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:**

*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