

ANG 6122C ARCHAEOLOGICAL CERAMICS

Fall 2011

Section 7811

Thursday 1:55-4:55 PM (Periods 7-9)

Ustler Hall; Room 108

Instructor: Dr. Neill J. Wallis

Office: 130 Dickinson Hall

Phone: (352) 273-1920

email: nwallis@flmnh.ufl.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 to 12:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ceramics are one of the most common and durable artifacts on many archaeological sites throughout the world, and these qualities make them especially important for understanding past societies and cultures. Ceramics have helped archaeologists investigate diet, cuisine, chronology, technological change, social learning, social boundaries, kinship, trade and exchange, migration, demography, and many, many other topics. As such, the analysis of ceramics often forms a cornerstone of archaeological research programs.

Archaeological Ceramics is a graduate-level seminar in the analysis of prehistoric pottery. We review a wide variety of analytical approaches to pottery, but the emphasis is on technological and functional (i.e. “technofunctional”) approaches. The course is organized around a “life cycle” perspective that begins with the selection of clay and temper and follows the manufacture, use, discard, and recycling trajectories of alternative vessel technologies. We will focus on topics such as the mechanical performance of pastes, design specifications, vessel forms, use alteration, and assemblage formation processes. Ethnoarchaeological and experimental research provide the inferential bases about the decisions and behaviors tied to pottery,

The overall goal of the course is to familiarize you with pottery analysis so that you can conduct independent research in the technofunctional variation of archaeological ceramics. Accordingly, you are required to either have access to an assemblage of potsherds for analysis (ideally from a context that is relevant to your research interests), or to review a body of extracurricular literature (i.e. not class assigned) on technofunctional variation in pottery. Analysis will take a considerable amount of time, so you are strongly encouraged to begin working on an assemblage early in the semester. In this term project, we will employ a vessel unit of analysis and gather data on variables such as temper, wall thickness, vessel profile, orifice diameter, use alteration, and breakage patterns. The actual data you collect will be determined by the question(s) you pose. Our readings and class discussions will provide plenty of inspiration for the sorts of questions you might address, and will also form the basis for inferences that bridge the gap between your data and the human actions that created your assemblage. Your product should be a publication-quality paper, which means that you should present new data from your analysis of a ceramic assemblage or offer a novel view of an archaeological problem based on your synthesis of existing literature. Papers that merely summarize the literature and make no new contribution will not receive high scores.

REQUIRED TEXT

Rice, Prudence M. (1987) *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Additional readings as specified below. All are available on e-Learning within "Resources":

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

FORMAT AND GRADING

We meet every Thursday from 1:55-4:55 pm. The format of the course consists of a mixture of lecture, laboratory demonstrations, discussion, and an occasional film. You are required to be prepared to discuss all readings prior to each class meeting. Your grade for the course will be based on your performance on three lab quizzes (30 percent), a 20 page paper (60 percent), and class participation, including a 15-minute presentation to the class on your research project (10 percent).

ACCEPTANCE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

By remaining registered in this course, you agree to accept the course requirements and expectations as stated in this syllabus. These are in addition to other general University requirements and codes of conduct as stated in official documents. The following information is included to conform with University Policy: 1) Students seeking modification of due dates for assignments and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observance) should feel free to contact the Professor and request this modification. 2) Students seeking any classroom accommodation to facilitate their education must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Professor when requesting accommodation. 3) The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid. This refers to cheating and plagiarism. Students should consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for information.

SCHEDULE

AUGUST 25. Prospectus

Lab 1: What can we learn from pottery?

SEPTEMBER 1. Pottery in Prehistory

Readings

Rice Chapter 1

Rice, Prudence M.

1996a Recent Ceramic Analysis: 1. Function, Style, and Origins. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 4:133-163.

1996b Recent Ceramic Analysis: 2. Composition, Production, and Theory. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 4:165-202.

1999 On the Origins of Pottery. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 6:1-54.

SEPTEMBER 8. Pots to Sherds to Pots

Readings

Rice Chapter 9

Braun, David P.

1983 Pots as Tools. In *Archaeological Hammers and Theories*, edited by J. A. Moore and A. S. Keene, pp. 108-134. Academic Press, New York.

Crown, Patricia L.

2007 Life Histories of Pots and Potters: Situating the Individual in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 72:677-690.

Stark, Miriam

2003 Current Issues in Ceramic Ethnoarchaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 11(3):193-242

SEPTEMBER 15. Life Cycle Perspective

Lab 2: Quantifying Assemblages

Readings

Beck, Margaret

2006 Midden Ceramic Assemblage Formation: A Case Study from Kalinga, Philippines. *American Antiquity* 71:27-51.

DeBoer, Warren R.

1974 Ceramic Longevity and Archaeological Interpretation: An Example from the Upper Ucayali Peru. *American Antiquity* 39:335-343.

