

Practicum in Ceramic Analysis

Anthropology 328.2

Spring 2005

Prof. Vincas Steponaitis (vin@unc.edu)

Office: Alumni 108

Hours: Tu 11-12, and by appointment (email or call 962-3846)

Course Description: This course focuses on ancient ceramic technologies and how they can be reconstructed archaeologically. Methods related to the study of ceramic technology are stressed.

Course Structure: There will be two meetings per week. In general, each topic will be covered with one or more lectures, followed by a lab designed to give you some practical experience. Sessions will be informal, hopefully with lots of verbal give-and-take. You will also select an independent project, on which you will present two oral reports and write a paper.

Course Requirements: In addition to the assigned readings, requirements include periodic lab assignments (30%), oral reports (10%), a term paper (30%), and a final exam (30%). Class participation is essential. It will be taken into account by reducing your grade 10% for each *unexcused* absence. If you must miss class, please discuss it with me in advance if possible. If this is not possible, then please contact me as soon as possible afterwards. In general, illness or unavoidable family obligations (like weddings) are the only valid reasons for an absence.

Course Web Site: The syllabus, lab exercises, and other relevant information will be posted on the course web site at <<http://rla.unc.edu/courses/Anth328/>>.

Honor Code: Students are expected to adhere to UNC's Honor Code <<http://honor.unc.edu/>>. All written work must be accompanied by a signed pledge attesting that the student has neither given nor received unauthorized aid in completing the assignment. (One can use the short form and simply write "Pledge" followed by a signature.)

Textbooks:

Sinopoli, Carla (1991). *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. Plenum.

Rye, Owen (1981). *Pottery Technology, Principles and Reconstruction*. Taraxacum.

Rice, Prudence (1987). *Pottery Analysis: a Sourcebook*. U. of Chicago Press. [recommended]

Tentative Schedule:

1/13	Introduction
1/18-2/24	Ceramic production: principles and reconstruction
3/1-3/8	Vessel function: analysis of shape and use-wear
3/10	Student projects: progress reports
	[Spring break]
3/22-3/24	Chemical and mineral characterization
3/29-4/14	Special topics (clay testing, use wear, residues, craft specialization, etc.)
4/19-4/26	Student projects: final reports
4/28	Wrap-up and course evaluation
5/3	Final exam (8 am)
5/5	Paper due

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Readings

1/16-2/22 CERAMIC PRODUCTION: PRINCIPLES AND RECONSTRUCTION

Rye, Owen (1981). *Pottery Technology: Principles and Reconstruction*. Washington DC: Taraxacum Press. [pp. 1-137]

Sinopoli, Carla M. (1991). *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. New York: Plenum Press. [pp. 1-42]

Optional: Carr 1990; DeBoer and Lathrap 1979; Franken 1969; Franken 1974: Introduction; Franken and Kalsbeek 1975; Gibson and Woods 1990: 1-56; Gilman 1967; Gosselain 1992; Hurley 1978; Lawrence 1972; Rice 1987: 1-167; Rodgers 1980; Rye 1977; Shepard 1956: 1-94, 147-224, 378-394; van der Leeuw 1976: Parts 2-4.

2/27-3/10 VESSEL FUNCTION: ANALYSIS OF SHAPE AND USE-WEAR

Shepard, Anna O. (1956). *Ceramics for the Archaeologist*. Publication 609. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, DC. [pp. 224-255]

Sinopoli, Carla M. (1991). *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. New York: Plenum Press. [pp. 83-98]

Rice, Prudence (1987). *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. [pp. 207-243 (skim 226-232), 288-306]

Plog, Stephen (1985). Estimating vessel orifice diameters: Measurement methods and measurement error. In *Decoding Prehistoric Ceramics*, edited by Ben A. Nelson, pp. 243-253. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

Egloff, B. J. (1973). A Method of Counting Ceramic Rim Sherds. *American Antiquity* 38(3):351-353.

Ericson, Jonathan E., and E. G. Stickel (1973). A proposed classification system for ceramics. *World Archaeology* 4(3):357-367.

Whallon, Robert (1969). Rim Diameter, Vessel Volume, and Economic Prehistory. *Michigan Academician* 11(2):89-98.

Turner, Christy G., and L. Lofgren (1966). Household size of prehistoric Western Pueblo Indians. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 22:117-132.

Henrickson, Elizabeth R., and M. McDonald (1983). Ceramic Form and Function: An Ethnographic Search and an Archeological Application. *American Anthropologist* 85(3):630-643.

