ARCHAEOLOGICAL CERAMICS WORKSHOP

PURPOSE

It is the goal of this course to introduce the avocational archaeologist to the types of analyses, approaches, and interpretations that archaeologists perform on ceramic remains. Though previous courses on southwest archaeology or general archaeology would be useful, there are no prerequisites for this course.

The course is designed to be presented in twenty hours of classroom instruction. The outline presented below is based upon 8 sessions of 2-1/2 hours each.


COURSE OUTLINE

1st meeting  Introduction: What is a ceramic? Clays, temper manufacturing methods.

2nd meeting  Ceramic attributes and function of ceramics:  
A. How an archaeologist describes a vessel or assemblage. 
B. Functional analyses of ceramics.

3rd meeting  Ceramic conservation, cleaning, and storage:  
A. Cleaning methods and supplies. 
A. Storage and conservation.

4th meeting  Ethnography of pottery:  
A. Discussions of living populations of potters and what they teach us. 
B. How archaeologists better understand prehistoric ceramics.

5th meeting  The wonderful world of design:  
A. Ceramic decoration and elaboration, types, techniques, and methods. 
B. Recording and understanding design. 
C. Meaning encoded in design.

6th meeting  Sherds and the archaeologist:  
A. What kinds of information can sherds tell us? 
B. How to design your own ceramic analysis.

7th meeting  Ceramics and dating:  
A. Chronologies and Typologies, what they are and how they are used. 
B. Discussion of ideas of "time" and "change."

8th meeting  The Typology - Hohokam, Mogollon, Anasazi, other:
A. Discussion of the chronology for dating.
B. Introduction to the ceramic styles via sherds in type collections and from whole vessel photographs.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gifford, James C. and Watson Smith

Lister, Robert H. and Florence C. Lister

Smith, Watson


1973  The Williams Site: A Frontier Mogollon Village In West - Central New Mexico.