

ANG 6122C Archaeological Ceramics

Spring 2018

Section 2A66

Thursday 10:40-1:40 PM (Periods 4-6)

Turlington B357

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REQUIRED TEXT

Rice, Prudence M. (2015) *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. Second edition. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Additional readings as specified below

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sherds of pottery are among the most common objects recovered from archaeological sites worldwide. Among societies that made and used pottery, sherds are ubiquitous partly because they are durable relative to organic media like baskets and cloth, but also because the vessels from which sherds were derived met a variety of needs, including cooking, storing, and serving both solid and liquid-based foods. The remains of pottery technology is also a means by which archaeologists make inferences about subsistence, chronology, economic organization, social identity, kinship, exchange, ritual, migration, and more.

Archaeological Ceramics is a graduate-level practicum in the analysis of pottery in traditional, nonwestern societies. The title for this course is a bit of misnomer because pottery among most "traditional" societies was actually earthenware or subceramics; true ceramics require kiln firing, which was innovated under the conditions of mass production in early state-level societies. In this course we review a variety of analytical approaches to pottery, but the emphasis is on technological and functional approaches. Structuring the course is 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. Our inferential bases about the decisions and behaviors involving pottery come primarily from ethnoarchaeological and experimental research. We pay particular attention to the mechanical performance of alternative ceramic pastes, design specifications, and vessel forms. We also delve into the behavioral insights of use alteration and assemblage formation processes.

FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS

The ultimate goal of this course is to familiarize you with pottery analysis so that you can conduct independent research on technofunctional variation in archaeological ceramics. To this end, you are required to either have an assemblage of pot sherds for analysis, or to review a body of extracurricular literature on technofunctional variation in pottery. In bridging ethnoarchaeological and experiment findings to archaeological ceramics we employ a vessel unit of analysis. After determining the minimum number of vessels, you will gather data on variables such as temper, wall thickness, vessel profile, orifice diameter, use alteration, and breakage patterns. The actual data you collect are determined by the question(s) you pose. Our readings from the text and supplemental articles will provide inspiration for the sorts of questions you might address, as well as the inferential basis for linking the mute sherds in your assemblage to human decisions and actions. The result of your effort is an original research paper of publishable quality, roughly 20-25 double-spaced pages long. Throughout the semester we will review guidelines for researching and writing your paper.

We meet every Thursday from 10:40 am to 1:40 pm. Except for our last class, I will present material, through lecture and demonstration, at each of these meetings. The first few weeks will be full presentations; thereafter we split our time among lectures, laboratory demonstrations, discussion, and an occasional video. You must be prepared to discuss all assigned readings for each class. Five lab exercises provide explicit insight on quantifying and characterizing archaeological pottery. Three quizzes gauge your uptake of lab exercises, readings, and lectures.

I assess your performance in this course on grades from the three lab quizzes (10 percent each or 30 percent total), your research paper (60 percent), and class participation, including a 15-minute presentation to the class on your research project (10 percent).

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan. 11	Prospectus	none
Jan. 18	Origins and History of Pottery	Rice 2015, Chap. 1; Rice 1999; Brown 1989; Garraty 2011
Jan. 25	Pots to Sherds to Pots	Rice 2015, Chaps. 11-12; Braun 1983; Crown 2007
Feb. 1	Life Cycle Perspective <i>Lab 1: Quantifying Assemblages</i>	Rice 2015, Chap. 15; Arthur 2009; DeBoer and Lathrap 1979; Sullivan 2008; Skibo 2013, Chap. 1
Feb. 8	Clay Selection and Preparation <i>Quiz 1</i>	Rice 2015, Part 2 (skim Chaps. 2-3, 5-6); Gosselain 1994; Stark et al. 2000
Feb. 15	Temper <i>Lab 2: Identifying Aplastics</i>	Rice 2015, Chap. 4; Rye 1976; Schiffer and Skibo 1987; Skibo et al. 1989; Bronitsky and Hamer 1986
Feb. 22	Forming (and Classifying) Vessels <i>Quiz 2</i>	Rice 2015, Chap. 8, 13; Arnold 1985, Chap. 8; Blitz 2015
Mar. 1	Finishing and Firing <i>Lab 3: Surface Treatments</i>	Rice 2015, Chaps. 9-10; Gosselain 1992; Schiffer et al. 1994; Pierce 2005;
Mar. 8	Spring Break	
Mar. 15	Form and Function <i>Quiz 3</i> <i>Lab 4: Vessel Profiles</i>	Rice 2015, Chaps. 18-19, 25; Linton 1944; Skibo 2013, Chap. 2; Frink and Harry 2008; Reid 1989; Hally 1986
Mar. 22	Use Alteration <i>Lab 5: Reporting Results</i>	Skibo 2013, Chaps. 3-4; Arthur 2002; Hally 1983
Mar. 29	Sourcing Pots on the Move	Rice 2015, Chap. 17, 20; Wallis et al. 2016; Stoltman et al. 2005; Neff et al. 2006
Apr. 5	Breaking, Discarding, Recycling	Stanislawski 1978, 1987; Deal 1985; Deal and Hagstrum 1995; Senior 1995
Apr. 12	Production, Specialization, Society SAA Meeting; KES out	Rice 2015, Chaps. 21-22, 24; Sassaman and Rudolphi 2001; Bowser 2000; Crown 2016; Mills et al. 2013
Apr. 19	Student Presentations	

