

ANT324L: Ceramic analysis.

Spring 2012

T, Th: 2:00-3:30, SAC 4.174

Unique No.: 31315

Instructor: Enrique Rodríguez

Instructor's office: SAC 4.144

Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-12:00

Email: see email rules below

Ceramics make up the bulk of archaeological artifacts and are frequently used to make inferences about past economies, social relations, political life, cultural practice, etc. 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. The course will be a combination of lectures, discussion, 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, quantification, drawing, and others.

This course will be useful to archaeology and art history majors, students who are going to field schools in the summer, and any student who wants to understand how to perform basic analysis of ceramic artifacts. Successful completion of the class will depend upon completion of laboratory assignments, tests, and other assignments in class.

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. Students with disabilities must contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided for them.

Other classroom rules:

NO laptop computers, newspapers, or calculators in class. Please turn off your cell phones. Texting is not allowed in class. No exceptions.

Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University rules.

Grading: Successful completion of this course will require learning from readings, lectures, slideshows, in-class exercises, and films. Topics covered in the readings and in the classroom will, at times, be entirely different. Students are expected to read before class and to participate in discussion and labs.

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester. Under normal circumstances, there will be no make-up exams. Talk to me as early as possible if you know you will not make it to an exam. If you miss an exam, please bring documentation of the reason why you missed it, and we can talk about scheduling an exam for you.

Students may discuss with me their exam grade individually. Once we have discussed the grade, I might agree to re-grade the exam. Re-grading does not guarantee a better grade. In fact, your grade might suffer during a re-grading if I find errors that I did not find on my first grading. Therefore, students are advised to make sure you have specific reasons why your grade should improve before showing up to discuss your grade.

Labs: There will be a total of 10 labs during the semester. All labs will take place during class. We will go over specific instructions for labs in class.

*****Important:** there will be no make-up labs. If you miss a lab, you missed it, and that is it. No exception, no excuses. Please contact me about missing labs *only if you miss more than two labs.****

When calculating your final grade, I will drop your two lowest lab grades. I strongly recommend that you do well in all of your labs, especially toward the beginning of the semester, in case you miss labs later in the semester for any reason outside of your control.

Pot shot: Students will be *required* to make a ceramic pot as part of this class. We will sign up for a “Pot shot” class at ClayWays Pottery Studio and Gallery, on 5442 Burnet Road, Austin. More information on this class will be provided soon, so we can all schedule ahead.

Final Grades will be calculated as follows

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|--------------|-----|
| 1. Exam 1: | 15% |
| 2. Exam 2: | 15% |
| 3. Exam 3: | 15% |
| 4. Pot shot: | 15% |
| 5. Labs: | 40% |

Email rules:

1. Email if you have a medical emergency that will prevent you from making it to an exam. Do not email if you are going to miss class.
2. Email if I ask you to email me.
3. Do not email to continue class discussion; please use office hours. Also, if you have a question about the material, please bring it up in class. Other students might benefit from it.
4. Do not use email to turn in assignments, to send attachments, or to ask about the exam. Please see me in office hours and bring your exam.
5. My email is: chanfle@mail.utexas.edu

Reading and exam schedule:

Please complete readings before class begins on Tuesday of each week. The main textbook for the class is:

Prudence Rice's *Pottery analysis: a sourcebook* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, any edition will be fine).

Other readings will be on reserve at the Perry Castañeda Library or available on line.

Week 1 (Jan.17-19): Introduction to the class

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 1.

Week 2 (Jan. 24-26): Raw materials

Lab 1: Identifying pottery fabrics

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chaps. 2, 3, 14.1

Week 3 (Jan. 31, Feb. 2): Firing

Lab 2: Describing firing conditions

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 4.

Week 4 (Feb. 7-9): Forming and firing pottery

Lab 3: Paste description, inclusions

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 5, 14.3

Week 5 (Feb. 14-16): EXAM 1

Exam 1 on February 16

Week 6 (Feb. 21-23): Decoration and surface treatment

Lab 4: Surface treatment

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 8, 11

Week 7 (Feb. 28, March 1): Classification, typologies, and seriation

Lab 5: Typologies

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis*, Chap. 9

Week 8 (March 6-8): Quantification of pottery

Readings:

1. Orton, C., P. Tyers, and A. Vince. 1993. *Pottery in Archaeology*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press. Chapter 13. ON RESERVE at the PCL.

SPRING BREAK—March 13-15

Week 9 (March 20-22): The uses of pottery

Lab 6: Quantification

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 7

Week 10 (March 27-29): EXAM 2

*****Exam 2 on March 29*****

Week 11 (April 3-5): The uses of pottery part 2: resistance and strength

Lab 7: Pottery forms and orifice diameter

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chap. 12

Week 12 (April 10-12): Provenience studies:

Lab 8: Drawing

Readings:

1. Rice *Pottery Analysis* Chapter 13

Week 13 (April 17-19): The organization of production

Lab 9: Pottery data sets

Readings:

1. Rice, *Pottery Analysis* Chap. 6

Week 14 (April 24-26):

Readings:

1. Sinopoli, Carla M. 1991 *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. Plenum. Chapters 5-7 (pp. 83-160). ON RESERVE at the PCL.

Week 15 (May 1st): Final review and exam

*****Final exam on May 3 for everyone. No exceptions.*****