**WHEEL THROWING**

**Ms. Barhorst**

**11 Class Meetings**

**LAP 1 – LEARNING TO THROW  
Nesting Bowls**

**Rationale:** Throwing is a process of working clay by hand on a revolving wheel that is motor driven (in our case) at speeds up to 120 rotations per minute. Potters work a mass of clay under their hands, in tune with the speed of the wheel and the rhythms of their bodies, into a shape determined by their own sensitivity and skill. Throwing takes years of practice before you will be in complete control of the clay and the wheel. But even in the beginning you can respond to the clay, react to the motion of the wheel, and make something by hand. The pleasure of throwing will be enhanced as control and skill improve. **Don’t get frustrated!!!** You are learning a difficult skill. Be creative with your “mistakes”!

**Essential Questions:** How much value is placed in art being functional?

**Objectives of the LAP:**

1. **Students will learn wheel throwing terminology and descriptions of tools specific for the wheel.**
2. **Students will learn to center their own clay and create an opening in order to throw three bowls, one nesting into the next for a complete set.**
3. **Students will learn to trim the bottom of their pots in order to create a finished look.**
4. **Students will experiment with glazes and basic glaze decoration techniques.**

**Materials Needed for LAP:** All materials for this LAP will be supplied.

**Class Meetings:**

**Day 1** Go over syllabus and studio policies, label shelves, video on throwing cylinders

**Day 2** LAP review, wheel throwing specific terms and objects, video on throwing bowls

**Day 3** Step 1: Wedging Lesson, Throw your first pot!!!!, clean-up procedures

**Day 4** Step 2: Centering Lesson, clean-up procedures

**Day 5** Step 3: Creating the Opening Lesson, review on clean-up and set-up procedures

**Day 6** Trimming demo, work on small bowl

**Day 7** Work on medium bowl

**Day 8** Work on large bowl

**Day 9** Studio work day

**Day 10** LAST in class studio work day to build the greenware nesting bowls

**Day 11** Glaze nesting bowls

1. Search the internet (Google, Etsy, Pinterest) and find three pieces of wheel thrown ceramics that you find inspiring. Print each image on an 8.5 x 11 full sheet of paper in color. We will be hanging each of our images on the inspiration board to share. Each image is worth 5 points for a total of 15 points. One image MUST BE of a series of nesting bowls.

**(FA) INSPIRATIONAL IMAGES – DUE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Produce three nesting bowls that are centered, trimmed, and glazed. Each bowl should fit into the next larger one to create a series (small, medium, and large). In addition, you must complete a Ceramic Assignment Turn-In Sheet.

**(SA) Set of 3 NESTING BOWLS – DUE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(SA) CLASS CRITIQUE – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEEL THROWING VOCABULARY**

**CLAY**

**Wedging** – Kneading clay to expel air and make the mass homogeneous for hand processes

**Greenware** – Finished leather-hard or bone-dry clay pieces not yet fired; raw ware

**Leather-hard** – Cheese-hard stage which clay reaches before being bone-dry; stiff enough to support itself, but still can be altered, feels cool to the touch

**Bone-dry** – completely dry, feels room temperature to the touch

**Bisque** – Unglazed, but fired ware, usually accomplished in a low temperature firing prior to a glaze fire

**THROWING**

**Bat** – A round plastic slab used as a base for throwing or hand building clay

**Centering** – Pushing a mass of clay toward the center with the centrifugal motion of the potter’s wheel

**Throwing** – The process of forming pieces on a revolving potter’s wheel from solid lumps of clay into hollow forms

**Trimming** – using a tool to smooth, shape, and create a foot on a leather-hard thrown piece

**Foot** – Base or bottom of a piece

**Firing** – Heating in a kiln to the required temperature for clay or glaze

**Kiln** – Furnace for firing clay, slumping glass, or melting enamels

**GLAZING**

**Glaze** – Glassy melted coating developed by chemicals and heat on clay or metal surfaces. Glaze provides decoration and color, prevents some penetration of liquids or acids, and yields a matt or glossy, functional surface

**Dry Foot** – No glaze on the foot rim (paint with wax before glazing)

**Sgraffito** – A design scratched through one surface to another

**Trailing** – A method of decorating with engobe or glaze squeezed out of a bulb from a small orifice or poured from a narrow lip.

**Ceramics/Wheel Throwing**

Ceramic Assignment Turn-In Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Project Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Description of the Piece (Shape, Design, Creative Additions):

Names of Glazes Used: Sketch of the Piece:

**NESTING BOWLS - GRADING CRITERIA**

**Correct** /**50 points**

Did you throw the pot, trim the pot, and glaze the pot? Is the glaze even? Did you include a completed Ceramic Assignment Turn-In Sheet?

**Skill /30 points**

Were the pots evenly symmetrical and of a pleasing shape? Is the pot trimmed so the bottom corner of the pot is not thick and the shape of the pot is pleasing? Are the colors and the glaze choices nicely applied?

**Creative /20 points**

Do your pots look different than everyone else’s? Are your pots shaped in original forms? Is your choice of glaze combinations, glaze applications, and color choices original and interesting?

**TOTAL / 100 points**