arbuckle_links.html</a></td>
<td>Page of links to ceramics resources online, including summer programs that offer classes (many offer work-study or scholarship opportunities).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galleries online</td>
<td></td>
<td>Many commercial and art center sales galleries have active online representation of contemporary artists. Place to begin looking may include Ferrin Gallery, Red Lodge, Northern Clay Center, Clay Studio, Schaller Gallery, and Akar Design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student information – UF policies**

http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html
Absences count from the first class meeting. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Communication
The University of Florida and the School of Art + Art History strongly encourage you to use your @ufl.edu email address for all official UF business. You are encouraged to check your UF email account at least once a day. There is a listserv for this class. I will occasionally send timely information regarding class reminders, schedule changes, and other relevant class information.

If you need to contact me, here are my suggestions:

- Email charlie@ufl.edu with complicated questions that require long answers. It may take 24-36 hours for me to answer emails. If you will miss class due to illness or UF activities, this is the way for us both to have a record of our communication.

- Text me (352-359-2015) with short questions that need a quick answer. I will not reply when I am in class, so an answer may take up to several hours. If I am not in class, I usually answer quickly. Include your name so I know who you are. Never text after 10pm or before 8am.

- Call me (352-359-2015) if you need verbal communication and it is very important to have a timely answer. Same rules as texting. I am very slow to return calls. Texting is better.

- I use Facebook as a platform to promote my career as an artist and to promote my colleagues and students. You may friend me if you would like for me to tag you in images of your work I post (both with your permission.) I will never respond to a class related question posted on my wall or sent as a fb message. I also promise to never post class related questions or your wall.

Religious Holidays
The Board of Regents and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Further, a student who is to be excused from class for a religious holy day is not required to provide a second party certification of the reasons for the absence.

Attendance Policies
- Student who will be absent for an excused reason are to call and leave a message on my office phone (273-3084), or send an e-mail (charlie@ufl.edu) before class to confirm the absence and reason.
- No-shows w/o notice will be considered unexcused
- More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a drop of one letter grade.
- 4 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in the class.
Academic Honesty
All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines which have been accepted by the university. This includes, among other things, sanctions for cheating, misrepresentation, plagiarism, and illegal use of copyrighted materials. For complete information please see http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html

Counseling Services
The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university.

Counseling Center web site: http://www.counsel.ufl.edu
The Counseling Center is located at:
P301 Peabody Hall
(352) 392-1575
Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

Students with Disabilities
We are very willing to accommodate students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation please register with the Dean of Students Office, which provides documentation for the student to give to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. This is most helpful done at the beginning of the semester.

Dean of Students Office
Phone: 392-1261
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp