**University of Southern California**

**Roski School of Fine Arts**

**FALL 2014**

**Course Information:**

**FACE 212 – WHEEL THROWING** (Section #33258R) **4 units**

**Class Times:** Tue/Thu 9:00 am – 11:50 am

**Office Hours:** Tu/Th 11:50a-12:20p

**Room:** WAH 107

**Instructor:** Julie Schustack **Email:** jschustack@hotmail.com

**Office Phone and Voicemail:** **213/821-2891 x 3**

**LOCKER COMBINATION:** D-N-A

**Course Description**

This course is designed to give students fundamentals of ceramics and the different ways that a pottery wheel can be used. Students will learn how to center clay on the wheel and make a variety of projects using different wheel throwing techniques. Students will gain understanding of the firing and glazing process and understand the multitude of variations that can occur within these areas. This class will include mostly functional projects, but students will be encouraged to explore a more sculptural approach for their final project. Students will be challenged to think about the work they are making and how it relates to them or their interests.

Working with clay requires a lot of *patience* as small errors can easily destroy a piece. In the case of our class, much of the learning you do will be through those mistakes you make. Expect to make many times and learn through the process.

Challenge your own ideas of the kind of art that can be made on a pottery wheel! It is important that students leave the class with full technical understanding and exceptional control on the pottery wheel.

**Assignments**

There will be 4 major assigned projects for this course and a vocabulary test. Each project will take 2-4 weeks to complete. Projects will include centering exercises, cups, bowls as well as a larger scale project. This class will challenge your sense of design and students will produce work that is innovative and original. Mastering technique is an important factor in making art, but thinking about what you want to make can be just as challenging as making the object. Students will be given time to think and develop their ideas and will be required to talk about and sketch their ideas. Assignments are designed to develop technical growth, yet allow personal idea development. There will be a class discussion/critique following the completion of most projects. Students will participate by contributing their observations and interpretations of the art.

The nature of ceramics is one that requires time. The ceramic process requires time to make, dry, carve/add, dry completely, fire, glaze and fire again. If a student falls behind, there are limitations within the ceramic process that could prevent catching up. **Do not fall behind**. Again, ceramics can be a demanding material, so it is important to understand its demands and adjust your practice accordingly. In addition, students are expected to spend about 3 hours outside of class working on their projects each week. The time spent outside of class directly affects 10% of your grade for the project. Drawing, thinking, reading, buying materials and researching also count as time spent outside of class. You have 24hr access to the studio. You are encouraged to use the studio above the 3-hour requirement.

**Class Procedures:**

**ATTENDANCE**

*Attendance is mandatory*.

*The only valid excuse is a medical excuse. Medical excuses will be accepted with a doctor’s note stating that the student is unfit for attending school. Going out of town, getting your girlfriend pregnant, car accidents, family emergencies, or your job schedule will not be excused from this policy. Please do not ask me if it’s ok if you miss class. It’s your choice whether or not you attend the class, I am merely telling you the consequences of your choice to miss class.*

• You are allowed 2 free absence, no questions asked.

• For **each** subsequent absence the student’s letter grade will be low­ered by 0.5 grade.

• **7** absences and you will not receive credit for the course.

• Being absent on the day a project, quiz, exam, or critique is due can lead to an “F” for that, quiz, paper, exam, or critique. Projects would be considered late unless turned in by a fellow student.

• It is always the student’s responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor’s, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

• It should be understood that 100% attendance does not positively affect a final grade.

• Any falsification of attendance may be considered grounds for a violation of ethics before the University Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

• 3 Tardies (or leaving early) become equivalent to an absence.

• Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.

• A student is considered tardy if they arrive to class 1 min after the beginning of class.

• Students will be considered absent if they leave without the instructor’s approval before the class has ended or if they take un-approved breaks that last longer than 30 min. If a student leaves class without the instructor’s permission for more than 15 min during or at the end of class, this break will be noted. Any combination of three of the above (being tardy, taking over a 15 min break or leaving early) will equal one absence.

**GRADING**

**Grading System:** Failure to attend the final class meeting, complete your projects, or consistently turn in late projects may result in a failing grade.

1. Distribution of Grades:

 PROJECTS 90%

 QUIZ/PARTICIPATION (clean-up, critique-discussions,reading) 10%

 -Attendance Points (if applicable)

 Final grade for Class 100%

Each project will be given a grade. Projects are graded **proportionally**, not equally. In other words, if you worked on a project for 6 class periods it is worth twice as much as a project that you worked on for 3 class periods. Your project will be graded based on completion of assignments, how well you understood and executed the given assignment, and overall development of your work. Project Grade is based on:

* **Quality**: Design and Craftsmanship. (60%)
* **Creative** implementation: Originality--Creative use of materials and approach. Concept, idea etc…(30%)
* **Effort**: Time spent--I grade heavily on how hard you work to complete the assignment. (10%)

**\*\*\*LATE PROJECTS**: ***LATE PROJECTS ARE PENALIZED BY ONE LETTER GRADE***. There will be multiple deadlines for each project, however the project is considered late if it is not turned in the on the day of the critique/grading day. If you will be absent on that day, have a friend turn in your project, otherwise it will be penalized.

