**AHS 2104 Ceramic Analysis in Archaeology**

**Course Objectives:** This course focuses on the study of pottery technology, manufacture and uses.

**Course Description**

The course will emphasize both theoretical and practical aspects of analyzing the different techniques of pottery manufacture and the functional and aesthetic values of pottery in prehistoric times. Emphasis will be placed on the importance and implications of pottery materials for archaeological interpretations.

**Assessment:** 30% Course Work; 70% Examination

**Course Outline.**

Topic 1: The History of Pottery in East Africa

* 1. The earliest pottery industry
  2. Neolithic
  3. Iron Age

Topic 2: Process of Pottery Making

2.1 Clay and temper

2.2 Coil method

2.2 Wheel method

2.3 Firing

Topic 3: Pottery Attribute Analysis

3.1 Surface finish

3.2 Shape

3.3 Technique and decoration

3.4 Decorative motifs

3.4 Glazing/paint

Topic 4: Vessel Reconstruction

4.1 Orifice or maximum diameters

4.2 Shape

4.3 Vessel height

Topic 5: Illustration of a Shard

5.1 Profile

5.2 Decoration

Topic 6: Pottery Traditions

6.1 Typology

6.2 Attribute analysis statistics

**Basic readings**

Chami, F. 1994. *The TanzanianCoast in the First Millennium AD*.Uppsala: Studies in African Archaeology.

Chami, F. 1998. A Review of Swahili Archaeology.*African Archaeological Review* 15(3), pp199-218

Huffman, T. 1980. Ceramics Classification and Ceramic entities.*African Studies* 39(2):123-174

Shepard, A. O. 1980. *Ceramics for the Archaeologists*.WashingtonDC. Carnegie Institute Press

Olin, J. S and Frankalin, A. D. 1982. *Archaeological Ceramics*.WashingtonDC. Smithsonian Institute Press.

Phillipson, D. W. 1985. African Archaeology.Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press

Soper, 1985. Roulette Decoration on African Pottery: Technical Consideration, Dating, and Distributions. *African Archaeological Review* 3, pp. 29-51.