DeBoer, Warren R., and Donald Lathrap

1979 The Making and Breaking of Shipibo-Conibo Ceramics. In *Ethnoarchaeology: Implications of Ethnography for Archaeology*, edited by C. Kramer, pp. 102-138. Columbia University Press, New York.

Mills, Barbara J.

1989 Integrating Functional Analyses of Vessels and Sherds through Models of Ceramic Assemblage Formation. *World Archaeology* 21(1):133-147.

Sullivan, Alan P.

2008 Ethnoarchaeological and Archaeological Perspectives on Ceramic Vessels and Annual Accumulation Rates of Sherds. *American Antiquity* 73:121-135.

SEPTEMBER 22. Clay Selection and Preparation

***QUIZ 1**

Readings

Rice Chapters 2 and 3; Chapter 13: 375-382; Chapter 14: 406-413

Fowles, Severin W., Leah Minc, Samuel Duwe, and David V. Hill

2007 Clay, Conflict, and Village Aggregation: Compositional Analyses of Pre-Classic Pottery from Taos, New Mexico. *American Antiquity* 72:125-152.

Gosselain, Olivier P.

1994 Skimming Through Potter's Agendas: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Clay Selection Strategies in Cameroon. In *Society, Culture, and Technology in Africa*, edited by S. Terry Childs, pp. 99-107. *MASCA Research Papers in Science and Archaeology*, Supplement to Volume 11. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia.

Stark, Miriam T., Ronald L. Bishop., and Elizabeth Miksa

2000 Ceramic Technology and Social Boundaries: Cultural Practices in Kalinga Clay Selection and Use. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 7:295-331.

SEPTEMBER 29. Temper Selection and Forming Techniques

Lab 3: Identifying Aplastics

Readings

Rice chapter 5

Arnold, Dean E.

1985 *Ceramic Theory and Cultural Process*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. (Chap. 8 only)

Bronitsky, Gordon, and R. Hamer

1986 Experiments in Ceramic Technology: The Effects of Various Tempering Materials on Impact and Thermal-Shock Resistance. *American Antiquity* 51:89-101.

Rye, O. S.

1976 Keeping Your Temper Under Control. *Archaeology and Physical Anthropology in Oceania* 11(2):106-137.

Schiffer, Michael B., and James M. Skibo

1987 Theory and Experiment in the Study of Technological Change. *Current Anthropology* 28:595-622.

Skibo, James M., Michael B. Schiffer, and Kenneth C. Reid

1989 Organic-Tempered Pottery: An Experimental Study. *American Antiquity* 54:122-146.

OCTOBER 6. Finishing and Firing Techniques

***QUIZ 2**

Lab 4: Surface Treatments

Readings:

Rice chapters 4, 14.3

Gosselain, Olivier P.

1992 Bonfire of the Enquiries. Pottery Firing Temperatures in Archaeology: What For? *Journal of Archaeological Science* 19(3):243-259.

Longacre, William A., Jingfeng Xia, and Tao Yang

2000 I Want to Buy a Black Pot. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 7(4):273-293.

Pierce, Christopher

2005 Reverse Engineering the Ceramic Cooking Pot: Cost and Performance Properties of Plain and Textured Vessels. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 12:117-157.

Schiffer, Michael Brian, James M. Skibo, Tamara C. Boelke, Mark A. Neupert, and Meredith Aronson

1994 New Perspectives on Experimental Archaeology: Surface Treatments and Thermal Response of the Clay Cooking Pot. *American Antiquity* 59:197-217.

OCTOBER 13. Form and Function

Lab 5: Vessel Profiles

Readings:

Rice Chapters 7, 12.4

Blitz, John H.

1993 Big Pots for Big Shots: Feasting and Storage in a Mississippian Community. *American Antiquity* 58:80-95.

DeBoer, Warren R.

2001 The Big Drink: Feast and Forum in the Upper Amazon. In *Feasts: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on Food, Politics, and Power*, edited by M. Dietler and B. Hayden, pp. 215-239. Smithsonian Institution press, Washington D.C.

Frink, Lisa and Karen G. Harry

2008 The Beauty of "Ugly" Eskimo Cooking Pots. *American Antiquity* 73:103-120.

Hally, David J.

1986 The Identification of Vessel Function: A Case Study from Northwest Georgia. *American Antiquity* 51:267-295.

Linton, Ralph

1944 North American Cooking Pots. *American Antiquity* 9:369-380.

Mills, Barbara J.

1999 Ceramics and Social Contexts of Food Consumption in the Northern Southwest. In *Pottery and People: A Dynamic Interaction*, edited by James M. Skibo and Gary M. Feinman, pp. 99-114. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Reid, Kenneth C.

1989 A Materials Science Perspective on Hunter-Gatherer Pottery. In *Pottery Technology: Ideas and Approaches*, edited by G. Bronitsky, pp. 167-180. Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado.

