

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CERAMICS

ARKY 471 - Winter 2015

Tues/Thurs 9:30, ES 859

Prof. Geoffrey McCafferty

Office ES 858, 220-6364

Email: mccaffer@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Wed 1-3, Th 11-12

In complex societies, ceramic fragments (sherds) often comprise the most abundant artifact class preserved in the archaeological record. Transformed by heat into a myriad of forms, pottery offers remarkable potential for the interpretation of past cultures. This class will present students with both theoretical and practical examples of how archaeologists analyse and interpret archaeological ceramics. Lectures will cover the physical properties of pottery, techniques of production, and social aspects of ceramic consumption. Lab exercises will augment these aspects with hands-on experience employing ceramic collections from Mexico and Nicaragua. Guest lectures from faculty and graduate students engaged in on-going research will provide supplemental case studies. As a final project, students may use materials from the U of C collections, or conduct independent research on a topic of their choice (after consulting the professor).

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

As this course blends academic study of the literature with experiential learning, grades will be based on examinations, practical quizzes, and a research paper, as follows: midterm exam (20 pts), lab projects (6 @ 5 pts each totalling 30 pts), and final exam (20 pts), and research paper (30 pts). Exams will be take-home essays, based on lecture and readings.

Midterm exam	20%	Due: Feb 27, 2015
Lab Projects	30%	Due dates: TBA
Research Paper	30%	Due: April 29, 2015
Final exam	20%	Due: April 25, 2015

Individual grades will be based on total points received:

97-100 = A+	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
93-96.9 = A	83-86.9 = B	73-76.9 = C	60-66.9 = D
90-92.9 = A-	80-82.9 = B-	70-72.9 = C-	Less than 60 points = F

RESEARCH PAPERS

A short research paper (7 -10 pages) is required for the class. Paper topics may be based on materials in the U of C collections or on themes selected by the student; topics should be cleared with the professor in advance. Referencing format must follow that of the journal *American Antiquity*.

IMPORTANT: Plagiarism, defined as copying more than 5 words in succession or using information without adequate citation (i.e., reference and page number) of the original source, is a violation of academic integrity. Research papers that plagiarize will receive a 0 score, and the student will be turned in to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts (see page 49 of the U of Calgary Calendar).

READINGS AND TEXTS

Pottery in Archaeology (Second Edition), by Clive Orton and Michael Hughes. Cambridge University Press, New York, NY. 2013

Approaches The Ceramics of Postclassic Cholula, Mexico, by Geoffrey G. McCafferty. Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA. 2001

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1 (1/12-16) - Introduction and History of Pottery Studies

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chap. 1

Week 2 (1/19-23) - Potential and Practicalities

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 2-4

Week 3 (1/26-30) - Fabric Analysis

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 5 and 13

Week 4 (2/2-6) - Form and Decoration

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 6-7

Week 5 (2/9-13) - Introduction to Cholula Ceramic Analysis

Readings: McCafferty 2001, chaps. 1-3; Orton and Hughes, chaps. 8-9

Week 6 (2/16-20) - READING WEEK - NO CLASSES

Week 7 (2/23-27) - Cholula Ceramic Analysis

Readings: McCafferty 2001, chaps. 4-6

MIDTERM EXAM DUE

Week 8 (3/2-6) - Making Pottery

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 10-11

Week 9 (3/9-13) - Production and Distribution

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 12 and 17

Week 10 (16-20) - Form and Function

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 14 and 18

Week 11 (3/23-27) - Hacienda Plain revisited problem

Readings: Hacienda Plain revisited

Week 12 (3/30-4/3) - Quantification and Chronology

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 15-16

Week 13 (4/4-8) - Petristan problem

Readings: Petristan

Week 14 (4/11-15) - Assemblages, Sites, and Future Directions

Readings: Orton and Hughes, chaps. 19 and Conclusion

Additional Information

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their university careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their university courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students. Please refer to the following web link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

USRI

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference, please participate!

Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Plagiarism:

In written work, when a piece of information or a quote is used from another person (author, filmmaker, guest speaker), due credit is required. Failure to attribute the source of ideas and to pass them off as one's own is called plagiarism and is grounds for sanctions as imposed by the university. Please review the Anthropology Department guidelines for Intellectual Honesty here: <http://anth.ucalgary.ca/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>.