Hally, David J. (1986). The Identification of Vessel Function: a Case Study from Northwest Georgia. *American Antiquity* 51(2): 267-295.

Griffiths, Dorothy M. (1978). Use Marks on Historic Ceramics: A Preliminary Study. *Historical Archaeology* 12:78-81.

Hally, David J. (1983b). Use Alteration of Pottery Vessel Surfaces: An Important Source of Evidence in the Identification of Vessel Function. *North American Archaeologist* 4(1):3-26.

David, Nicholas (1972). On the life span of pottery, type frequencies, and archaeological inference. *American Antiquity* 37(1):141-142.

DeBoer, Warren R. (1974). Ceramic longevity and archaeological interpretation: an example from the upper Ucayali, Peru. *American Antiquity* 39(2):335-343.

DeBoer, Warren R. (1985). Pots and pans do not speak, nor do they lie: The case for occasional reductionism, pp. 347-357. In *Decoding Prehistoric Ceramics*, edited by Ben A. Nelson. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

Optional: Braun 1980; Cackette et al. 1987; Duma 1972; Ericson and De Atley 1976; Hagstrum and Hidebrand 1990; Heron and Evershed 1993; Orton 1970, 1971; Senior and Birnie 1995; Skibo 1992.

3/22-3/24

CHEMICAL AND MINERAL CHARACTERIZATION

Rice, Prudence (1987). *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. [pp. 309-330, 371-404]

Steponaitis, Vincas P., M. James Blackman, and Hector Neff (1996). Large-Scale Patterns in the Chemical Composition of Mississippian Pottery. *American Antiquity* 61(3): 555-572.

Optional: Bishop et al. 1982; Braun 1982; Grim 1968; Goffer 1980; Harbottle 1982; Hutchinson 1974; Ipsfording 1974; Neff 1992; Peacock 1967, 1968, 1970, 1980; Shepard 1956: 138-168; Shepard 1965; Stoltman 1989, 1991; Tite 1972: 215-222, 224-230, 256-288, 295-300; Wood 1964.

3/29

FIELD TESTING OF CLAYS

McReynolds, Theresa E., and Joseph M. Herbert (2004). An Evaluation of the Utility of Carolina Clays for Woodland Potters. Paper presented at a joint meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Midwestern Archaeological Conference, St. Louis.

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/culturalresources/pdfs/McReynolds%20Herbert%20SEAC%2004.pdf>

4/5-4/7

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

Sinopoli, Carla M. (1991). *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. New York: Plenum Press. [pp. 83-160]

Rice, Prudence (1987). *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. [pp. 168-205]

Costin, Cathy (1991). Craft Specialization: Issues in Defining, Documenting, and Explaining the Organization of Production. In *Archaeological Method and Theory*, vol. 3, M. Schiffer, ed., pp. 1-56. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Benco, Nancy L. (1989a). Diversity in Ceramic Production: A Case Study from Medieval North Africa. In *Medieval Archaeology*, C. L. Redman, ed., pp. 97-118. Binghamton, NY: Center for Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies.

Roux, Valentine (2003). Ceramic Standardization and Intensity of Production: Quantifying Degrees of Specialization. *American Antiquity* 68(4):768-782.

Welch, Paul D., and C. Margaret Scarry (1995). Status Related Variation in Foodways in the Moundville Chiefdom. *American Antiquity* 60: 397-419.

Optional: Feinman, Upham, and Lightfoot 1981; Feinman 1985 (in Nelson 1985); Arnold 1985; Benco 1988; D'Altroy and Bishop 1990; Blitz 1993; Rice 1981; Stark 1985 (in Nelson 1985).

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Reber, Eleanora A., and Richard P. Evershed (2004b). Identification of Maize in Absorbed organic Residues: A Cautionary Tale. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 31: 399-410.

Braun, David P. (1983). Pots as Tools. In *Archaeological Hammers and Theories*, J. A. Moore and A.S. Keene, eds., pp. 107-134. New York: Academic Press.

Steponaitis, Vincas P. (1984). Technological Studies of Prehistoric Pottery from Alabama: Physical Properties and Vessel Function. In *The Many Dimensions of Pottery*, S. van der Leeuw and A. Pritchard, eds., pp. 81-127. Amsterdam.

Loney, Helen L. (2000). Society and Technological Control: A Critical Review of Models of Technological Change in Ceramic Studies. *American Antiquity* 65(4): 646-668.