Course Objectives

Students will be familiar with the range of material culture forms, conversant with the primary material culture fields, literature, and practitioners, and research one or more examples of material culture.

Required Books

James Deetz. *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life.* (reserve)
C. Allan Jones. *Texas Roots: Agriculture and Rural Life before the Civil War.*

Recommended Books


Assignments

- Review 1: 10% of final grade (3 pages)
- Review 2: 10% of final grade (3 pages)
- Review 3: 15% of final grade (5 pages)
- Discussion: 10% of final grade
- Group Project: 15% of final grade
- Individual Research: 40% of final grade (20 pages)

Assignments

All analytical reviews and papers will be turned in on the date due. All submissions should be in a completed form and conform to Turabian with 11 pt. or 12 pt. font and one-inch margins. Title page, footnotes and bibliography required for research papers. The third review will examine a recently completed dissertation on material culture. See attached list.

Group Project

The class will develop a list of potential material culture topics for the proposed transportation museum at the Nacogdoches Depot. As part of the research each student will review at least one hundred photographs and one oral history for the material culture of transportation (as broadly defined by the class) in the East Texas Research Center. The final report will contain a tabulated results report of the items reviewed that contain traces of transportation material culture. The final group report will also include a brief overview and selected bibliography for each of following major transportation components in East Texas (c. 1000-2005): trails, rivers, roads, canals, railroads, highways, airports.
Material Culture

Individual Research
Research the historiography, history, context, and significance of a particular type or item of material culture. A transportation related topic is encouraged but not required.

Attendance and Participation Policy
Students are expected to attend all classes. Students must be prepared to fully participate in class discussions about the readings and public applications of material culture. Failure to contribute to class discussions or group projects will be reflected in the final grade. Students are also responsible for any additional readings assigned after the distribution of this syllabus on the first day.

Notifications

Non-discrimination
Each student will be free of discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, veteran status, or physical appearance.

Disability Services
In accordance with University policy, students with disabilities who need accommodations are expected to initiate a meeting with the professor immediately upon registering with Disability Services to discuss how accommodations included on the Special Accommodation Request form will be provided. Students with disabilities who may have special needs and have not requested support services should seek assistance through Disability Services (from the Student Handbook http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs).

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit (from the Student Handbook, http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/academic_integrity.html).

Acts of plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course and initiation of disciplinary proceedings including an action report filed in the dean’s office.
Material Culture

Course Schedule

January 17  Overview of Syllabus
Introduction to Material Culture

January 24  Guest Speaker: Brian Bray, Historic Sites Manager, City of Nacogdoches
Overview of Material Culture

January 31  Archaeology: Discussion of Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten*
Field Survey (check calendars); 3rd Review Choices Due

February 7  Artifacts & Art History: Discussion of Prown, *American Artifacts* & selected readings; Individual Research Project Topic Due and Group Topics List Due

February 14  Rural/Agricultural: Discussion of Allan, *Texas Roots* & selected readings
Allan Review Essay Due

February 21  Geography: selected readings
Outline/Update of individual research due

February 28  African Americans: Discussion of Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground* & selected readings; Ferguson Review Essay Due

March 7  Built Environment: Discussion of Stilgoe & selected readings

March 13-17  Spring Break

March 21  Project Release Time

March 28  Native Americans: selected readings

April 4  Museums: selected readings

April 11  Antebellum: selected readings
Third essay due – Individual selection (provide a copy for each fellow student)

April 18  Project Release Time

April 25  Historic Sites: selected readings
Group Report Due

May 2  Gender & Childhood: selected readings

May 9  Individual Paper Due – Foodways
Material Culture

Recent Material Culture Dissertations – Titles for 3rd Review
(Pick and request three and write on one)


Bell, Alison Kay. *Conspicuous Production: Agricultural and Domestic Material Culture in Virginia, 1700-1900* (University of Virginia, 2000) DA 9975504


