



ANTHRO 132TS

CERAMIC ANALYSIS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

FALL 2007

MW 2-3:15, HSSB 1021 (NEW ROOM)

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Office Hours: Tue. & Wed. 3:30-4:30 or by appointment.

SYNOPSIS: This class will provide students with an overview of how ceramics are used in archaeology. It will demonstrate how studies of this important material category allow anthropologically oriented archaeologists to learn about the people behind the pots. Topics will include pottery manufacture, classification, stylistic and functional analysis, scientific analysis, chronology, production and exchange, ceramic consumption and socio-political organization.

GRADING: Write-ups of a series of hands-on practica count for 1/3 of the grade, participation in Ceramics Kiln meetings and discussions/short oral reports together count for another 1/3 of the grade. A comprehensive final exam will make up the final third of the grade. *Attendance is mandatory, absences should be excused.* Students will be allowed 1 unexcused absence, but further absences without a valid excuse (i.e.: doctor's note, family emergency) will be penalized. Regardless, the missed assignments should be made up (a written report substituted for an oral report). A study guide provided for the Final exam. Handouts will also be posted on the course web site.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Carla Sinopoli, *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics* (New York: Plenum, 1991); and Prudence M. Rice, *Pottery Analysis. A Sourcebook* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987).

Students will also have to purchase some supplies and equipment (see separate list), and there will be a lab fee for hands on experience in making and firing pottery at the West Campus Kiln. The class will meet there approximately four times, but you will also be able to take advantage of their drop in times if you want to make up a practicum or would just like to work with clay more. In addition, an extra-credit Raku session will be organized over a weekend TBA.

Course Web site = <http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/stsmith/courses/132TS.html>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

OCT. 1 & 3 INTRODUCTION, POTTERY MANUFACTURE

WEEK 1

Why are ceramics important in archaeology? Goals/uses of ceramic analysis.

Origins of pottery production

Ceramic ecology: raw materials, environment. Production sequence, decoration, drying, firing.

Practicum: Identify basic production technologies from sherds.

Oral Report: What manufacturing techniques were used in your own area?

Readings: Sinopoli pp. 1-42; Rice pp. 3-167.

OCT. 8 & 10 STYLE AND DECORATION

WEEK 2

Form and Function. Basic uses of shape categories. What is style? What do decorative motifs signify?

Practicum: Establish stylistic definitions for decoration from sherds.

Ceramics Kiln Meeting – working with clay, demonstrations.

Oral Report: What kind of decoration appears in your own area?

Readings: Sinopoli pp. 119-141; Rice pp. 244-273.

OCT. 15 & 17 CERAMIC TYPOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION

WEEK 3

Archaeological sampling and typologies. Purposes of classification. Types of typologies.

Practicum: Create a basic typology using sherds.

Ceramics Kiln Meeting – throwing and decoration.

Readings: Sinopoli pp. 43-68, 171-210; Rice pp. 274-308.

OCT. 22 & 24 CERAMICS AND CHRONOLOGY

WEEK 4

Relative and chronometric techniques. TL-Dating. Cross Dating, Sequence Dating, Stratigraphy, Seriation.

Ceramics Kiln Meeting – throwing and decoration cont.

Oral Report: How well do sherds match existing typologies?

Readings: Sinopoli pp. 74-82; Rice pp. 435-445.

OCT. 29 & 31 TECHNICAL ANALYSES

WEEK 5

Physical properties and function. Compositional analysis: Petrographic, XRF, INAA, etc.

Practicum: Illustration of ceramics.

Readings: Rice pp. 309-434 (skim, use as a reference for the practicum).

NOV. 5 & 7 RESIDUE ANALYSIS

WEEK 6

Fatty acids and GC/MS Analysis. Use-wear analysis.

Practicum: Examination without magnification and with a 10x loop for fabric characterization, identification of methods of decoration and manufacture, and use-wear.

Readings: Rice pp. 232-243.

NOV. 12 VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY

NOV. 14 PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE

WEEK 7

Direct and indirect archaeological evidence for organization of production.

Recognizing production facilities in the archaeological record. Sourcing ceramics, regional interaction and exchange. Identifying imports from Sherds.

Practicum: Finish Illustrations.

Oral Report: What are the dynamics of production, distribution and exchange in your area?

Readings: Sinopoli 69-73, 98-118; Rice pp. 168-205.

NOV. 19 TOPIC TBA

WEEK 8

Ceramics Kiln Meeting - Decoration and firing/temper experiment.

NOV. 21 NO MEETING - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

NOV. 14-18 CERAMIC CONSUMPTION AND SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

WEEK 9

Spatial patterning. Ceramic similarity/variability and social interaction.

Practicum: Mending pottery (with a modern Flowerpot).

Oral Report: How does ceramic consumption reflect socio-political organization in your area?

Readings: Sinopoli pp. 143-160.

NOV. 26 TO DEC. 2 CERAMICS AND THE HOUSEHOLD

WEEK 10

Use and activity distribution. Style and the individual. Households and communities.

Practicum: Firing/temper experiment results.

Oral Report: Firing/temper experiment results.

Readings: Sinopoli 83-97, 161-170; Rice 449-469.

FINAL EXAM TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 4-7:00, HSSB 1021