

Art History 463
ETD 501
History 500
3 credits

MW, 2:25-3:40 pm
L166 Elvehjem

DIMENSIONS OF MATERIAL CULTURE
An Interdisciplinary, Team-Taught Course
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fall Semester 2001

It's a material, a material, a material, a material world.

--Madonna

The whole factual world of human affairs depends for its reality and its continued existence, first, upon the presence of others who have seen and heard and will remember, and, second, on the transformation of the intangible into the tangibility of things.

--Hannah Arendt

Course Description: This course introduces the new and highly interdisciplinary field of material culture studies. It is intended for advanced undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in any professional endeavor that requires training in material culture, including careers in museums, galleries, historical societies, historic preservation organizations, and academic institutions. During the semester, students will have varied opportunities to contemplate "things"--the material world to which people give meaning and which, in turn, influences their lives. The course takes the perspective that what we make, see, inhabit, eat, acquire, cherish, and discard--all are important agents of communication and part of broad social and cultural contexts.

Each week a different faculty member will present a lecture on Monday. On Wednesday afternoon s/he will lead a seminar-style discussion of the lecture and readings assigned for that week. Professors Boyd and Lee will coordinate the class.

*Development of this course was made possible
by a Chancellor's Collaborative Teaching Award.*

Supervising Faculty

Jean B. Lee (Department of History)
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Office Hours: T, Th, 11 am-noon; also by
appointment

Assisting Faculty

Anna Andrejewski (Department of Art History)
 Beverly Gordon (Environment, Textiles & Design)
 Ann Smart Martin (Art History)

Required Texts:

- (1) James Deetz, In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life (revised ed., 1996) is available for purchase at the University Bookstore on State Street. This title is also on 2-hour reserve at the Kohler Art Library (Elvehjem Museum).
- (2) All other assigned readings are on 2-hour reserve at the Kohler Art Library (Elvehjem Museum of Art) and also at the Reserves Department of Helen C. White Library. In addition, most essays and book chapters may be accessed and downloaded through E-Reserves (MadCat).

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Class participation (attendance & contributions)	25%
Class presentation of an object analysis (10 minutes) <i>(each student will consult with the supervising professors in selecting an object for analysis)</i>	10%
An annotated bibliography for object analysis	10%
The object analysis (1000-1200 words) <i>(this assignment is due one week after the class presentation)</i>	15%
At the end of <u>each</u> of the four modules identified in the syllabus: write an evaluation of the information and interpretations presented in the module just completed (maximum 750 words each)	40%

Religious Holidays:

According to University policy, students who expect to be absent from class work because of religious holidays must, within the first two weeks of class, notify the instructor(s) of the specific date(s) on which s/he will be absent. Students bear the responsibility for arranging make-up assignments. If necessary, reasonable limits on the total number of days claimed by any one student will be set.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES

- Sept. 5 Introduction to the course
 Panel discussion of material culture
 (Professors Andrejewski, Boyd, Gordon, Lee, and Martin)

Thinking about material culture: Read, by October 3, (1) Jules D. Prown, "The Truth of Material Culture: History or Fiction?" in J. D. Prown and Kenneth Haltman, eds., American Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture (2000), pp. 11-27. (2) James Deetz, In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life (revised ed., 1996).

I. PERSONAL AND PRIVATE DOMAINS

- Sept. 10 Lecture: The Fiber of Our Lives
 Beverly Gordon (Dept. of Environment, Textiles, & Design)

- Sept. 12 Seminar

Readings: (1) Beverly Gordon, "Textiles and Clothing in the Civil War: A Portrait for Contemporary Understanding," Clothing and Textiles Journal 5 (1987): 41-47. (2) Beverly Gordon, "Victorian Fancy Goods: Another Reappraisal of Shaker Material Culture," Winterthur Portfolio 25 (1990): 111-29. (3) Kenneth Haltman, "Introduction," in Prown and Haltman, eds., American Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture, 1-10.

- Sept. 17 Lecture: The Ritual of Tea: 18th-Century America and Past and Present in Japan
 Ann Smart Martin and Eugene Phillips (Dept. of Art History)

- Sept. 19 Seminar

Readings: (1) Rodris Roth, "Tea-Drinking in Eighteenth-Century America: Its Etiquette and Equipage," in Robert Blair St. George, ed., Material Life in America, 1600-1860, pp. 439-62. (2) Murai Yasuhiko, "The Development of Chanoyu: Before Rikyo," in Paul Varley, ed., Tea in Japan: Essays on the History of Chanoyu (1989), pp. 3-32.

Sept. 24 Lecture: Cabinets of Curiosities
Jane Hutchison (Dept. of Art History)

Sept. 26 Seminar

Readings: (1) Gary Schwartz, Rembrandt: His Life, His Paintings, pp. 286-91. (2) Werner Muensterberger, Collecting: An Unruly Passion: Psychological Perspectives, chap. 10.

