

ART 9

Intro to Ceramics

Mr. Lau

Who has worked with
clay before?



A Definition

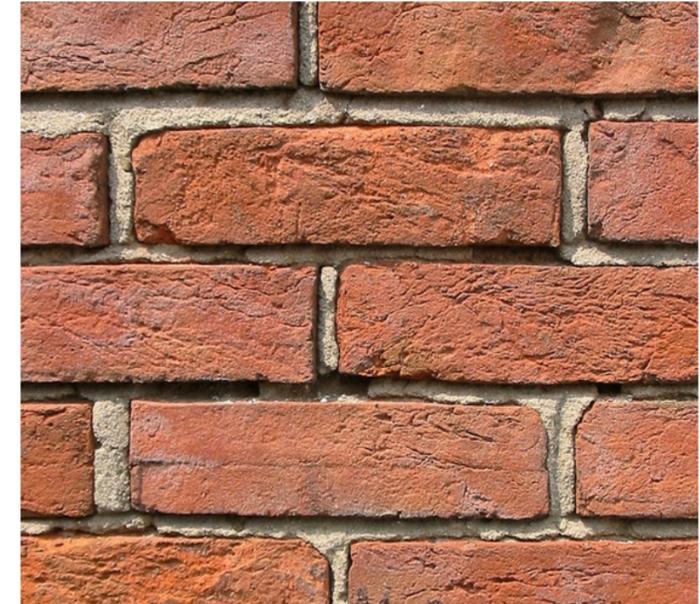
Clay: A fine-grained, firm earthy material that is plastic when wet and hardens when heated, consisting primarily of hydrated silicates of aluminium and is widely used in making bricks, tiles and pottery.



Different Types of Clay



Earthenware



Ball Clay



Stoneware



Porcelain

History of Clay

- Clay is the oldest known ceramic material.
- Some of the earliest pottery shards have been dated to around 14,000 BC
- The first use of functional pottery vessels is thought to be in 9,000 BC. These vessels were most likely used to hold and store grain and other foods.
- Pottery is one of the oldest human inventions, originating before the Neolithic period (stone age).



First Peoples of Canada

Knowledge of ceramic-making entered the Great Lakes region about 1,000 years before the first cultivation of plants in the area, suggesting the vessels had little to do with agriculture.



Cooking pot, Point Peninsula culture,
Central Ottawa Valley, about 2,500 years ago
Ceramic

Stages of Clay



Slip

Liquified clay, in which there is no fixed ratio of water and clay, is called slip or clay slurry which is used either for joining clay body (pieces of pottery) together. Slip can also be found in glazes.



Leather Hard

This is the main working stage of clay. The clay is easily workable but will crack or break if pushed too much. It will also hold its shape well. You can still change its shape to some degree. Pieces can still be attached here.



Hard Leather Hard

At this point, you cannot change the shape of the clay anymore. This stage of clay is good for carving, etching, and refining any edges. If you have any major faults, your clay may start to crack.



Bone Dry

At this stage, the clay is most fragile and prone to cracking. Handle with care. You can finish and smooth out any edges but all major work should be completed.



Bisque Ware

Clay has been fired once at a lower temperature. It has now changed state and has become ceramic. Pieces are glazed at this point.



Glazing

Once you apply the glaze your piece will need to be fired again at a high temperature. The glaze makes ceramic waterproof and food safe.



Clay Tools

What does each tool do?



Slab Building



Clay Safety

Clay dust is very harmful to the lungs therefore we must only clean with water using damp cloths.

No clay in the sink.

No nobody can leave until this room is clean.



Project Overview



Slab build a mug



Made and Found Textures



Simple Made Texture



Get a handle on it





In Class Session



Design your own patterns that you will transfer to bristol board

Draw your own handle designs

3 variations of each of the above,
minimum

Review

- How are we supposed to clean up clay?
- What is the stage of clay that we'll mostly be working with?
- What is the technique called that we'll be working with?



Next Class

- We will start cutting out our slabs!