

## Throwing and Finishing Pots Thursday Evenings, 7-10pm 12 weeks

Instructor: Rob Bilek

Though the course title remains the same, the course content is continually changing as student feedback and suggestions are absorbed into an evolving syllabus. This session will focus on making the class accessible and appropriate to students of varying skill levels, while providing the same relaxed environment and communal learning as before.

This course will progress in a way that both beginners and more advanced students will gain useful knowledge and skills towards creating expressive and unique works in clay. Class demonstrations will occur in two parts— a new basic skill will be introduced, as well as a more advanced technique based on that skill. A bowl demo may be accompanied by a colander or planter demo, or a lesson on lids might be supplemented with an introduction to [french butter dishes](#). Experienced students will gain a useful refresher and a new technique to try, while beginners will see where the skills they're learning can take them.

Students will be asked to complete a Student Project Proposal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. This is nothing more than an informal exercise in developing a direction for a body of work. Students will be asked to consider what their goals are for the next 12 weeks, and provide a few examples of the inspiration for those objectives. This will help to personalize the in-class guidance during the course, and enables students to actively steer their creativity in the direction they desire, instead of simply settling for what the material lets them do.

The majority of the class will focus on skills related to the potter's wheel. Additional techniques in slab building, plaster mold construction, and coil-building are available on an as-needed basis.

### **Class Schedule** *\*subject to change*

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#### **Week 1:**

- Introduction - Course Overview & Studio Policies
- Demo I: Centering and Throwing Cylinders
- Demo II: Throwing off-the-hump and stacked forms

#### **Week 2:**

- Demo I: Trimming
- Demo II: Trimming Alternatives
- Student Project Proposals

#### **Week 3:**

- Demo I: Using Bats, Throwing Plates and Bowls
- Demo II: Throwing Large Platters & Non-circular Forms
- Student Proposal Review

#### **Week 4:**

- Demo I: Glazing - Using Test Tiles & Record Keeping
- Demo II: Glazing Complex Forms, Multiple Glaze Firing

#### **Week 5:**

- Demo I: Basic Slab Construction
- Demo II: Building with Slab and Wheel-thrown Parts

#### **Week 6:**

- Demo I: Lids, Handles & Spouts – Making and Assembling
- Demo II: Compound & Non-Traditional Parts

#### **Week 7:**

- Project Proposal Check-In
- Demo I & II: Skill-Drill Techniques
- Demo Request Submissions

#### **Week 8:**

- Demos: Student Requests
- Working Studio

#### **Week 9:**

- Working Studio

#### **Week10:**

- Working Studio

#### **Week 11::**

- Potluck sign up
- Working Studio
- \*\**Last class to work wet*\*\*

#### **Week 12:**

- End of Session Potluck
- Demo I: Eating Good Food
- Demo II: Packing Left Overs
- Course Evaluation
- \*\**Finish Glazing all Bisque-ware*\*\*

Though firings will occur throughout the session, please allow a 1-3 weeks after the end of the course for remaining work to go through the firing process, Instructor can provide more details at the end of the session.