ANT384M Ceramic Analysis

Unique no.: 31795
Spring 2019
Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez
Wednesdays 2:00-5:00
Classroom: SAC 5.124

Office hours: Mondays and Fridays 11:00-12:00, and by appointment
Office: SAC 4.144

In this course we will learn basic techniques of ceramic analysis for archaeological research, and examine different aspects of ceramic production, exchange, use, and discard using a variety of archaeological and ethnographic sources. Ceramics make up the bulk of archaeological artifacts and are frequently used to make inferences about past economies, social relations, political life, and cultural practice. We will learn basic macroscopic analysis of ceramics and the theoretical background needed to bridge from artifacts to social life in the past.

The course will be a combination of seminar and laboratory analysis. Throughout the semester we will discuss a broad range of literature on ceramics, touching upon issues of technology, chemical characterization, decoration, and ethnoarchaeological research on contemporary ceramic producers. In the lab portion of the class we will learn basic ceramic characterization techniques, including surface description, analysis of the paste, ceramic typologies, photography, drawing, and others. Successful completion of the class will depend upon student participation in class discussion, completion of laboratory assignments, an annotated bibliography on a specific topic related to ceramic analysis, and a book review or a term paper.

Students with disabilities: Any student with disabilities should talk to me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements that will make for a better learning experience and that will allow the student to show his or her abilities fully.

Assignments:

Attendance and participation are required, as is, of course, completion of readings before class. In each class, we will discuss the readings and begin the laboratory assignments for the week. The difficulty of different lab assignments will vary each week, as will, of course, the amount of time necessary for completing the labs. Students will have access to their respective collections for the rest of the week. *Each student will be responsible for the ceramic collection assigned to him or her. Penalties for losing, stealing, damaging, or destroying sherds might include an F in the class and other academic penalties.*

There will be two main written assignments. The first will be an annotated bibliography of 8 to 10 sources on a specific methodological problem or technique in ceramic analysis. Students must discuss their topic with the instructor in office hours for

approval. Students will also present this assignment in class in a 15 minute presentation. The second written assignment will be a longer paper, 12 to 15 pages, and students will have a choice of the following topics:

A) An analysis of ceramics using primary data from their own excavations or field project.
B) A book review of an ethnoarchaeology monograph related to ceramics, or of an archaeology book on ceramic analysis, and a proposal of how to continue and expand the research.
C) A proposal for future empirical research with an archaeological ceramic collection.

All students must discuss their topics with the instructor, and all topics must be approved by the instructor. The discussion must be in person, and not over email. There can be no last minute changes. Other details of the assignments will be explained in class during the semester.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Participation:	20%
Lab assignments (8):	40%
Annotated bibliography:	15%
Final paper:	15%
In-class presentation:	10%

Readings:
Three books that I recommend purchasing for this class are:

Arnold, Dean E. 2018 *Maya Potters' Indigenous Knowledge: Cognition, Engagement, and Practice.* The University Press of Colorado, Boulder.
(appears in the syllabus as "Arnold, *Maya Potters*")

Rice, Prudence 2006 *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook.* University of Chicago Press.
(appears in the syllabus as "Rice, *Pottery Analysis*")

Orton, Clive, Paul Tyers, and Alan Vince 1993 *Pottery in Archaeology.* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge University Press.
(appears in the syllabus as "Orton et al., *Pottery in Archaeology*")

We will read most of Arnold, *Maya Potters,* so I recommend purchasing it for class. The library owns an electronic copy. Although we will only read a couple of chapters from Orton et al., and from Rice's *Pottery Analysis,* I recommend purchasing them as reference books. They will be handy as reference materials throughout the semester.

Most of the other readings are on reserve at the PCL. Readings that are marked as "On jstor" can be found on the web at www.jstor.org. If you have trouble finding the readings on jstor or elsewhere, let me know.

Schedule

Week 1 (January 23): Introduction to the class and lab
Lab assignment: Play-Doh factory

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 1. On reserve.
2. Orton et al. *Pottery in Archaeology*. Chapter 1. On reserve.

Week 2 (January 30): Raw materials
Lab assignments: Create a clay lab
Coiling

Readings:

1. Arnold, *Maya Potters*, Chapters 1 and 4.
2. Tite, M., V. Kilikoglou, and V. Vekinis. 2001. Strength, toughness and thermal shock resistance of ancient ceramics, and their influence on technical choice. *Archaeometry* 43:301-324. Available online.

Week 3 (February 6): Forming techniques
Lab assignment: Distribution of assigned collections, rules of the lab
Should we try to burnish?
Paste description and firing conditions
Readings:

1. Arnold, *Maya Potters*, Chapters 5 and 6.
2. Courty, M.-A., and V. Roux 1995. Identification of wheel throwing on the basis of ceramic surface features and microfabrics. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 22: 17-50. Available online.

