

CERAMICS 3/AP VOCAB

- Alumina - mineral that is the most common in glazes, helping to stabilize the other components in the glaze
- Armature – a support or frame used when sculpting clay; usually removed before firing
- Bisque - clay that has gone through the first firing
- Blisters – surface bubbles in glaze resulting from the release of impurities or gases when the firing process is done too quickly
- Burnishing – polishing leather hard clay by rubbing with a smooth, hard tool
- Clay – a plastic medium made from fine-grained igneous rock and water
- Composition – the overall arrangement of separate parts that make up the whole
- Cone - a clay/flux material shaped like a small pyramid that bends at a pre-determined temperature; pyrometric cones are used as temperature guides inside a kiln during firing
- Crawling – a shrinking separation of glaze resulting in bare spots of clay
- Crazing – glaze cracking resulting from a difference in expansion/contraction of the glaze and clay body
- Earthenware - low-fire clay that is still somewhat fragile and porous after being fired
- Flange – A clay ridge that holds the lid of a pot, allowing it to rest securely; can be on the pot or the lid
- Flux - component of glaze that helps reduce the melting point of silica. The amount added also affects how glossy/matte the glaze will be
- Kaolinite - mineral that is the primary component of most clay
- Kiln Wash – a refractory mixture of flint, kaolin, and water applied to kiln shelves as a protective coating
- Lug – handle-like projection on the side of a pot
- Mishima – decorative cuts made into leather hard clay and filled with colored slip
- Pinholes – small holes left in a glaze surface by escaping gases during firing
- Porosity – the ability to absorb liquids
- Pyrometer – measures the interior temperature of kilns during firing
- Raku – a low-temperature firing procedure that makes use of a reduction process outside of the kiln immediately after reaching temperature
- Sgraffito – a decorative design made by carving through a slip or glaze to expose the raw clay beneath
- Shivering – the flaking off of glaze from the edges of ware due to excessive clay shrinking
- Silica - gives glaze its glass-like properties and has an extremely high melting point
- Slaking – the breaking down of clay or plaster through the absorption of water
- Stoneware - Middle to high-fire clay, that we use here at Alta
- Thermal Shock – the physical stress placed on ware due to a sudden change in temperature
- Underglaze – ceramic colorants applied to ware prior to it being covered with glaze
- Viscosity – a resistance to running or flowing
- Vitreous – hard, glassy, and non-porous