DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 3235 WAO Ceramic Analysis

Winter 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Timothy Kaiser
Email: tkaiser@lakeheadu.ca
Office: OA 3008
Office Hours: M 10-11 am, or by appointment
Phone Number: 705.330.4008 ext 2611
Supplementary Course Website: Desire2Learn

DELIVERY MODE/LOCATION

Lecture: OA 2014 Wednesday & Friday 10 – 11:30 am
Lab: OA 3001 Tuesday 2:30 – 5:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The analysis of ceramics, combining archaeology and ethnology. From prehistory to the present, people have used clay to form pottery and other objects. How can ceramic evidence permit inferences about societies past and present? Topics include the chemistry and mineralogy of clays; physical properties of ceramics; techniques of pottery production; organization of ceramic data; analysis of pottery style, form and function; instrumental analysis; and frameworks for interpreting the societies, politics, and economies of pottery makers and users. Perspectives from archaeology and ethnology are joined with the development of hands-on laboratory skill including drawing pottery, analyzing fabric, working with a ceramics database, and creating typologies.

SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE DESCRIPTION

Archaeologists analyze and interpret ceramics, mostly pottery vessels, in order to learn about the past. Ceramics can be used to create a timeline – a chronology of events and processes. Pottery is often capable of elucidating the interactions between different areas and people. Ceramics sometimes indicate what activities were carried out at particular sites. This course focuses on how ceramics and information about ceramics may be recovered and how they might be interpreted.

At first, we will learn about pottery technology. We begin with the physical and chemical characteristics of clay and temper and then go on to a consideration of how useful ceramic vessels are created from clay. Then we will learn how archaeologists have used pots and potsherds to answer questions about the past. Finally, we will consider case studies presented by students. Presentations will summarize the manufacture and use of particular types of ceramics in some chosen geographic area of interest.

During the semester you will be introduced to the tasks associated with ceramic analysis: illustration, fabric analysis, working with a ceramics database, and creating typologies and seriations. This will be practical, hands-on work.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of this class you will be able to: (i) explain the physical processes of pottery production, (ii) explain the relevance of the societal contexts within which the production may have taken place, (iii) critically evaluate published work relating to archaeological ceramics, (iv) evaluate the relevance and applicability of various methods of ceramic analysis; (v) employ some archaeological techniques for the analysis and interpretation of ceramic materials; and (vi) devise an effective research plan for the analysis of archaeological ceramic material.
REQUIRED MATERIALS


ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Recommended:

Collett, Lesley
2008 An Introduction to Drawing Archaeological Pottery. IfA Professional Practice Paper 10. Reading: University of Reading Institute for Archaeologists.

Orton, Clive, Paul Tyers, and Alan Vince
1993 *Pottery in Archaeology.* Cambridge

Skibo, James and Gary Feinman
1998 *Pottery and People.* Utah

Sinopoli, Carla
1991 *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics.* Springer.

Shepard, Anna
1982 *Ceramics for the Archaeologist* The full-text PDF is available for free online at http://www.carnegieinstitution.org/publications_online/Ceramics_Arch.pdf

Rice, Prudence
EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Individual/Group</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labs x 8</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>See below</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Last three classes of the term</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Last class</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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**Participation:**
Learning demands your active participation – it is not something that lends itself to osmosis. You are expected not only to show up for classes and labs but also to be engaged with the subject matter. Aspects that will be considered for grading include how often you show up, how often you speak up, and how often your contribution(s) advance(s) the conversation, whether in class or in the lab.

**Assignments:**
The presentation and the research paper will be on the same topic: a summary of what is known about a particular ceramic tradition, i.e., the manufacture and use of (a) particular type(s) of pottery or other fired-clay material(s) in some chosen geographic area of interest in the ethnographic present or the archaeological past. Students will conduct independent bibliographic research which they will then synthesize as an in-class presentation and as a 15-page paper. Detailed instructions will follow.

**Laboratory exercises:**
There will be 8 formal labs; lab demonstrations may occasionally be a part of lectures, however. Each lab will have a hands-on component and each lab will have a written component. Due dates will vary; see specific instructions. WHMIS training and certification is required by the University for personnel and students using laboratory facilities. See D2L.

**GRADING SCHEME:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 to 59%</td>
<td>Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>40 to 49%</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1 to 39%</td>
<td>Failure resulting from academic dishonesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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ANTH 3235 Ceramic Analysis
## COURSE SCHEDULE
### ANTH 3235 WAO Ceramic Analysis (Winter 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Useful Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>No Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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| 2    | Jan 12 | Properties of ceramics and their analysis | Rice Ch 1, 12  
Orton, C., *et al.* Chapters 1 and 2  
Laboratory Section: Micaceous Pottery Manufacture (Building) |
| Jan 16 | LAB 1: Broken pottery | |
| Jan 17 | Ceramic materials | Rice, Ch. 2  
C. Orton, *et al.* Chapter 5  
| Jan 19 | Physical properties of clay minerals and inclusions | Rice, Ch 3-7  


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>Jan 23</th>
<th>LAB 2 Drawing pottery</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 24, 26</td>
<td>Making Pottery</td>
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<td>• Rice, Ch. 8-11</td>
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<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>Jan 30</th>
<th>LAB 3 Forming pots, first forays</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Ceramic styles, designs and decorations</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Rice, Ch. 24</td>
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5 Feb 6 LAB 4 Making pastes

Feb 7, 9 Analysis of pottery from archaeological contexts

- Rice, Ch 14, 17-19, 23


Feb 13

In Lab Lecture:
Sampling

- Rice, Ch 15


Nicholas, D. (1972) On the Lifespan of Pottery, Type Frequencies, and Archaeological Inference, American Antiquity 37:141-142


Feb 14

Pottery form, pottery function

- Rice, Ch 25


**Feb 19-23**

**Reading Week**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Feb 27</th>
<th>LAB 5 Macroscopic and microscopic characterization; Drawing pottery 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Feb 28, Mar 2</td>
<td>Classification and chronology</td>
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<td>• Rice, Ch 13</td>
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<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Mar 6</th>
<th>LAB 6 Designing a coding system and analysis of a sample of Neolithic pot sherds, part 1</th>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Mar 7, 9</td>
<td>Ceramic ecology</td>
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**LAB 7 Designing a coding system and analysis of a sample of Neolithic pot sherds, part 2**

**Mar 14, 16**

**Ceramic economy**

- Rice, Ch 20-22


10 Mar 20 LAB 8: Seriation

Mar 21, 23 Ceramics and societies


11 Mar 27 No Lab

Mar 28 Student Presentations

12 Apr 3 No Lab
COURSE POLICIES

1. Since we will be working in a science laboratory, all students must complete WHMIS training before lab work may begin. See Desire2Learn.
2. To aid your review, Powerpoint slides from lectures and other course material will be posted on Desire2Learn at regular intervals.
3. It is your responsibility to attend classes and to do the readings. Regular absences will seriously affect your grade in this course.
4. Labs and the research paper should be submitted as hardcopies.
5. In case of un-excused lateness, assignments will have 2% deducted from the mark for every day of lateness. No assignment that is more than ten days late will be accepted.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Student Affairs (Orillia) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.
(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:
1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer’s idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are
incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

A listing of University Regulations can be found at:
http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsintro.html

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at:
http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60