

Material Culture in America

HIST 5375D Spring 2017

CRN# 39691

Thursday 6:30-9:20 pm

Instructor: Dr. Lynn Denton



This course examines the ways in which Americans have created, used, altered, and thought about material objects. Readings and research will focus on the values and attitudes embodied in the production, use, and preservation of objects. The course will include theoretical approaches to analyzing material culture, considerations of authenticity and significance, collecting and collectors, and visual display and interpretation. One component of the class will specifically address processes and standards for managing material culture in historical institutions.

Required Texts:

American Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture. Prown & Haltman, 2000

Tangible Things. Ulrich, et.al., 2015

The Look of the Past. Jordanova, 2012

Writing Material Culture History. Gerritsen & Riello, 2015

Artifacts and Allegiances. Levitt, 2015

The Objects of Experience. Wood & Latham, 2014

Collection Care. Powell, 2016

Managing Previously Unmanaged Collections. Kipp, 2016