Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a New Course
Undergraduate • Graduate • Professional
Submit original form and 25 copies. Attach a course syllabus to each.*

1. This request is submitted by the Department of **Anthropology**

2. Course prefix, number and complete title **ANTH 646 Ceramic Artifact Analysis**

3. Course description (not more than 50 words) The introduction of the basic concepts, methods, and approaches used in the analysis of archaeological pottery with a focus on the techniques and theories used to bridge the gap between the recovery of ceramic artifacts and their interpretation within various anthropological contexts.

4. Prerequisite(s) **Graduate Classification**

5. Is this a variable credit course? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, from _____ to _____.

6. Is this a repeatable course? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, this course may be taken _____ times. Will the course be repeated within the same semester/term? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Has this course been taught as a 489/689? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many times? 1 Indicate the number of students enrolled for each academic period it was taught. 9 Spring 2006

8. This course will be:
   a. required for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., B.A. in history)

   b. an elective for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., M.S., Ph.D. in geography)

   MA, PhD in Anthropology

9. If other departments are teaching or are responsible for related subject matter, the course must be coordinated with these departments. Attach approval letters.

10. Prefix Course # Title (exclude punctuation) **ANTH 646 Ceramic Artifact Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lect.</th>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>SCH</th>
<th>Subject Matter Content Code</th>
<th>Admin. Unit</th>
<th>Acad. Year</th>
<th>FICE Code</th>
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<td>07-08</td>
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Do not complete shaded area.

Approval recommended by:

Head of Department **Cevelyn Davidson** 10-20-07

Chair, College Review Committee **Davidson** 10-20-07

Head of Department (if cross-listed course) **Dean of College** Date

Submitted to Coordinating Board by:

Dean of College **Date**

Director of Academic Support Services **Date**

Effective Date

* Attach a syllabus according to the guidelines on the Internet site www.tamu.edu/admissions/oaras. To have this form reviewed, please send to Linda F. Lacey, Mail Stop 1265 or fax to 847-8737.
SYLLABUS
ANTH 646: Ceramic Artifact Analysis
****Place and Time****

Instructor: Suzanne Eckert
Office: Anthro 308D
Office Hours: ****
Phone: 458-1126
Email: sleckert@tamu.edu

Class Description and Objectives

Analysis and interpretation of ceramic artifacts allows archaeologists to develop time scales, study interaction and interconnection between various groups of people, interpret technology and activities at different sites, and to study the organization of production and division of labor within societies. The techniques and theories used to bridge the gap between the recovery of ceramic artifacts and their interpretation within various anthropological contexts is the focus of this course; this course introduces the basic concepts, methods, and approaches used in the analysis of archaeological pottery.

The nuances of ceramic analysis can only be learned through practice. As such, this course consists of both lectures and lab exercises designed to give practical experience with the material covered in the lectures. Students will be introduced to the fundamental aspects of ceramic production and technology, description, typology, classification, and compositional analysis. Students should leave this course with a sufficient understanding of pottery analysis to allow them to know what questions can and cannot be asked of a given ceramic assemblage, and how to approach such questions through analysis. The ultimate goal of this course is to prepare students to undertake their own ceramic analyses, as well as to be able to evaluate the work of other archaeologists.

Textbooks

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED


A selection of journal articles and book chapters will also be required.

Grading

This course will focus on topics covered in the readings supplemented by class discussions and lab assignments. You are required to attend classes. Failure to attend class and lab regularly and participate in discussions will be reflected in your grade. In addition to attending and actively participating in class and lab, you will write lab summaries, an annotated bibliography, and a final paper. The final paper will be a grant proposal that allows you to demonstrate your understanding of what types of ceramic data can answer what types of research questions. You will be expected to present this proposal at the end of the course.
Final grades will be based on overall performance according to the following weighing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and class participation</th>
<th>40 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead class discussion</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab assignments (15 points each)</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper outline</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper and paper presentation</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL POSSIBLE</td>
<td>400 points</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 360 points and above  
B = 320 to 359 points  
C = 280 to 319 points  
D = 240 to 279 points  
F = 239 points and below

Assignments

Leading Class Discussion. You will lead class discussion centered on 2-3 readings on a day to be assigned by the professor. Although I will have chosen all of the readings, you are expected to lead class by directing discussion, answering questions, and fielding different topics.