OCTOBER 20. Use Alteration

***Quiz 3**

Lab 6: Reporting Results

Readings:

Rice Chapter 7.4

Arthur, John W.

2002 Pottery Use-Alteration as an Indicator of Socioeconomic Status: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of the Gamo of Ethiopia. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 9(4):331-355.

Hally, David J.

1983 Use Alteration of Pottery Surfaces: An Important Source of Evidence for the Identification of Vessel Function. *North American Archaeologist* 4:3-26.

Skibo, James M.

1992 *Pottery Function: A Use-Alteration Perspective*. Plenum, New York.

Skibo, James M., Tamara C. Butts, and Michael Brian Schiffer

1997 Ceramic Surface Treatment and Abrasion Resistance: An Experimental Study. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 24:311-317.

OCTOBER 27. Breaking, Discarding, Recycling

Readings:

Rice Chapter 7.4

Deal, Michael

1985 Household Pottery Disposal in the Maya Highlands: An Ethnoarchaeological Interpretation. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 4:243-291.

Deal, Michael, and Melissa B. Hagstrum

1994 Ceramic Reuse Behavior among the Maya and Wanka: Implications for Archaeology. In *Expanding*

Archaeology, edited by J. M. Skibo, W. H. Walker, and A. E. Neilsen, pp. 111-125. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Stanislawski, Michael B.

1978 If Pots Were Mortal. In *Explorations in Ethnoarchaeology*, edited by R. A. Gould, pp. 201-227. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

1987 What Good is a Broken Pot? An Experiment in Hopi-Tewa Ethnoarchaeology. *Southwestern Lore* 35(1):11-18.

Senior, Louise M.

1994 The Estimation of Prehistoric Values: Cracked Pot Ideas in Archaeology. In *Expanding Archaeology*, edited by J. M. Skibo, W. H. Walker, and A. E. Neilsen, pp. 92-110. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

NOVEMBER 3. NO CLASS—SEAC CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10. Ceramic Ecology and Provenance Studies

Readings:

Rice Chapter 10.

Glascok, M. D.

1992 Characterization of Archaeological Ceramics at MURR by Neutron Activation Analysis and Multivariate Statistics. In *Chemical Characterization of Ceramic Pastes in Archaeology*, edited by H. Neff, 11-26. Monographs in World Archaeology, No. 7, Madison, WI: Prehistory Press.

Neff, Hector and Frederick J. Bove

1999 Mapping Ceramic Compositional Variation and Prehistoric Interaction in Pacific Coastal Guatemala. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 26:1037–1051

Sharratt, Nicola, Mark Golitko, P. Ryan Williams, and Laure Dussubieux

2009 Ceramic Production During the Middle Horizon: Wari and Tiwanaku Clay Procurement in the Moquegua Valley, Peru. *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal* 24(6):792–820

Speakman, Robert J., Nicole C. Little, Darrell Creel, Myles R. Miller, and Javier G. Iñáñez.

In press. Sourcing Ceramics with Portable XRF Spectrometers? An Example from the American Southwest. *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Stoltman, James B.

1989 A Quantitative Approach to the Petrographic Analysis of Ceramic Thin Sections. *American Antiquity* 54:147-160.

1991 Ceramic Petrography as a Technique for Documenting Cultural Interaction: An Example from the Upper Mississippi Valley. *American Antiquity* 56(1):103-120.

NOVEMBER 17. Pottery, Society, Culture (STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS)

Readings:

Rice Chapters 6 and 8

Bowser, Brenda J.

2000 From Pottery to Politics: An Ethnoarchaeological Study of Political Factionalism, Ethnicity, and Domestic Pottery Style in the Ecuadorian Amazon. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 7:219-248.

Brown, James A.

1989 The Beginnings of Pottery as an Economic Process. In *What's New? A Closer Look at the Process of Innovation*, edited by S. E. van der Leeuw, pp. 203-224. Unwin Hyman, London.

Crown, Patricia L.

1999 Socialization in American Southwest Pottery Decoration. In *Pottery and People: A Dynamic Interaction*, edited by James M. Skibo and Gary M. Feinman, pp. 25-43. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Eerkens, Jelmer, Hector Neff, and Michael Glascock

2002 Ceramic Production among Small-Scale and Mobile Hunters and Gatherers: A Case Study from the Southwestern Great Basin. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 21:200-229.

Sassaman, Kenneth E., and Wictoria Rudolphi

2001 Communities of Practice in the Early Ceramic Traditions of the American Southeast. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 57:407-425.

Wallis, Neill J.

2011 The Swift Creek Gift: Vessel Exchange on the Atlantic Coast. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa. (Introduction only).

NOVEMBER 24. NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER 1. STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 8. PAPERS DUE