**COURSE INFORMATION FORM**

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<th>DISCIPLINE</th>
<th>History</th>
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<td>COURSE TITLE</td>
<td>Material Culture and the American Past</td>
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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to the major themes, issues, and methods relevant to the study of material culture. Covers rise of material culture studies with focus on how objects inform the historical record. Readings and discussion address broad questions including: How do museums inform national identity? What do landscapes and buildings reveal about race, class, and gender relations? When is historical preservation a political act and what does it mean to re-enact? Kansas City metropolitan area used as a lens through which to frame these questions.

**PREREQUISITES**

HIST 120 or 121.

**EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. explain the processes by which cultural knowledge is communicated through and by objects.
2. examine, identify, and discuss objects to gain insight into the past.
3. interpret objects as historical evidence.
4. identify and explain steps by which historians arrive at conclusions about the past by interpreting objects as historical evidence.
CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES
Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)

1. Class participation (1 and 3).
2. Object logs / weekly writing assignments (1 and 2).
3. Exams (1 and 3).
4. Terminal project (1, 2, 3, and 4).

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES ADDRESSED

General Education Outcomes
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes and assessment measures.

Occupational Program Outcomes
Specify which occupational program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.
1. Theory of the Object
   a. Historiographic survey of material culture studies methodology and practice
   b. Objects as value (the economic paradigm)
   c. Objects as meaning (the linguistic paradigm)
2. Collections and Collecting
   a. A brief history of the impulse to collect
   b. Museums and the construction of national identity
   c. Field Study: visit an art museum
3. The Built Environment
   a. Introduction to vernacular architecture / high architecture
   b. How buildings learn and how we learn from them
   c. Field Study: explore a MCC campus to survey changes in the built environment over time
4. Style, Mass Production, and the Question of Authenticity
   a. Representational crisis and mass consumption since the turn of the twentieth century
   b. Historical kitsch and the invention of tradition
   c. Field Study: visit a business that produces and/or sells a “retro” product (possibilities may include a Chrysler dealership or Harley-Davidson’s Kansas City plant).
5. Objects as Evidence: Doing History with Stuff
   a. The historical object as document
   b. Case study: impact of historical archeology on historiography of slave studies
   c. Case study: impact of material culture studies on historiography of economic classes in United States
   d. Reading landscapes/objectscapes
   e. Field Study: explore some aspect of the Kansas City metropolitan area’s urban landscape (such as the 18th & Vine District) where the city’s early history is evident in its current architecture and/or layout
6. The Politics of Preservation and the Problem of Re-enactment
   a. Historical preservation and the rise of public history
   b. Re-enacting the Civil War: why, who, how?
   c. Field Study: visit a living-history museum that features costumed interpretation
Rationale for Course Change:
HIST 202 requires revision because its present content does not reflect the current state of material culture studies in purview or methodology. Moreover, HIST 202 was not fast-tracked for revision in advance of the recent district-wide accreditation review. The proposed changes promote student exposure to the Kansas City metropolitan area and its resources thereby furthering the District’s commitment to community outreach.

COMPLETE THE APPLICABLE CHANGE

Current Catalog No. & Title of Course: HIST 202: History and Material Culture

Proposed Catalog No. & Title Change: HIST 202: Material Culture and the American Past

Current Credit Hr. 3 Lecture Hr. 3 Laboratory Hr. Clinical/Intern. Hr. Clock Hr.

Proposed Credit Hr. 3 Lecture Hr. 3 Laboratory Hr. Clinical/Intern. Hr. Clock Hr.

Current Prerequisites:
HIST 120, 121, or instructor consent.

Proposed Prerequisites:
HIST 120 or 121.

Current Catalog Description:
Contributions of material culture to our understanding of history, including insights into the lives of those who did not leave extensive written records. Consideration of aspects of material culture, drawing largely on examples from American history: architecture, domestic utensils and furnishings, clothing, tools, and agricultural practices; the process of handcraft technology and products; the impact of modernization upon both process and product.

Proposed Catalog Description:
Introduction to the major themes, issues, and methods relevant to the study of material culture. Covers rise of material culture studies with focus on how objects inform the historical record. Readings and discussion address broad questions including: How do museums inform national identity? What do landscapes and buildings reveal about race, class, and gender relations? When is historical preservation a political act and what does it mean to re-enact? Kansas City metropolitan area used as a lens through which to frame these questions.

Attach Course Information Form, Course Outline Form