

Anthropology 328.2
Ceramics Practicum
Spring 2005

Lab Exercise 5

Petrographic Observation of Thin Sections

Examine the pottery thin-sections you've been provided with, using the petrographic microscope.

Your assignment is to briefly describe the composition of the specimens: How many different kinds of inclusions in the paste can you identify? (If you see things you don't recognize, ask me about them.)

For each specimen, list the major inclusions you see. For each kind of inclusion:

- * Describe the shape and relative size of the particles (for example, "squarish grains that range from very small to very large, mostly large").
- * Give an eyeball estimate of its relative abundance in the paste by volume (for example, "mineral X constitutes about 20% of the paste," or "mineral Y constitutes less than 1%"). Also remember to estimate the percentage of "undifferentiated matrix."

What can you say about the way each sherd is tempered?.

RULES FOR HANDLING THIN-SECTIONS AND MICROSCOPES:

1. Do not touch the thin-section's top surface with your fingers. Always handle the slide by the edges of the glass.
2. When looking through the microscope, always bring the lens upward to bring the field of view into focus.
3. When revolving the objectives to change the magnification, do not push or pull on the lenses themselves.