

University of Idaho
Historical Artifact Analysis, Spring 2007

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Anth 432/532
TuTh: 3:30-4:45
Lab. of Anthropology

Consider the wonder of the Japanese teabowl. It is a thing of clay, dug from the earth and still gritty. The sweeps of it's maker's fingers run in the slow spiral of its raising. Its moment of dampness, when it stood in pliable uncertainty, lingers in the wobble of the rim. Scorches remember its time in the fire when it grew firm. The glaze that melted in the flame seems molten still, blistered and flowing. The footring, fine walls, and upright form speak of the scheme in the master's mind. The cracks fastidiously filled with gold lacquer hint of subsequent travail and caring. The bowl was filled with hot liquid and passed from hand to hand, filling the cup of the palm, warming the palps, joining people in ceremonial conviviality.

*The teabowl embodies a relation to nature. It plucks an instant out of transitory experience. It materializes its maker's desire for beauty, and it awaits use as a tool to forge social affinity (Henry Glassie *Material Culture* 1999:42).*

*What has been sold is not strictly made of stone
just remember its flesh and bone (Sublime, 'Pawn shop' 1996)*

Introduction:

The course is designed as a compliment to anthropology 431/531, Introduction to Historical Archaeology, though that class is not essential to being successful in this class. The intent of this class is to provide intensive instruction in the identification and analysis of some of the most common forms of material culture that historical archaeologists work with.

Texts: (2 required, on line readings, in class handouts)

Brauner, David, compiler *Approaches to Material Culture Research for Historical Archaeologists*
Jones, Olive et al *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary*
Online readings

Attendance and Participation

This is profoundly a hands on course, students will be expected to work closely with each other in the learning process. Some of the materials discussed in a particular class will be familiar to some of you, for those of you with some experience with these materials I encourage you to assist your peers
NOTE: I do not make my lecture notes available to people who miss class, if you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes from a peer. I am happy to clarify things that may be unclear to you but do not expect me to repeat the lecture for you.

Course Requirements:

Broadly speaking this course will have two major components to it. The first component is going to be thoroughly objective. It will be based on your ability to identify particular forms of material culture, as well as define terminology. The second will be interpretive. Students will be asked to analyze a particular assemblage and produce an article-length paper.

Grades will be based on the following four criteria

- 1) A series of four quizzes (each quiz 15 percent of grade)
- 2) An article length paper, due at the end of the semester (30 percent of grade)
- 3) A brief in-class presentation (5 percent of grade)

4) Attendance and participation (5 percent of grade.)

Class Calendar

SEGMENT I: Glass		
Week 1	(Jan 8-12)	<i>No Class (bummer!) at a conference</i>
Week 2:	(Jan 15 - 19):	<i>Introduction, Containers, terminology</i>
Readings:	<u>Brauner:</u>	White article (pp. 139)
	<u>Jones:</u>	bottle part terminology p. 76-87 (note esp. p. 77) look over
Week 3 :	(Jan 22 -26):	<i>Container manufacturing and identification</i>
Readings:	<u>Jones:</u>	p. 1-76
	<u>Brauner:</u>	Jones p. 149, Miller and Sullivan p. 161
Week 4:	(Jan 29 - Feb 2):	<i>Tools of analysis</i>
Readings	<u>On line:</u>	Mullins Ceramic and glass reconstruction guide (glass part)
	<u>Brauner:</u>	Staski and Hill articles
		Busch article (P. 175)
Week 5	(Feb. 5 - 9):	<i>Tableware/flat glass</i> **** Quiz #1 about now****
readings:	<u>Jones</u>	p. 125-145, 169-172

SEGMENT II: Ceramics		
Week 6:	(Feb 12-16)	<i>Ceramics, classes (stoneware, porcelain)</i>
Readings:	<u>On Line:</u>	start Mullins Ceramic typology guide
	<u>Brauner:</u>	Skim Beaudry et al article (p. 11)
Week 7:	(Feb 19 - 23)	<i>Earthenware chronology</i> *** Quiz #2 about now***
Readings:	<u>On Line:</u>	continue Mullins Ceramic typology guide
	<u>Brauner</u>	Sussman article (p. 37)
Week 8:	(Feb. 26 - Mar. 2)	<i>Decorative types</i>
Readings	<u>Brauner:</u>	Miller article (p. 86)
		Samford article (p. 56)
Week 9:	(March 5 -9)	<i>Tools of analysis</i>
readings	<u>On line:</u>	Mullins Ceramic and glass reconst. guide (ceramic part)
	<u>On line:</u>	Stanley South pages
	<u>Brauner:</u>	Adams and Bolling Article (p. 111)
Week 10:	(March 12-16)	SPRING BREAK
Week 11:	(March 19 - 23)	Catch up time *** quiz #3 about now***

SEGMENT III: Metals/ misc.		
Week 12:	(March 26 - 30)	<i>cans</i>
Readings	<u>On Line:</u>	Busch
	<u>Brauner</u>	Rock article (p. 275), Maxwell article (p. 290)
Week 13 :	(April 2 - 6)	<i>nails, and everything but the kitchen sink</i> quiz #4 now
Readings:	<u>Brauner:</u>	Wells article (p. 318)

SEGMENT IV: project research		
Week 14:	(April 9 - 13)	<i>work on projects</i>
Week 15:	(April 16- 20)	<i>work on projects</i>

Week 16: (April 23- 27) *work on projects*
Week 17: (April 30 - May 4) *work on projects*