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Arnold, Dean E.

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

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* 9:331-355.

- 2009 Understanding Household Population through Ceramic Assemblage Formation: Ceramic Ethnoarchaeology among the Gamo of Southwestern Ethiopia. *American Antiquity* 74:31-48.

Blitz, John H.

- 2015 Skeuomorphs, Pottery, and Technological Change. *American Anthropologist* 117:665-678.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

- 2016 Secrecy, Production Rights, and Practice within Communities of Potters in the Prehispanic American Southwest. In *Knowledge in Motion: Constellations of Learning across Time and Place*, edited by A. P. Roddick and A. B. Stahl, pp. 67-96. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

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

- 1995 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.

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.

Frink, Lisa and Karen G. Harry

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

- Garraty, Christopher P.
 2011 The Origins of Pottery as a Practical Domestic Technology: Evidence from the Middle Queen Creek Area, Arizona. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 30:220-234.
- Gosselain, Olivier P.
 1992 Bonfire of the Enquiries. Pottery Firing Temperatures in Archaeology: What For? *Journal of Archaeological Science* 19(3):243-259.
 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.
- 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.
 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., Jeffery J. Clark, Matthew A. Peeples, W. R. Haas, Jr., John M. Roberts, Jr., J. Brett Hill, Deborah L. Huntley, Lewis Borck, Ronald L. Breiger, Aaron Clauset, and M. Steven Shackley
 2013 Transformation of Social Networks in the Late pre-Hispanic US Southwest. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110:5785-5790.
- Neff, Hector, Jeffrey Blomster, Michael D. Glascock, Ronald L. Bishop, M. James Blackman, Michael D. Coe, George L. Cowgill, Ann Cyphers, Richard A. Diehl, Stephen Houston, Arthur A. Joyce, Carl P. Lipo and Marcus Winter
 2006 Smokescreens in the Provenance Investigation of Early Formative Mesoamerican Ceramics. *Latin American Antiquity* 17:104-118.
- 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.
- 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.
- Rice, Prudence M.
 1999 On the Origins of Pottery. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 6:1-54.
- Rye, O. S.
 1976 Keeping Your Temper under Control. *Archaeology and Physical Anthropology in Oceania* 11(2):106-137.
- 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.
- Schiffer, Michael B., and James M. Skibo
 1987 Theory and Experiment in the Study of Technological Change. *Current Anthropology* 28:595-622.
- 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.
- Senior, Louise M.
 1995 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.
- Skibo, James M.
 2013 *Understanding Pottery Function*. Springer, New York.
- Skibo, James M., Michael B. Schiffer, and Kenneth C. Reid
 1989 Organic-Tempered Pottery: An Experimental Study. *American Antiquity* 54:122-146.
- 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.
- 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.
- Stoltman, James B., Joyce Marcus, Kent V. Flannery, James H. Burton, and Robert G. Moyle
 2005 Petrographic Evidence Shows That Pottery Exchange between the Olmec and Their Neighbors Was Two Way. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 102:11213-11218.
- Sullivan, Alan P.
 2008 Ethnoarchaeological and Archaeological Perspectives on Ceramic Vessels and Annual Accumulation Rates of Sherds. *American Antiquity* 73:121-135.
- Wallis, Neill J., T. Pluckhahn, and M. Glascock
 2016 Sourcing Interaction Networks of the American Southeast: Neutron Activation Analysis of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped Pottery. *American Antiquity* 81:717-732.