Claney, Jane Perkins. *Rockingham Ware in America, 1830-1930: An Exploration in Historical Archaeology and Material Culture Studies* (University of Pennsylvania, 2000) DA 9989577


Moskowitz, Marina. *Standard Bearers: Material Culture and Middle-Class Communities at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (Yale University, 1999) DA9931009


Tyler, Linda Kartchner. *Material Culture of Nineteenth-Century America as Reflected in Women’s Fashion* (Idaho State University, 1999) DA9942651

Williams-Forsom, Psyche Aletheia. *‘Building Houses out of Chicken Legs’: African American Women, Material Culture, and the Powers of Self-Definition* (University of Maryland, College Park, 2002) DA3080271


Pulford, Mary Hanahan, “Pre-Contact Mortuary Copper Usage: An Interdisciplinary Investigation with Emphasis in Eastern North America” (University of Minnesota, 1999). Order No. DA9929517.

Green, Terisa Marion, “Spanish Missions and Native Religion: Contact, Conflict, and Convergence” (University of California, Los Angeles, 1999). Order No. DA9939060.


Campanella, Thomas J., “Republic of Shade: The Emergence of the American Elm as a Cultural and Urban Design Element in Nineteenth-Century New England” (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1999).


Garman, James Curtis, “‘Detention castles of stone and steel’: An Historical Archaeology of the First Rhode Island State Prison, 1838–1878” (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1999). Order No. DA9950155.


Padnos, Theo, “Here is a cabinet of great curiosities’: Collecting the Past on the American Frontier” (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2000). Order No. DA9988831.


Nordström, Alison Devine, “Voyages (Per)formed: Photography and Tourism in the Gilded Age” (Union Institute, 2001). Order No. DA9999768.


Zipf, Catherine Welcome, “Professional Pursuits: Career Opportunities for Women in the American Arts and Crafts Movement” (University of Virginia, 2001). Order No. DA3003895.


Rath, Richard Cullen, “Worlds Chanted into Being: Soundways in Early America” (Brandeis University, 2001). Order No. DA3004976.
Material Culture


Hart, Emma Frances Katherine, “Constructing a New World: Charleston’s Artisans and the Transformation of the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1700–1800” (Johns Hopkins University, 2002). Order No. DA3028279.


Baumann, Timothy Edward, “Because that’s where my roots are: Searching for Patterns of African-American Ethnicity in Arrow Rock, Missouri” (University of Tennessee, 2001). Order No. DA3039944.

Monfredo, William, “Tornado Scars: The Long-Term Imprints of Disaster on the Texas Urban Landscape” (Southwest Texas State University, 2002). Order No. DA3041169.


Sandoval-Strausz, Andrew K., “For the Accommodation of Strangers: Urban Space, Travel, Law, the Market, and Modernity at the American Hotel, 1789–1908” (University of Chicago, 2002). Order No. DA3070204.

Harris, Elizabeth Edwards, “Phoebe Apperson Hearst and the Changing Nature of 19th Century Architectural Patronage” (University of California, Los Angeles, 2002). Order No. DA3076618.


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Ernstein, Julie Hevener, “Constructing Context: Historical Archaeology and the Pleasure Garden in Prince George’s County, Maryland, 1740–1790” (Boston University, 2004). Order No. DA3118806.

Galindo, Mary Jo, “Con un pie en cada lado: Ethnicities and the Archaeology of Spanish Colonial Ranching Communities along the Lower Rio Grande Valley” (University of Texas, Austin, 2003). Order No. DA3119617.


Ricciardi, Christopher Gerard, “Changing through the Century: Life at the Lott Family Farm in the Nineteenth-Century Town of Flatlands, Kings County, New York” (Syracuse University, 2004). Order No. DA3136460.


Hernandez, Rebecca Sarah, “Past Is Perfect in the Present Tense: Exhibiting Native America in Museums and Culture Centers” (University of New Mexico, 2004). Order No. DA3144062.

Skerry, Janine Ellen, “Silver at Harvard College from Its Founding to the Revolution” (Boston University, 2004). Order No. DA3142394.


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