Lab Assignments. Every week or so I will provide a lab assignment sheet that describes a method of ceramic analysis. After completing the described assignment, you will be given a list of questions that you are required to answer. These answers are due the week after they are handed out, unless otherwise stated.

Annotated Bibliography. Provide a bibliography of 8 articles related to your grant proposal. Each of these articles needs to be completely referenced in a standard format (such as American Antiquity format) and must be focused on pottery analysis. Provide 3-5 sentences that summarize the article and explain how it is related to your grant proposal.

Paper Outline. Provide an outline of your grant proposal. This should include major section headings you plan to present, along with one or two sentences describing what will be covered in each subheading and a description of possible figures.

Draft Paper. This should be the draft text for your final grant proposal.

Final Paper. You are required to write a grant proposal in either the Wenner-Gren or Getty Museum format. This proposal should ask a clear research question and propose ceramic methods that are appropriate to answering this question. I will provide further information on grant format and requirements in a separate class handout.

Policies and Procedures

Student Rights and Responsibilities. Texas A&M University has outlined the specific rights that students are guaranteed and the responsibilities students have as community members. If you have any questions regarding such issues, consult the latest issue of the TAMU Student Rules (http://student-rules.tamu.edu). TAMU has also specifically outlined the procedures for hearing cases of student misconduct, grievances, and academic dishonesty issues. All students are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code: an Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do. For more information on the rights and responsibilities of all students, please contact the Office of the Aggie Honor System (www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor).
As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings and other works which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is cheating, and as such, breaks the Aggie Honor Code. An act of plagiarism, at best, will result in a 0 on the assignment. An act of plagiarism, at worse, will result in an F in the course and notification of the student's behavior to the Office of the Aggie Honor System. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, consult the "Student Resources on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism" at http://library.tamu.edu/tamulib/content/renderer/children/0.2875.1724.1001620.00.html or the "Scholastic Dishonesty" section of the TAMU Student Rules at http://student-rules.tamu.edu.

If at any time you have questions concerning this course, Anthropology in general, or other issues that are not answered in the lectures or readings PLEASE arrange to see me outside of class. If you have an unresolved conflict concerning myself, or the class, you should first contact me in an attempt to resolve the problem. If the results are unsatisfactory, you should next contact the Anthropology Department's Academic Advisor.

Make-up Attendance Policies: If you miss a day of class, and its corresponding activity (group activity, film, quiz) without a legitimate excuse, you will be assigned a zero for that day and any of its activities. Legitimate excuses for missing class are defined in the TAMU Regulations (http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm).

If your reason for missing class fulfills one of the conditions listed in the regulations, you should notify me as soon as possible and then provide documentation for your excuse by the end of the next working day after your absence. You will then be allowed to make-up any missed activity within 30 days from your last date of absence.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall Room B116 or call 845-1637.

### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1    | **** | Introduction  
Lab #1: Design Analysis |
| 2    | **** | Discussion: Interaction and Information Theories  
Lab #2: Cataloging Whole Vessels |
| 3    | **** | Discussion: Design Structure, Ideation, and Cognition  
Lab #3: Attribute Analysis of Sherds |
| 4    | **** | Discussion: Classification and Typologies  
Lab #4: Chronology Building |
| 5    | **** | Discussion: Classification and Typologies  
Lab #5: Illustration and Photography |
| 6    | **** | Discussion: Ceramic Style and the Individual  
Lab #6a: Characterizing Clay |
| 7    | **** | Discussion: Correlating Vessel Form and Function  
Lab #6b: Characterizing Paste & Temper |
8  ****  Discussion: Household Production
9  ****  Discussion: Scheduling and Organization of Production
     Lab #7a: Fabrication Experiment
10 ****  Discussion: Craft Specialization
     Lab #7b: Manufacturing Processes
11 ****  Discussion: Craft Specialization and Standardization
12 ****  Discussion: Distribution and Exchange
     Lab #8: Conservation
13 ****  Discussion: Distribution and Exchange
     Lab #9: Petrographic Analysis
14 ****  Discussion: Distribution and Exchange
     Lab #10: What is it?
15 ****  Student Presentations