Week 4 (February 13): Drying and firing
Lab assignment: Describing surface treatment
Designing a successful firing
Readings:

1. Arnold, *Maya Potters*, Chapter 7.
2. Gosselain, O. 1992. Bonfire of the enquiries: pottery firing temperature in archaeology: what for? *Journal of archaeological science* 19(3): 243-259. Available online.
3. Livingstone Smith. 2000. Bonfire II: The return of pottery firing temperatures. *Journal of archaeological science* 28: 991-1003. Available online.

Week 5 (February 20): Surface treatment

Lab assignment: Drawing OR pottery firing at my house

This week we will try to fire pottery in my yard, depending on the weather and other factors. If there is any indication of rain, or if there is a burn ban in the City of Austin, we will stay on campus and do it some other week.

Readings:

1. Pierce, Christopher 2005. "Reverse Engineering the Ceramic Cooking Pot: Cost and Performance Properties of Plain and Textured Vessels" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 12(2):117-157. Available online.
2. Longacre, William A. Longacre, Jingfeng Xia, and Tao Yang. 2000. "I Want to Buy a Black Pot" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 7(4):273-293. Available online.
3. Schiffer, M., J. Skibo, T. Boelke, M. Neupert, and M. Aronson. 1994. New perspectives on experimental archaeology: surface treatments and thermal response of the clay cooking pot. *American Antiquity* 59(2): 197-217. Available online.

Week 6 (February 27): Classification, typologies, and seriation

Lab assignment: typologies I, or pottery firing at my house

Readings:

1. Bortolini, Eugenio 2017 Typology and Classification. In The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis. Edited by Alice M. W. Hunt. Oxford, pp. 651-670. Book on reserve.
2. Orton, C., P. Tyers, and A. Vince. 1993. *Pottery in Archaeology*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press. Chapter 13. Book on reserve.
3. Rouse, I. 1960. The classification of artifacts in archaeology. *American Antiquity* 25(3): 313-323. Available online.

Week 7 (March 6): The organization of production and distribution

Lab assignment: typologies II

Readings:

1. Duistermaat, Kim 2017 The Organization of Pottery Production. In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis*. Edited by Alice M. W. Hunt. Oxford, pp. 114-147. Book on reserve.

Week 8 (March 13): Archaeological studies of production and distribution I: an introduction
Lab assignment: quantification
Readings:

1. Glascock, Michael D. 1994 Characterization of Archaeological Ceramics at MURR by Neutron Activation Analysis and Multivariate Statistics. In *Chemical Characterization of Ceramic Pastes in Archaeology*, edited by Hector Neff, pp. 11-26. Prehistory Press, Madison. Book on reserve.
2. Waksman, Yona 2017 Provenance Studies: Productions and Compositional Groups. In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis*. Edited by Alice M. W. Hunt. Oxford, pp. 148-161. Book on reserve.

SPRING BREAK!!! (March 20): Go wild.

Week 9 (March 27): Archaeological studies of production and distribution II: chemical characterization and petrography
Lab assignment: orifice diameter and use
Readings:

1. Golitko, Mark and Laure Dussubieux 2017 Inductively coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) and Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis*. Edited by Alice M. W. Hunt. Oxford, pp. 399-423. Book on reserve.
2. Braekmans, Dennis and Patrick Degryse 2017 Petrography: Optical Microscopy. In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis*. Edited by Alice M. W. Hunt. Oxford, pp. 233-265. Book on reserve.

Week 10 (April 3): Use and discard
Lab assignment: throwing pottery
Readings:

1. Braun, D. 1983. "Pots as tools" in *Archaeological hammers and theories*. Edited by J. Moore and A. Keene. New York: Academic Press, pp. 107-134. Book on reserve.
2. Tamara L. Bray 2003 Inka Pottery as Culinary Equipment: Food, Feasting, and Gender in Imperial State Design *Latin American Antiquity*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 3-28. Available online.

Week 11 (April 10): No class: SAA Meetings

Week 12 (April 17): On the cutting edge of the pot
Lab assignment: final chance for improving labs
Readings:

1. Roux, V., Bril, B. & Karasik, A. 2018 Weak Ties and Expertise: Crossing Technological Boundaries. *Journal of Archaeological Method Theory* 25: 1024-1050. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10816-018-9397-8
2. Topi, J., VanPool, C., Waller, K., & VanPool, T. (2018). The Economy of Specialized Ceramic Craft Production in the Casas Grandes Region. *Latin American Antiquity*, 29(1), 122-142. Available online.
3. Triadan, D., Gamboa Carrera, E., Blackman, M., & Bishop, R. (2018). Sourcing Chihuahuan Polychrome Ceramics: Assessing Medio Period Economic Organization. *Latin American Antiquity*, 29(1), 143-168. Available online.

Week 13 (April 24): Wild card.

Students will choose a topic and a few papers or a book related to ceramic analysis that they want to read. We will vote to reach an agreement. No anger allowed.

Week 14 (May 1st): Student presentations

Week 15 (May 8): Student presentations
*****Final paper due.*****