**Test:** A vocabulary test will be given at the end of the semester. Topics and specifics as well as due dates will be discussed in class.

**Sketchbook:** You are required to maintain a sketchbook devoted entirely to this class. It must be brought with you to each class. It is an important component of the course and your grade. Let it serve as a place for you to think, pose questions, jot down ideas and sketches, describe technical processes, record notes, observations and feedback from your peers, and make sketches whether assigned or otherwise. You will be sharing these with me and they will comprise a portion of your grade.

**Class Final: The final will take place on Thursday 12/11 from 11a-1p. We will be conducting the final critique and you will be turning in your final project. No projects will be accepted after this time under any circumstances. In order to get credit for your projects you must turn them in by presenting them to me.**

**Participation/Discussion/Critique**

At the beginning and/or completion of each project we will have a group critique. The purpose of these discussions is to be curious and critical but not judgmental or dismissive. We will share points of view and ideas about what is working and what is not, both formally and conceptually, and we will do so in a civil and respectful manner. For some of you this may be your first experience with group critique but you are all encouraged and required to make your voice be heard. Your participation in the dialogue of the class is a valued and important part of your grade.

For the critique your project must be completed and glaze fired. You may remake any assignment if you wish to improve your grade on it as long as there is enough time left in the semester. Projects must be turned in by the FINAL day.

**Studio Safety**

Please respect your health and the health of others. Ask if you don’t know what something is or how to use it! Do not try to lift anything heavy by yourself and follow safety precautions- masks, goggles, and gloves when needed. You are responsible for keeping the common workplace clean. ALWAYS clean your wheel and the table which you put your projects on. A clean workspace makes the whole experience more pleasurable and rewarding for everyone.

Shoes must be worn at all times in the studio.

No eating in the studio.

No Headphones (speakers ok)-They can get caught in the clay as its spinning.

**Firing Policies**

Work will be fired ONLY if it is prepared properly!

This includes: Greenware must not be solid.

Work cannot be thicker than the girth of your pinkie.

Work cannot have any trapped air anywhere.

Bottom of glazed pieces must be wiped off including ½” from the bottom edge. You must fill out a slip to Glaze fire. Place work on the proper shelf.

YOU MUST CARVE WHICH TEMPERATURE YOUR CLAY IS ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PROJECT BEFORE IT FIRES.

**Studio Supplies**

The lab fee pays for many of the expendables used in the ceramics studio, such as glazes, stains, gas, electricity, and related equipment. The lab fee also includes 6 bags of clay for the semester. If you use more than that amount you will need to pay for the clay at $6/bag. Store your clay and supplies in shared lockers. Do not store clay and tools on your shelf. Do not share tools. You must purchase your own. If cost is an issue, let me know, but you must have your own tools.

You will need the following supplies by the second class:

* **Clay** (available from ceramics department)

**USC WHEEL THROWING TOOL KiIT** (from bookstore): This kit includes small sponge, a large sponge, wire tool, large ribbon tool, small ribbon, needle tool, wood rib, metal rib, serrated rib, wooden knife

* **Sketchbook** any kind of notebook dedicated to this course
* **Paint Brushes** (from bookstore) for slip and oxide and glaze application. Get a variety; thin for detail work, thick (2” wide) for surface coverage, soft sumi ink brushes work great and flat Hake brush. Both can be found in the bookstore.
* **Exacto Knife #1** (from bookstore)
* 1 gallon plastic bucket (water bucket-home depot)
* padlock for storage locker (shared)
* “clear” plastic sheeting to keep work in progress damp- dry cleaning plastic works best
* Cloth towel/Apron/Clay clothes

WEAR OLD CLOTHES OR USE AN APRON, YOU WILL GET DIRTY!

LABEL YOUR BUCKET AND TOOLS WITH YOUR INITIALS OR AN IDENTIFYING

MARK WITH A PERMANENT MARKER.

**Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus,* the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

**Roski admissions information ◄ (*Not required for MFA or PAS graduate courses*)**

For information and an application to become a Fine Arts **minor**, please visit <http://roski.usc.edu/minors/> Please contact the art advisors at 213-740-6260 with any questions about a minor in the Fine Arts. To become a Fine Arts **major**, please visit <http://roski.usc.edu/undergraduate_programs/> Please contact Penelope Jones at penelope@usc.edu or 213-740-9153 with any questions about majoring in FA. Applications are due October 1st and March 1st every year.”

***Instructor reserves the right to change this document as seen fit.***

***All work left at the end of the semester will be discarded.***