## Glossary of Terms – Week 4: Pigments & Finishes

**1. Natural Pigments**
Coloring materials derived from minerals, plants, or earth deposits. Used to tint plaster without synthetic chemicals.

**2. Ochre**
A natural earth pigment containing ferric oxide, typically yellow, red, or brown. Known for durability and UV resistance.

**3. Iron Oxides**
Stable, synthetic or natural pigments in red, yellow, or black tones. Commonly used for consistent color and longevity.

**4. Plant-Based Pigments**
Colorants extracted from organic sources like indigo, turmeric, or spinach. Often delicate and less UV-stable.

**5. Slurry**
A smooth, liquid pigment mix made by combining powder pigment with water before adding to plaster.

**6. Pigment-to-Plaster Ratio**
The proportion of pigment used per volume of plaster, typically expressed as weight (e.g., 1:20). Determines color strength.

**7. Wet Mix Method**
Technique of mixing pigment into wet plaster to achieve uniform color throughout the mass.

**8. Surface Wash (or Limewash)**
A method where pigment is applied as a diluted layer over the dried plaster surface. Produces a translucent or layered effect.

**9. Burnishing**
A smoothing process using a trowel or cloth to compress and polish the plaster surface, often intensifying color and sheen.

**10. Binder**
An additive (like lime, casein, or egg yolk) that helps pigment adhere to the surface or mix more evenly into plaster.

**11. UV Stability**
The ability of a pigment to resist fading when exposed to sunlight. Oxides are highly UV-stable; plant pigments are often not.

**12. Sample Board**
A small test surface used to trial colors, finishes, and techniques before applying them to a wall or large project.

**13. Natural Sealer**
Protective coatings made from breathable and non-toxic materials like olive soap, beeswax, or linseed oil. Helps preserve finish and color.

**14. Pigment Fixative**
A substance (e.g., lime casein) used to set or stabilize a surface pigment application and reduce dusting or fading.

**15. Colorfastness**
The resistance of a pigment to fading or changing under light, moisture, or environmental exposure.

**16. Lime Compatibility**
Refers to whether a pigment reacts well with lime-based plasters without changing color or degrading.

**17. Durability**
A pigment's ability to maintain appearance over time, especially under physical or environmental stress.

**18. Earthen Tones**
A palette of colors derived from the natural environment—typically muted reds, yellows, browns, and greens.

**19. Saturation**
The intensity or vividness of a color. Can be adjusted by pigment concentration and plaster base.

**20. Efflorescence**
A white, powdery deposit of salts sometimes appearing on plaster surfaces. Can interfere with pigment appearance.