

# Material Culture in America

HIST 5375D Spring 2018

CRN# 37452

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

*Face Value: The Consumer Revolution and the Colonizing of America.* Carson, 2017

*Portrait of a Woman in Silk.* Aniahanslin, 2017.

*Tangible Things.* Ulrich, et.al., 2015

*Writing Material Culture History.* Gerritsen & Riello, 2015

*Collection Care.* Powell, 2016