

ART 18B Beginning Wheel Throwing (37572) 4 units

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-12:15

Class and Lab Room A-51

De Anza College Winter 2025

Instructor: Gustavo Martinez

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Office Hours: MW 3:15-4:15, TTR 12:15-1:15 (open Lab)

Prerequisite: Arts 18A

Course Description: This course provides students with beginning techniques of throwing on the potter's wheel, along with forming, shaping, trimming, and decorating basic wheel-thrown pieces. Students will use the stoneware firing techniques and processes taught in Ceramics (ARTS 018A). Students are expected to challenge themselves within the parameters of each assignment, as well as to adopt a collaborative, engaged, and helpful attitude in the classroom. Basic studio maintenance and cooperative kiln loading/unloading is considered part of the class. At the end of the quarter, there will be one mandatory, in-person studio cleanup, final critique and potluck.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO)

Demonstrate competency in basic wheel throwing techniques including centering, opening, pulling, shaping and trimming.

Students will also demonstrate proper construction techniques when joining parts to their wheel thrown projects.

Demonstrate competency in designing and finishing their work with high fire glazes.

Course Objectives:

Demonstrate a working knowledge of the potter's wheel.

Develop skills in throwing on the potter's wheel.

Evaluate the process of wheel thrown ceramic work.

Evaluate the nature and importance of wheel thrown ceramic objects.

Complete a series of wheel thrown finished clay pieces.

This Course will be offered in person with face-to-face instruction:

This means all lectures, demonstrations and critiques will take place in person in the classroom. The studio on campus will be open for your use during our class time, and I will be in class to assist you.

There will be NO synchronous online instruction, zoom or use of Canvas. Email will be used to communicate course announcements and materials.

THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT FOR CLASS**Some useful reference books include:**

Mastering the Potter's Wheel by Ben Carter

Minneapolis: Quarto Publishing Group USA Inc. 2016

Periodicals: Ceramics Monthly, Ceramics: Art and Perception, Clay Times

Websites of Interest: Andy Ruble YouTube channel, cfileonline.org, artaxis.org, accessceramics.org, ceramicsnow.org, lindaarbuckle.com, ceramicartsdaily.org, ceramicartsnetwork.org, talesofaredclayrambler.com, ceramicsfieldguide.org

Criteria for Evaluation: A high degree of commitment to this class is expected. Persistence, imagination, and level of involvement in solving visual problems determine the quality of your work. Highest grades will be reserved for work that goes beyond minimal compliance with an assignment and show superior creativity, insight, and craftsmanship.

Please note: Incomplete grades are not given in this course.

Grading system is as follows for this course:

A+ = 100-98% A = 97-94% A- = 93-90%
B+ = 89-87% B = 86-83% B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77% C = 76-73% D+ = 69-67%
D = 66-63% D- = 62-60% F = below 59%

Grade Descriptions

A - Excellent technical mastery, Demonstrates excellent aesthetic decisions and presentation. A complete and concise execution of the assignment. Exhibiting outstanding creativity: going above and beyond the performance standards. Meets all deadlines and requirements

B - Demonstrates above average aesthetic decisions, and presentation. A concise execution of the assignment. Exhibits above average creativity and performance standards. Meets all requirements and deadlines.

C - Average technical mastery. Satisfies the basic requirements of the assignment. Satisfies the requirements for creativity and performance standards. Meets all deadlines.

D - Meets below average requirements of the assignments. Incomplete and late projects.

F - Unable to meet the basic requirements.

Grading

CLASS PROJECTS (4)

STUDIO CLEAN UP- Thr. 3/20- 10 Points

TOTAL 130 Points

**Mandatory FINAL (No Late Attendance) No show earns F grade
3/25 Tue.— 9:15 AM to 11:15 AM**

No Class or Open Lab on these dates:

January 20th Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - no classes, offices closed

FEBRUARY 14-17 Presidents' Holiday - no classes, offices closed

Tools:

You may borrow all tools from the studio. More tools can be purchased from Clay Planet, or online- [Pottery Tool kit](#)

To bring:

Small Hand Towel

Apron (optional)

Sketchbook (minimum width 8")

Small spray bottle

\$10 Bucket fee

Clay

We are using cone 6 or mid range clays and glaze. This quarter De Anza will be providing your first bag of clay (non Porcelain) for free. If you are prolific with your pottery making, you will be able to use recycled clay for free or purchase from De Anza. After your first clay bag from De Anza is \$20 and Porcelain is \$30

Need help? Student Success Center peer tutors can relate and are ready to help! Go to the [SSC homepage](#) and click on the yellow links for on-campus schedules and Zoom links.

- Individual Weekly or Drop-in Tutoring: Come with assignments or questions, or just drop by to see how tutoring works.
- Workshops, group tutoring and group study: Most people learn better with others...give it a try!
- Support for online learning: Speak with a friendly peer tutor or SSC staff member about motivation and organization strategies for online classes. We get it and are going through the same things, so let's support each other!
- Need after-hours or weekend tutoring? See the [Online Tutoring](#) page for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking(via MyPortal).

General Student Information Page with many resources that are available to De Anza Students:

<https://www.deanza.edu/students/>

We do have a food pantry, students can also get formula and diapers if they have any children:

<https://www.deanza.edu/resources/#food>

Here is the Mental Health Resource Page for De Anza:

<https://www.deanza.edu/resources/#psychological>

Classroom Etiquette

Respect yourself, other class members, visitors, and the space we share.

Clean up after yourself. This includes the worktables, floor, and shared counters and sink. Each class may also have an assigned weekly cleanup task for the classroom.

Arrive on time and stay for the scheduled class period. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so with as little disruption of the class as possible.

Come to class prepared, with any needed supplies and books, and with homework completed. I will do my best to notify you in advance of supplies you will need.

Please turn cell phones off during class. If you must stay in contact with work or family, turn off the cell phone ringer. Use your phone outside the classroom during break or after class.

During class work time, please keep personal conversation to a minimum, and use a quiet voice. You may listen to music devices with earphones, but be prepared to remove them to communicate with the instructor or to resume class discussions.

When anyone is addressing the class as a whole, please listen attentively. All in the room appreciate others not having personal conversations during lectures and discussions.

During critiques, please keep all comments respectful. Honest and constructive criticism, without voicing negative judgments, can be very useful to the artist.

It is not appropriate to bring children or pets to class.

Please consider that there are people with sensitivities to strong odors, such as fragrant colognes or oils. All would appreciate minimizing your use of strongly odorous substances.

No flip-flops, sandals, or open shoes, only close-toed shoes. There is loose glass in the studio.

No food or sugar drinks in the classroom.