

NCAL 407D: POTTER'S WHEEL II FOR OLDER ADULTS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Winter 2026
Units:	0
Hours:	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
Prerequisite:	NCAL 407C or ART 45B.
Degree & Credit Status:	Non-Degree-Applicable Non-Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	None
Grade Type:	Non-Credit Course (Receives no Grade)
Repeatability:	Unlimited Repeatability

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate intermediate level competency in wheel-throwing techniques including centering, opening, gathering, collaring, pulling, and shaping methods.
- Demonstrate intermediate level construction and joining techniques when applying handles, knobs, and sculptural additions to their wheel thrown projects.

Description

This noncredit course is targeted towards older adults. Provides intermediate-level instruction in clay processes covering intermediate wheel-throwing methods, glazing, decorating, and firing procedures. Explores technical problem solving and creative design.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate intermediate clay processes using the potter's wheel.
2. Manipulate thrown forms on and off the wheel.
3. Demonstrate competency in various glazing and finish firing techniques.
4. Grasp a basic understanding of material management from plastic wet to finished fired.
5. Solve technical construction problems that involve forming clay on the wheel.

Course Content

1. Altered wheel-thrown forms
 - a. Faceting
 - b. Darting
 - c. Low-relief carving
 - d. Paddling (squaring)
 - e. Surface pattern design, texture, and erosion techniques
2. Pouring vessels

- a. Teapots with hand-built, pulled, and thrown spouts
 - b. Pitchers with hand-built, thrown, and pulled handles
3. Lidded jars
 - a. Inset-lid (flange on the jar)
 - b. Flange-lid (flange on the lid)
 - c. Thrown and hand-built finials, knobs, and handles
 4. Vases
 - a. Historical recreation
 - b. Textured and stretched
 - c. Smooth/clean-line
 - d. Sectional (two or more pieces combined to create a larger form)
 - e. Coil-thrown, coil rim additions
 5. Bowls
 - a. Mixing bowl
 - b. Batter bowl
 - c. Soup bowl
 - d. Tea bowl (Winter and Summer design)
 - e. Shallow/flared bowl
 6. Glazing
 - a. Wax resist pattern techniques
 - b. Taping/masking
 - c. Glaze spraying/layering
 7. Firing
 - a. High fire reduction
 - b. Raku firing
 - c. Soda/vapor glazing
 - d. Saggar firing

Lab Content

Supervised studio practice in ceramic processes, related to assignments, skills, and materials presented in class. Students work independently, with individual guidance from an instructor on a need or request basis.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Potters' wheel, cone 10 clay, glaze materials, high fire gas kiln, and basic ceramic tool kit.
2. When taught via Foothill Global Access: ongoing access to computer with email software and capabilities; email address; JavaScript-enabled internet browsing software.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Evaluation is by critique of finished pieces based on principles presented in class. All pieces to be graded by instructor. Additional evaluation criteria:

Craftsmanship, attention to detail, and problem solving ability

On-time completion of the projects

Participation in class activities, discussions, and demonstrations

Museum report

Studio responsibilities and maintenance

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
Discussion
Laboratory
Demonstration

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

There is no required text for this course. The in-classroom library will provide a variety of historical, contemporary, and technical ceramic books for student use.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

Writing assignment: Depending on regional museum or gallery exhibitions applicable to course content, students will write a gallery report on a specific artwork in the show or a series of artworks of their choice. Students will write on form, surface, finishing techniques, perceived conceptual content, and their overall feeling about the chosen work(s).

Discipline(s)

Art