

# Anthropology 410

## Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology

Spring

CRN 34987 University of Oregon

Instructor: Professor William S. Ayres  
Office: 273 Condon Hall  
Class: Room 203 Condon Hall, UH 16:00-17:50; plus project laboratory hours  
Office Hrs: MW10:00-11:00; plus in lab.  
Texts: Sinopoli, C., 1999 *Approaches to Archaeological Ceramics*. New York: Plenum.  
Reading from: Skibo, J., and G. Feinman, *Pottery and People*. Salt Lake: University of Utah Press. 1999  
Packet, Materials on Reserve, Main Library; lab volumes

### Course Content:

This course reviews methods of ceramic analysis and interpretation used in archaeology. Archaeological methods and theory are examined in the context of prehistoric and historic ceramic data drawn from various world areas. We will use specific pottery collections and case studies of ceramic analysis from both prehistoric and contemporary situations. Pottery manufacturing steps and procedures are of considerable interest to the analyst. Significant archaeological questions about ceramic use and analysis revolve around the determination of pottery use by past peoples from technical aspects of pottery, use-wear characteristics, and context.

Ceramic evidence from sites offers many opportunities to explore technological and social behavior of earlier peoples, but recording and managing this information is a problem for the archaeologist because of the large numbers of ceramic artifacts and potsherds typically recovered. The course objectives are to allow students to develop a knowledge of the study of prehistoric pottery as a part of anthropology and to gain skills in basic laboratory analysis. Class sessions will be devoted to lecture, discussion and lab analysis.

### Basic Sources:

Rice, P., *Pots and potters : current approaches in ceramic archaeology*. 1984.  
Rice, P. *Pottery Analysis: A Sourcebook*. 1987  
Shepard, A. *Ceramics for the Archaeologist*. 1965 NK4235.S47 1980  
Skibo, J. *Pottery Function: a use-alteration perspective*. New York: Plenum Press. 1992  
Skibo, J., and G. Feinman, *Pottery and People*. Salt Lake: University of Utah Press. 1999.  
Banning, E. W. *The Archaeologist's Laboratory: The analysis of archaeological data*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum. 2000