Oct. 1 Lecture: The Archaeology of Ancient Households
Nicholas Cahill (Dept. of Art History)

Oct. 3 Seminar

Readings: Brian Faban, Ancient Lives: An Introduction to Archaeology (2000), chapters 7 and 9.

II. WORK, SOCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTS

Oct. 8 Lecture: Talking Machines and Dancing Bodies
Susan C. Cook (Dept. of Music)

Due at the beginning of class: evaluation of the information and interpretations presented in Module 1.

Oct. 10 Seminar

Readings: (1) William H. Kennedy, Recorded Music in American Life: The Phonograph and Popular Memory, 1890-1945, chap. 3. (2) Richard Leppert, The Sight of Sound: Music, Representation, and the History of the Body, chap. 6. (2) Philip F. Gura and James F. Bollman, America's Instrument: The Banjo in the Nineteenth Century, introduction and chap. 1.

Oct. 15 Lecture: Surveillance at the Work Site
Anna Andrejewski (Dept. of Art History)

Due at the beginning of class: annotated bibliography for object analysis

Oct. 17 Seminar

Readings: (1) Hugo Diemer, "The Planning of Factory Buildings and the Influence of Design on Their Productive Capacity," Engineering News 50 (Mar. 24, 1904): 292-94. (2) Herbert F. Simpson, "The Design and Construction of Industrial Buildings," Engineering Record 59 (May 29 and June 5, 1909): 693-95, 716-18.

Oct. 22 Lecture: You Are What You Shop: Consumer Engineering and the 1930s Storefront
James Draeger (Office of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society)

Oct. 24 Seminar

Readings: (1) Malcolm Gladwell, "The Science of Shopping," New Yorker 72 (1976): 66-75. (2) V. Hagopian, "The A. S. Beck Shoe Store," Architectural Record 65 (1929): 543-53.

III. PUBLIC SITES: CREATING MEANING

Oct. 29 Lecture: Memory and Material Culture
Jean B. Lee (Dept. of History)

Due at the beginning of class: evaluation of the information and interpretations presented in Module 2.

Oct. 31 Seminar

Readings: (1) David Lowenthal, "Identity, Heritage, and History," in John R. Gillis, ed., Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity, chap. 2. (2) Jean B. Lee, "Historical Memory, Sectionalism, and the American Mecca: Mount Vernon, 1783-1853" (ms.; forthcoming in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography).

Nov. 5 Lecture: Pilgrimage Art and *Praesentia* [Presence] in Early Medieval Byzantium and Romanesque Europe
Thomas Dale (Department of Art History)

Nov. 7 Seminar

Readings: (1) Gary Vikan, "Byzantine Pilgrims' Art," in Linda Safran, ed., Heaven on Earth: Art and the Church in Byzantium (1998). (2) Pamela Sheingorn, The Book of Sainte Foy (1994), introduction, pp. 1-31, text excerpts pp. 43-51, 77-79.

Nov. 12 Lecture: The Pastoral Landscape
Glenn Adamson (Curator, The Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee)

Nov. 14 Seminar

Readings: (1) Philip Leider, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation," Artforum 11 (1970): 99-104. (2) Glenn Adamson, "California Dreaming," Furniture Studio One (1999): 32-42. (3) Robert Smithson, "A Tour of the Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey" (1967) and "The Artist and Politics: A Symposium," in Jack Flam, ed., Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings (1992), pp. 68-75, 134-35. (4) Leo Marx, "Does Pastoralism Have a Future?" in John Dixon Hunt, ed., The Pastoral Landscape (1992), pp. 209-23.

Nov. 19 Student Presentation of Object Analyses
(Schedule to be arranged)

Nov. 21 Student Presentation of Object Analyses
(Schedule to be arranged)

IV. URBAN AND RURAL LANDSCAPES

Nov. 26 Lecture: London as a Case Study of Material Culture
Henry Turner (Department of English)

Due at the beginning of class: evaluation of the information and interpretations presented in Module 3.

Nov. 28 Seminar

Readings: (1) Thomas Dekker, The Shoemaker's Holiday, ed. Anthony Parr (originally published 1599; reprint, 1990). (2) Henri Lefebvre, "The

Knowledge of Everyday Life," in The Critique of Everyday Life, trans. John Moore (1991), 1:130-37. (3) Max Weber, "Class, Status, Party," in Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, eds., Economy and Society (1978), 2:927-39. (4) Karl Marx, "The Fetishism of the Commodity and Its Secret," Capital, trans. Ben Fowkes, 1:163-67.

Dec. 3 Lecture: Interpreting Vernacular Architecture
 Arnold Alanen (Dept. of Landscape Architecture)

Dec. 5 Seminar

Readings: To be announced.

Dec. 10 Student Presentation of Object Analyses
 (Schedule to be arranged)

Due at the beginning of class: evaluation of the information and interpretations presented in Module 3.

Dec. 12 Student Presentation of Object Analyses
 (Schedule to be arranged)