

ANTH 132TS ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

PRACTICA

Throughout the course you will have various hands-on exercises that will require participation in class and probably some work on your own. You will need to hand in the results of these projects on the following Monday (or Wednesday after Veteran's Day). One project may be late, and extensions are possible but carry a penalty unless excused. If you miss a practicum, you must make up the work even if excused.

Purpose: To become familiar with the methods that archaeologists use to analyze pottery through hands-on practice.

Week 1: *Identify basic production technologies from sherds: What physical features on your potsherd indicate how the pot was made?

Week 2: *Establish stylistic definitions for decoration from sherds: Take a few Anasazi potsherds and break down the decoration into elements, motifs, configurations and layouts.

Week 3: *Create a basic typology using sherds: Take a group of Anasazi sherds and organize them according to the type-variety system, producing a dendrogram typological chart.

Week 5: Illustration of ceramics. Illustrate at least two potsherds, one from Nubia and one Anasazi. Produce a final inked drawing and hand it in Week 8. Draw another sherd for extra credit.

Week 6: *Examination without magnification and with a 10x loop for fabric characterization, identification of methods of decoration and manufacture, and use-wear: describe two sherds using the handout. Describe another sherd for extra credit.

Week 7: *Finish Illustration (see Week 5).

Week 9: Mending pottery (with a modern flowerpot or equivalent): Break a pot and piece it back together again.

Week 10: *Ceramics Kiln: Decoration and Firing/Temper experiment results: Report on your experiment with different temper.

* Requires a written report.

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CERAMICS KILN MEETINGS

We will meet five times at the Ceramics Kiln for demonstrations and hands-on experience working with clay. Note that this will require a lab fee, but this will also allow you to attend open hours to continue working with clay if you like.

Purpose: Pottery is above all a tactile art. Actually working with clay will give you insights into how pottery was produced, and help you identify manufacturing techniques from potsherds.

Week 2: Ceramics Kiln: Working with clay, demonstrations.

Week 3: Ceramics Kiln: Throwing & decoration.

Week 4: Ceramics Kiln: Throwing & decoration, cont.

Week 8: Ceramics Kiln. Finishing and decoration, firing/temper experiment.

Week 10: *Ceramics Kiln: Decoration and Firing/Temper experiment results.

* Requires a written report (see above).

** EXTRA CREDIT: RAKU SESSION TBA AT THE CERAMICS KILN

REGION/CULTURE ORAL REPORTS

You should select a region and/or culture to be the focus of class discussion on the manufacture and use of ceramics. Find one or more books in the Library that include ceramic analysis for your area. Unless excused, you may miss only one assignment without penalty but must hand in a short written report on the same topic.

Purpose: To become familiar with the manner in which ceramic data are reported and analyzed in the archaeological literature.

Week 1: What manufacturing techniques were used in your own area?

Week 2: What kind of decoration appears in your own area?

Week 4: How well do sherds match existing typologies?

Week 7: What are the dynamics of production, distribution and exchange in your area?

Week 9: How does pottery reflect socio-political organization in your area?

Week 10: Firing/Temper experiment results.